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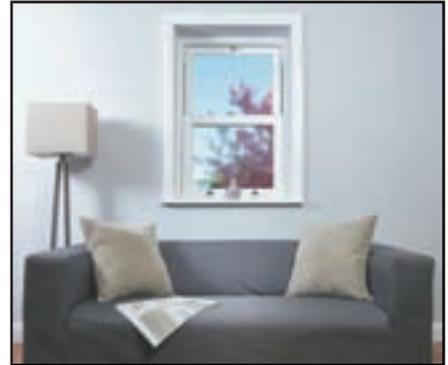
available online as a FlipBook – visit [thefabricator.pro](http://thefabricator.pro)

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"You gave the industry a tremendous boost with this superb event." James Lee, Director of External Affairs, The GGF

"The last Glazing Summit was a breath of fresh air. The 2021 event looks set to be bigger and better." Paul Atkinson, Sales and Commercial Director, Yale

With the UK now looking beyond the pandemic towards the economic recovery, Glazing Summit 2021 will sell out fast.



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**Editor** John Roper  
**Tel:** 07967 666794  
**Email:** john.roper@profinder.eu  
**Production assistant:**  
Jocasta Roper

**Associate editor** Brian Shillibeer

#### Advertisement sales

Steve Anthony  
**Tel:** 07967 585475  
**Email:** steve.anthony@profinder.eu  
Mehreen Haroon-Ali  
**Tel:** 07932 243008  
**Email:** mehreen.haroon@profinder.eu

#### Advertisement production

**Email:** fabricatorcopy@profinder.eu

#### Admin:

The Studio, Hillside Avenue,  
Elstree & Borehamwood, WD6 1HQ  
**Tel:** 07807 374932  
cathryn.ellis@profinder.eu

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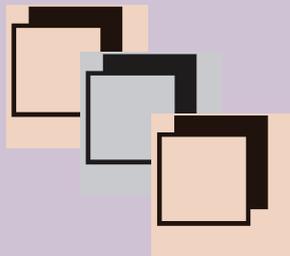
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# THE FABRICATOR

## Comment

Here we are again, no, not another lockdown but what is marked on the journalistic calendar as 'the silly season'. Parliament is on holiday and if it weren't for the gift of the, seemingly never ending, Olympic Games the news media would have nothing to write about. I am well known to my colleagues as not being a sports fan so I had best not dwell here.

It is interesting that in this column a year ago I was writing about the end of lockdown and the recovery of the industry. Furlough was due to end in October of that year. And here we are, just out of lockdown again! I have to say that it was a bit of a surprise to wake up on the 19th July and discover that the PM was still pressing ahead with 'freedom day' despite advice from the nay-sayers.

Of course we have to ask how free freedom is. In spite of the success of the vaccine programme we still can't travel abroad without the prospect of not being allowed back in without going into quarantine. Putting France on the list was a particularly shrewd move. Many travellers to the continent will drive through France. And the list changes all of the time at short notice so is it worth the risk? Why head to the sun when you can be rained on in Cornwall? I have memories of summer holidays spent freezing on Devon beaches and being encouraged into the icy waters of the Channel by parents wrapped up in blankets with hot tea in thermos flasks. The English seaside holiday is back: another Brexit success story.

And then there is the plan for ID cards – sorry, Covid passports – without which we will not be allowed to enter sports arenas, night clubs and other big venues. So far no one has mentioned hospitals. If I were a betting man I would bet on access to health care being the next thing requiring a Covid passport. I can tell you that the NHS is paranoid about Covid and probably with good reason. But how long will it be before we need to show a Covid passport to buy a train ticket or petrol if we want to drive to, say, Wales? The Conservatives killed off Gordon Brown's plan for a national identity card; now, it seems, a Conservative government is about to introduce one by the back door.

The industry's problems this year are somewhat different. There is a shortage of raw materials for a start and also labour, especially skilled people. A lot of Europeans have gone home post Brexit and don't look like coming back any time soon. The government's answer is that we should train British people to do British jobs. At the moment there is very low unemployment so where are they to come from? Of course with the furlough scheme due to end in September (déjà vu?) that could change. But what of the future? Jobs in the window industry tend to be skilled or at least semi-skilled, so training schemes and apprenticeships are possible and, indeed, already exist.

But that doesn't solve the transport problem. There is, apparently, a huge shortfall in drivers. One of the reasons for the shortage of raw materials and components. As far as training is concerned a friend of mine, who was a qualified truck driver and who has for a few years been office bound, running a fleet, decided to go back on the road. The money was better but he needed some training, a refresher. But the company he applied to, as much as they liked him, couldn't offer him training because the man responsible was out on the road because they had a shortage of drivers.

It's a crazy world right now.

*John Roper*

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# FIT Covid casualty

## Bringing back the glass

The FIT Show organisers have announced the September 2021 exhibition will be abandoned with the event moving to May 2022, in response to the ongoing uncertainty surrounding Covid-19.

Anyone registered to attend the September event as a visitor will be contacted by the organisers to move them to the new dates. There will be no need to re-register.

The fenestration industry's flagship UK event will return to the NEC from Tuesday 10 - Thursday 12 May 2022.

The announcement follows a lack of clarity regarding restrictions for large-scale events and ongoing disruption to international travel alongside the potential for another rise in UK cases.

Nickie West, FIT Show event director, says: "We have been monitoring the ever changing situation in relation to Covid-19 and after careful assessment, we believe that it is best for our exhibitors and visitors if we postpone FIT Show until May 2022.

"It was always our priority to run a safe and successful event for our audience. The recent sharp rise in positive cases, coupled with the ongoing ambiguity surrounding what restrictions



**Nickie West**

would need to be in place by September, created too much uncertainty. We have worked closely with our stakeholders and the NEC to create a new timeline that we believe is both safer and provides greater certainty for the market." □

Morley Glass and Glazing has taken delivery of six new Luton vans which boost its nationwide delivery capacity and greatly increase the amount of post-consumer glass it can collect and recycle through its CRUSH initiative.

The familiar boxy Luton vans are the first to enter the Morley Glass fleet and are ideally suited to this dual deliver and



**Ian Short**

collect role that its drivers now undertake. The layout of the vans means that Uni-Blinds sealed units can be better distributed around the space so there is more room for post-consumer glass to be brought back to the Morley Glass factory for recycling.

The addition of these latest vans increases its vehicle fleet to 36, which deliver around 4,000 integral blind units every week to customers throughout the UK. But as Morley Glass has expanded its glass recycling operations, its vans are increasingly returning to site with a highly recyclable and valuable material that benefits both the environment and good causes thanks to the CRUSH scheme. This is a joint initiative from Morley Glass and Saint-Gobain Glass where glass from doors and windows that have been replaced is collected by Morley Glass and then crushed into cullet at its Leeds site. This is then returned in bulk to Saint-Gobain Glass, who pay for the glass cullet, which they use to make new float glass. One tonne of cullet saves enough energy to power a home for six months, which is why glass recycling is so vital. □

## Kenrick in joinery network

Kenrick has joined the Joinery Network as an affiliated partner. The West-Bromwich based firm is among a select few businesses to join the network, which was established to give independent joiners and joinery firms all the resources they need to manufacture genuine Document Q certified timber windows and doors.

Joiners manufacturing the Joinery Network's Lignum Flush Sash timber casement window will now be able to deliver the highest levels of security with the addition of Kenrick's flagship Excalibur multi-point window lock, which has been specially modified to help the window meet the requirements of PAS24: 2016.

Steve Williams, Kenrick sales and marketing director, says: "We are delighted to join the Joinery Network, which is all about manufacturing high quality, secure timber windows. There is



**Steve Williams**

a perception that timber windows are not as robust and secure as PVC-U and aluminium. When fitted with the Excalibur locking system, the Lignum window is proven to deliver high security, enabling joiners to offer customers the peace of mind that it is built to last and designed to deter intruders." □

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# The first key steps

**With the government's determination to ensure its road map out of the coronavirus pandemic on July 19 is irreversible, Andrew Scott, MD of leading full-service marketing agency Purplex, discusses the state of the industry and why ambitious businesses need to get their digital strategy right if they want to take advantages of opportunities in the future**

It was Winston Churchill who said, "a pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty," and it's true.

Every challenge is an opportunity, and there has certainly been more than a few challenges in the glazing industry over the last 12-15 months.

Having lurched from the impact of lockdown and businesses grinding to a halt to the floodgates opening to an under-prepared industry, it has seemingly been one problem after the next.

A supply chain crisis and a shortage of raw materials are currently impacting on our industry and making for some difficult discussions between businesses and their customers.

But it's not all doom and gloom. As most industries have suffered, and continue to, the home improvement market has seen a boom.

Windows and doors are a relatively cost-effective thing to replace compared to changing a kitchen or bathroom, so it's not surprising homeowners have looked at those as a way of improving their home.

And while supply chain issues look set to be with us for a while yet, increased demand looks set to continue for the foreseeable future.

### Surplus cash

There was a worry that foreign holidays would take consumers' focus away from home improvements as pent-up frustration to get away, having been stuck indoors for so long, was set to take over.

But with travel restrictions and quarantine rules in force, many people are unsure about going on expensive holidays abroad, meaning they will have more money to spend on their homes.

Of course, it remains to be seen if consumers have brought forward the work they always planned to do on their homes or whether there will be additional demand down the line, but with households estimated to be sitting on some £180bn of savings, the UK economy on the road to recovery and people returning to work and making money, demand should last well into next year and beyond.

And for ambitious, well-run companies, the opportunities will be there to shape their future for years to come.

### A new digital age

For companies to take advantage of the opportunities that will arise they will need to make sure their website and digital presence is on point.

The digital shift in the last 12 months has been meteoric and with internet browsers, search engines, online media and mobile devices continuously changing, many websites



**Andrew Scott**

have become out-of-date very quickly.

At Purplex, we are working with over 170 businesses to help them maximise their website and digital strategy to attract new customers and engage with existing ones, and we are building increasingly sophisticated websites that include e-commerce, booking systems, product visualisers and integration to CRM (customer relationship management).

Of course, a website is only one part of a company's digital presence. Social media is becoming even more important, and companies must embrace all platforms to provide them with the best chance of winning new business. For example, we have made some highly successful campaigns for clients on TikTok.

For businesses it will be essential to invest in their entire digital strategy, from their website, social media, online news and mobile apps to customer portals, digital signatures, CRM platforms, payment gateways, online reviews and more.

Not only will this help them meet continuing demand, but it will also be vital when the industry stabilises, and

Purplex Marketing was founded in 2004 by Andrew Scott who has acquired, built, and sold several successful businesses including manufacturers, distributors, and retail businesses. Since its establishment, Purplex has grown by at least 34% every year and now boasts a large clientele of customers located throughout the UK and Europe.

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# Can you hear me?

**I have significant hearing loss, 40% in both ears over the higher pitches. I wear a hearing aid on my right ear, writes James MacPherson, the GGF's H&S expert**

The long and short of it impacts my life a lot, it makes interactions with people very anxiety provoking, it means I can't make out what you are saying if we are in the pub having a chat or if you have a strong accent or at a party or anywhere that there is a lot of background noise.

It's awkward a lot of the time, having to say: "Sorry, I'm hard of hearing, can you please speak up?"

This is even more difficult when the person who is trying to speak to you is swearing a face covering. On these occasions, it can be almost impossible to understand a word.

### Why am I telling you this?

Well I went to a site recently where the noise was really loud. I could tell straight away it was over the upper levels set in the health and safety legislation. I wasn't given hearing protection as a guest and some of the employees working there were not wearing hearing protection, a few of them were, so the business obviously acknowledged the risk and need for action but it wasn't nearly enough.

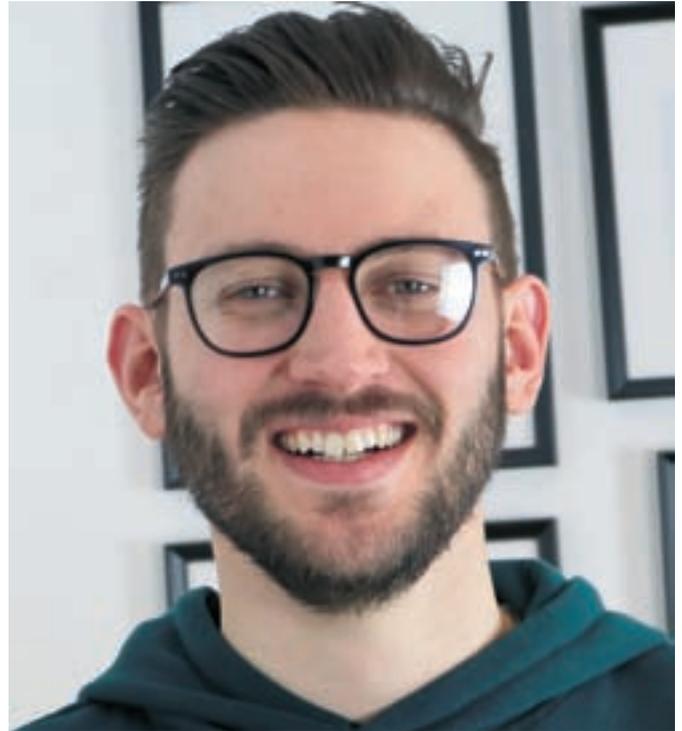
The risk exists and the challenge is clear, employers must take responsibility and make sure they are operating safely when it comes to sound. It is disappointing that many companies don't seem to take this risk seriously. Most just issue some PPE to employees and instigate disciplinary procedures against employees who do not comply. Employers might have some paperwork such as a noise assessment, risk assessment, checks etc, but frankly PPE alone is not compliant and often an employee's safety can simply be down to luck not design.

### The legislation is clear

Two key terms in the legislation are: *deal with noise at source* and *establish a programme of organisational and technical measures*. These measures do not include the provision of personal hearing protectors and clearly create a duty to do more than just issue PPE. Employers have a duty to tackle the source of noise and this is always going to be the more sustainable way to deal with any risk; dealing with the risk at source is what a resilient and high reliability organisation does and what all companies should do.

### Fail safely

If you simply rely on PPE you have no capacity to fail. Humans are amazing, innovative, quick thinking problem solvers but they are none the less fallible. Once they fail, (e.g. they don't wear the PPE), then employers also fail because they are now exposed to the risk and if you have not done anything reasonable or practical to deal with the noise at source, then you don't have a resilient or even compliant organisation that has the system to fail safely.



**James MacPherson**

### Royal Opera House

I have interviewed the head of safety for the Royal Opera House in London about their journey through a court case with a musician who had suffered hearing loss from a work activity. For many of us noise is an unwanted by-product of work, but at the opera house it was the opposite. Far from being unwanted, music (the sound/noise) was the key selling point. In fact so much so that they don't call it noise because that was offensive to the musicians that had trained their whole life to create sounds not noise. It was eye opening to see the levels of innovation that can be made when a company focuses on dealing with a risk instead of being just compliant.

The Royal Opera House could not simply eliminate the risk because if they did, they wouldn't have a business and they couldn't use PPE because it affected how the musicians played. Faced with these challenges, they had to think outside the box and the work they have done across the business is a game changer when it comes to managing noise/sound in the workplace.

So next time you are telling yourself that PPE is reasonable and practical think about the Royal Opera House. Think about the impact that noise and hearing loss has on employees every day and then ask yourselves. What happens if and when we fail? Are we safe with sound? ☐

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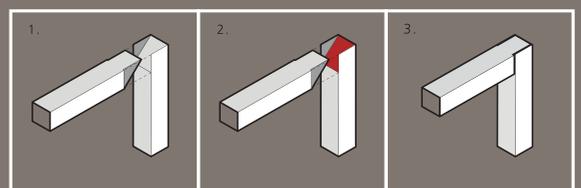
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# Vertical launch

**The result of months of intense development by the company's technical experts, Yale has launched its complete Vertex range of vertical sliding hardware for the easy opening and closing of sash windows**

Suitable for PVC-U, timber and aluminium sash windows, the Vertex package is made up of a combination of balances and functional and decorative hardware that together provide the ultimate solution for sash windows across a range of industry profiles.

Grant Stratford, technical director for window hardware at Yale, says: "The Vertex package represents a massive investment for us. It is the result of some extremely clever engineering, as well as many consultations with independent experts over an extended period.

"As with all our products, the package has been rigorously tested, so users can rest assured that it will work with their windows for many years."

## The perfect balance

Central to the Vertex offering is the spring balance, a specially engineered helix rod that takes on up to 80% of the operational force ensuring ease of opening and no sticking sashes.

For sashes up to 60kg in weight, the package provides pre-tensioned balances tested to 20,000 cycles. These are made bespoke to each window taking into account the weight, glazing, size and profile.

For lighter and smaller windows between 2kg and 18kg in weight and 200mm width and 1800mm high, such as those made of aluminium and secondary glazing vertical sliding sashes, the package offers wind-up balances tested to 10,000 cycles.

All balances in the Yale Vertex range are available in white, brown, black and grey tubes.

## Functional hardware

Yale says that the Vertex package features a variety of functional hardware. Among these are the pivot bar and its carrier, which allows for easy lift or slide assembly of the sash to the frame. The patented pivot shoe has been designed to incorporate a three way braking system giving an additional locking advantage along with an easy connection to the spring balance.

Also within the range are sash security blocks to give extra security and protection against intruders. The tilt arms and tilt restrictors (available in standard or quick release versions) allow users to choose between tilt modes to make cleaning and maintenance more convenient.

Yale Vertex hardware has been designed for security and complies with the test requirements of PAS24:2016

## Decorative hardware

As well as functional solutions, the Vertex package features a range of decorative hardware, pre launched last year and now also available from stockists. This comprises pole rings, sash lifts, finials, travel restrictors, sash locks and keeps, all available in a variety of traditional colours and tested to 240 hours of salt-spray exposure.

The decorative hardware in the Vertex range is designed to complement the traditional aesthetics of sash

windows found in British period-style homes.

## A service you can trust

All the products in the Vertex range have been designed and manufactured at Yale's facility in Cheltenham.

The Vertex range is covered under the Yale lifetime security guarantee, which includes up to £3,250 towards repairs or replacements, insurance excess and securing the property in the event of a break-in, plus discounts at the Yale store.

Paul Atkinson, managing director at Yale, says: "We are delighted to be launching Vertex, it is the culmination of a great deal of hard work by the technical team at Cheltenham and significant investment in our UK manufacturing base. Vertex marks a brand-new venture into a new hardware sector for Yale, and one that we're very excited about. We believe this is a product range that will be very well received in the sliding sash windows market." □





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# The Covid legacy?

**Wrightstyle's security-enhanced system is designed to withstand blast pressure, while still retaining the glass within the framing profiles. Wrightstyle director Jane Embury looks at an unlikely legacy of the pandemic**

**W**e all think we know how Covid-19 has shaped the health of nations around the world.

For most of us, while the pandemic has changed our lives, we simply want a return to old normalities.

But Covid-19 is leaving behind some unwelcome legacies including, perhaps, a greater risk of terrorist attack.

At its most trivial, is the case of the Iowa man who was arrested earlier this year. In a phone call, he allegedly threatened to blow up a McDonald's restaurant. The restaurant's 'crime' was to neglect to include dipping sauce with his order of McNuggets.

However, not so trivial, because Europol, the EU's law enforcement agency, says that mental health is an important issue in relation to terrorism and violent extremism.

It says that the situation created by the pandemic might be an additional stress factor, potentially encouraging vulnerable individuals to turn to violence.

And violence there certainly is. In 2020, there were 57 completed, failed and foiled terrorist attacks

in the European Union. Those took place in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy and Spain.

Last year also, 21 people died in terrorist attacks in the EU and 449 people were arrested on suspicion of terrorism-related offences.

Covid-19 is also adding to the background, because it has helped to pollute the social climate with violent ideologies. Europol says that polarisation of political discourse has increased in the European Union.

This has manifested itself in an increase in intolerance of political opponents, while the number of individuals conducting verbal or physical violence is also increasing.

Of actual terror attacks, lone actors were behind all of them, although some jihadi terrorists were in contact with terrorist groups.

Some of them had displayed a combination of extreme ideologies and mental health issues.

In a society of social isolation, they simply were in contact with fewer people who could have picked up on signs of crisis.

Other motivating factors included the republication of cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad, and anti-Islamic actions by some right-wing groups.

But it's not just Islamic terrorism. The attack in Hanau, Germany in February last year was motivated by right-wing xenophobic and racist ideology.

In 2020, Italy reported 24 of the EU's 25 left-wing and anarchist terrorist attacks. The other was in France. The attacks were mostly on private and public property such as financial institutions and government buildings.

The dynamics of Covid-19 have been hard to predict for health professionals involved in halting the spread of infection.

But less focus has been on the dynamics of isolation and mental health, and how simmering hatreds and resentments can, and yet might, boil over.

That's a legacy we're all going to have to live with for a very long time, and one of the best ways is to protect sensitive or public buildings.

Our expertise in the specialist area of ballistic and explosive attack developed out of our core business in the supply of advanced glazing systems.

Those are glazing systems to protect against

fire, and over the years we have supplied to countries around the world.

Our security-enhanced system is designed to withstand blast pressure, while still retaining the glass within the framing profiles. This protects occupants from the blast itself and, importantly, from injury from flying glass.

We've independently live tested our system against 500kg of TNT-equivalent explosive, and a video of the test can be seen on YouTube.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=cjOZSA6Dsu8&list=PLPMhQHT9UM-YJKL5IIAmpRitUQfayONc&index=6](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cjOZSA6Dsu8&list=PLPMhQHT9UM-YJKL5IIAmpRitUQfayONc&index=6)

It is a versatile system, accommodating high performance anti-spall glasses to a thickness of 100mm. It also maintains slim and aesthetically pleasing sight lines, with no visual difference between protected and unprotected glazed systems.

As normality begins to return, it would be easy to be complacent in assessing what risks to protect buildings against.

But in designing or refurbishing the buildings of tomorrow, we should also heed Europol and consider today's legacies of mental health and radicalisation. ▣

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John Mitchell  
Technical Manager  
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# Sustainable curves

**For hundreds of years, the town of Saint-Denis played an integral part in French history – both as the historic resting place of generations of the country’s royals, and the birthplace of Gothic architecture**

**B**ut today, it’s home to pioneering buildings of a very different kind. A suburb of Paris since the 1960s, it’s now at the forefront of the French capital’s sustainability revolution.

In 2024, Saint-Denis will be the site of the athlete’s village at the Paris Olympics, which is being built to stringent sustainability standards (all buildings under eight storeys must be made of wood). And nearby, you’ll find the 30-hectare ZAC de la Montjoie eco-district – which is home to a spectacular new building only made

the building’s rounded glass corners, which were made of concavely and convexly-curved units, consisting of Saint-Gobain solar control glass, and, Edgetech’s Super Spacer TriSeal Premium Plus.

TriSeal is a triple-seal system designed to meet the most stringent commercial requirements.

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The Curve is a 24,400m<sup>2</sup> seven-storey office complex that accommodates over a thousand businesses, restaurants, fitness centres and more.

The building’s sustainably-sourced wooden structure consists of 5,000 cubic metres of laminated timber, while its 10,000m<sup>2</sup> glass façade has been designed to flood the interior with natural light, and therefore reduce the need for electric lighting.

Especially innovative and challenging to execute were

“Architects around the world are at the forefront of efforts to make our built environments as sustainable as they can possibly be,” says Edgetech managing director Chris Alderson.

“We are delighted to be playing a part in bringing so many boundary-breaking green buildings to life – and are confident that Super Spacer TriSeal Premium Plus will ensure the Curve’s thousands of glass units will continue performing to the highest standards for many years to come.” □

[www.edgetechig.co.uk](http://www.edgetechig.co.uk)

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*"You gave the industry a tremendous boost with this superb event."* James Lee, Director of External Affairs, The GGF

*"The last Glazing Summit was a breath of fresh air. The 2021 event looks set to be bigger and better."* Paul Atkinson, Sales and Commercial Director, Yale

With the UK now looking beyond the pandemic towards the economic recovery, Glazing Summit 2021 will sell out fast.

For more information, call **01934 808293**,  
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# Shaping profiles

Aluminium doesn't have to be so square, according to Alutech Systems. Its latest product launch is set to be a big hit with trend-setting home owners wanting something a bit different to make their property stand out from the rest of the street. The rapidly growing, Yorkshire-based systems house has just introduced a new curved edge aluminium profile as a premium option to its increasingly popular BF73 systems for bifolding doors, French doors and single doors.

The rounded edge of the external facing sash gives the illusion of even slimmer sightlines, which are already slimmer than 68% of the market. Available in all the same colours as the standard BF73 profile, the new curved sash gives fabricators and installers the opportunity to increase their margin per door leaf.

Alutech Systems MD, Steve Hudson, commented, "We're always looking for ways to help our customers stand out from their competition and make more money. Not only does our new curved edge sash do exactly that, it also looks amazing too."

Mike Moulds, Alutech Systems' sales director, says: "Our new rounded profile gives even more versatility to our BF73 system, which takes away the headache of having to stock multiple systems by offering fabricators one system that caters for all door styles. Whether the project is a single door, French door or bifolding door, they can all be fabricated from the same BF73 system. The system is so versatile that it can cater for projects that call



for shaped frames, fixed frames, sidelights, astragal bars, blinds in glass and can even be used as an entrance door with optional inserted aluminium panels."

The BF73 system has been designed to be quick and easy to fabricate and install. The system offers a unique adjustable jamb feature for maximum adjustability during the installation stage. The optional adjustable jamb offers easier installs with 4mm tolerance. □

[www.alutechsystems.co.uk](http://www.alutechsystems.co.uk)

## Designed-in healthcare

GEZE has launched *Helping Healthcare to Heal* an initiative created to recognise that putting patients at the centre of hospital, clinic and doctors' surgery building design can help in the process of healing and recovery. Equipment and materials specified and installed within the building can actively contribute to and promote well-being.

In creating the initiative GEZE looked at addressing areas that encourage recovery and provide patient comfort:

- Prevent environmental stresses such as noise from slamming doors or lack of privacy without creating barriers.

- Enable patients and residents to be as close to nature as possible through outdoor views, sufficient sunlight and fresh air.

- Give patients and residents a feeling of control by being offered opportunities to access outside spaces and move around safely and contact free, not feeling imprisoned but protected in the building.

Andy Howland, sales and marketing director says: "The Covid-19 pandemic has brought an intense focus on all aspects of healthcare in the UK and as we look

ahead it's likely that its impact will continue for some sometime with long lasting changes to the building design of hospital and healthcare facilities. At GEZE we support clients and architects as they consider these design implications in new construction and refurbishments to existing buildings." □

[www.geze.co.uk](http://www.geze.co.uk)



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# The great rebuild

**It should come as no surprise that the UK construction industry is experiencing a serious workforce and skills shortage. This is a result of a workforce laid off at the beginning of the pandemic taking up alternative employment and the loss of a significant number of European construction workers who have returned home due to Brexit. According to RICS, the shortfall in the number of skilled construction workers in the UK is currently at its highest point since 2007 writes Phil Slinger**

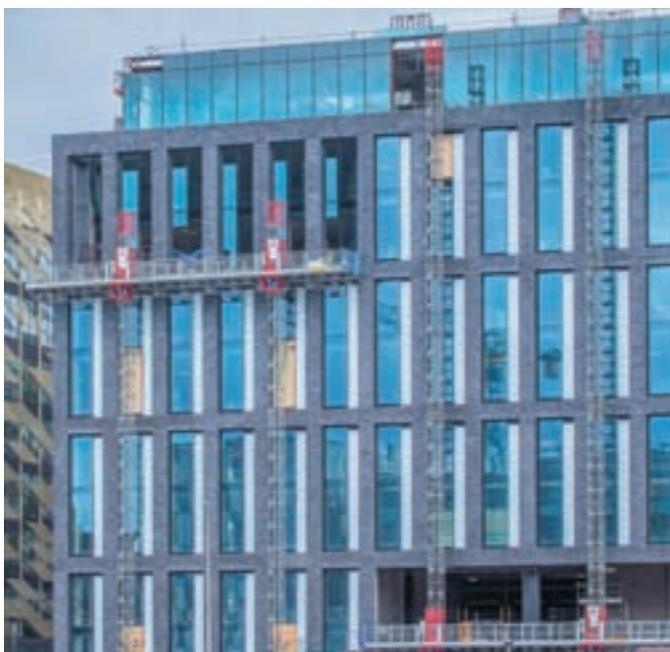
Shortage of fenestration installers has meant that new workers have been drafted into the industry to cope with increased workloads, but where can companies gain the training needed to ensure that these complex systems are installed correctly to ensure weatherability and sustainability?

The Council for Aluminium in Building (CAB) last year partnered with GQA Qualifications award body and CSCS to develop a new route to a curtain walling installer's CSCS card. Since 2017, glass, glazing or fenestration CSCS cards are only available via GQA Qualifications.

The CAB one day introductory course forms part of a mandatory module leading to the award of the CAB curtain walling installer's CSCS card. It can also be used by CAB members as a training tool to teach the fundamentals of curtain wall systems to staff and new employees.

The course has been designed to be a generic approach to curtain walling systems and covers the principles of construction that are common across all systems manufacturers. Its aim is to give candidates a knowledge of the glazed exterior we know as curtain walling. For the candidate new to the industry the course explains what a curtain wall is, its function, what it does and how it is constructed.

Common terminology used in describing the system



and its functions are also introduced successfully. For the more experienced curtain wall installer, the review of the fundamentals of the curtain wall terminology and construction are reintroduced, along with the key issues of surveying, installation and fixing. Interface details with other parts of the building structure are also covered to give the candidate a broad understanding of good practice. Expected levels of quality are also introduced as are potential areas of failure. The crucial implication of getting it right first time is emphasised as remedial work required after completion can be both costly and difficult to achieve.



**Phil Slinger**

Once the introductory course has been successfully completed, the candidate will take an approved system house curtain wall product training course and complete the end of course assessment. To be classed as fully trained and receive a CSCS skilled worker's card candidates will need to have achieved the relevant NVQ or competency update qualification. Full guidance on the CSCS card process will be offered during the initial CAB one-day training course.

To ensure the whole process keeps up to date and continues to meet best practice, all approved training providers will take part in regular formal review meetings with CAB, GQA and systems house experts.

Applications to attend the introductory course are managed by CAB. Candidates apply by completing the enrolment form on the CAB website. CAB will contact candidates to book a course date and the training is carried out by a GQA approved training provider. The cost of the one-day course is £249 plus VAT. CAB members qualify for a discounted rate of £199 plus VAT. Training centres will offer guidance to delegates to apply for a trainee CSCS card, temporary card or renewal card. □

For information about CAB training or to obtain a copy of the CAB one-day course manual for internal training purposes, please contact [julie.harley@c-a-b.org.uk](mailto:julie.harley@c-a-b.org.uk)  
For membership enquiries, please contact Jessica Dean email [jessica.dean@c-a-b.org.uk](mailto:jessica.dean@c-a-b.org.uk) telephone 01453 828851

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# Caution on chain

**Members of Qualicoat met online at the end of June to discuss association business and to review technical issues that face the industry, write Russel Yate**

Qualicoat is dedicated to maintaining and promoting the quality of painting on aluminium for architectural applications. Working with the Aluminium Finishing Association (AFA) and under the umbrella of the Aluminium Federation (ALFED), Qualicoat UK & Ireland promotes awareness of the importance of high quality finishing in the architectural industry.

All licensed members of Qualicoat are inspected at regular intervals, with powder coat applicators inspected twice each year during unannounced inspections. These are carried out by a third party test house, IFO, which checks that the applicator is working to the latest issue of the Qualicoat standard. During the pandemic, these have been undertaken by virtual means and hopefully will move back to physical inspections later this year. With all inspections and reports completed and satisfactory for 2020 over 50% of members have now received their first inspection so far this year. A satisfactory inspection pass is required in order for members to retain their Qualicoat licensed applicator status.

Under environmental issues, it was disclosed at the June meeting that the environmental agency will be inspecting all commercial premises in the future. It will be checking on the containment of harmful chemicals, should a flood or fire occur. This follows several cases of pollution of local waterways. Members are being encouraged to put containment plans into place to preempt an official requirement to do so.

The yearly training of Qualicoat applicator members' lab technicians is due to take place later in the year. It is a requirement of every member's licence that they attend a course at least every two years.

The discussion of technical issues forms the main body of members' meetings. One of the topics discussed was the exposure category C5 which is mentioned in BS EN 12206, which references ISO9223 test site classification C5. The BS EN 12206: Paints and varnishes, coating of aluminium and aluminium alloys for architectural purposes. Coatings prepared from coating powder.

This standard closely follows the Qualicoat standard, but the question was raised: 'who checks which outdoor exposure test sites meets the exposure rating?' Hook of

Holland and Genoa are outdoor test sites that are claimed to be C5 rating, but are they independently checked for their corrosive atmosphere? Whilst not the responsibility of Qualicoat to find such locations, it is important for specifiers when these exposure categories are used in specification documents.

Fire resistance of coated aluminium was again raised as a growing issue in the construction industry, especially with regard to large insurance companies who seem to be making their own assumptions as to what rating is acceptable for external envelope use. There is a very clear mandate that materials used above 18m (in England) should meet either A1 non-combustible or A2-s1,d0 classification, with the latter being perfectly suitable for high rise developments. Insurance companies are asking for A1 in an attempt to reduce risk even further, but their suggestion for reduced risk is unfounded. It was agreed that Qualicoat would complete a paper for open distribution which would clearly define what is agreed, what is appropriate for use in high rise applications and why.

The next Qualicoat UK & Ireland members' meeting is planned to take place as a physical meeting held in Birmingham in October. Members wishing to attend should contact the general secretary, Jan Lukaszewski, via the Qualicoat UK & Ireland website. The 35th Qualicoat world congress will be held on the 17th November. It will be a virtual event based in London. Country associations from across the globe will offer papers and reports on the association's progress. ▣

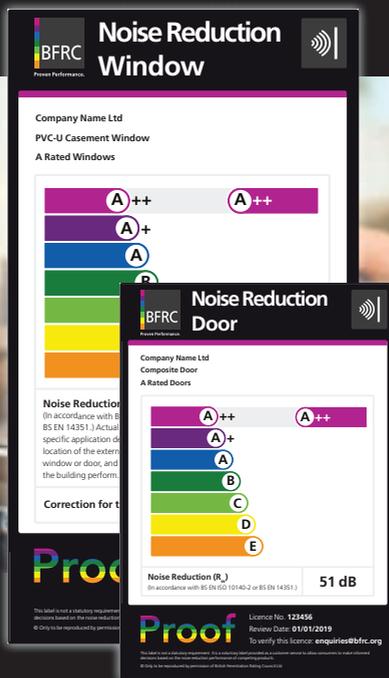


**Russel Yate**

[www.qualicoatuki.org](http://www.qualicoatuki.org)

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# Walking on daylight

**Peter Daniel, product innovation director at The Rooflight Company, talks about walk-on rooflights and how to install them**

As well as a design feature which lets in natural light to the room below a walk-on rooflight can safely unlock the roof space above them.

This means homeowners can benefit from additional space without needing to extend the footprint of their home. Which is why they are well suited to properties in urban areas where space is limited.

### Sound-proof

Sound proofing is another feature that makes walk-on rooflights ideal for urban environments. Due to the thickness of the glass needed for loadbearing, sound is naturally dampened far more than with a traditional rooflight.

The question is: are they harder to install than traditional rooflights?

A walk-on rooflight is more complex than a traditional rooflight in terms of their composition, yet they are actually just as straightforward when it comes to installation. Our recently launched neo Advance Skywalk+, for example, is designed to be installed in a similar way to our other flat roof products. This involves creating the space in the roof that the rooflight will occupy, fitting the kerb upstand and simply slotting the rooflight product onto it. Then the floor material, whether it be wood decking, stone tile or maybe even artificial grass, can be built around it to ensure the rooflight sits flush with the flooring.

### Multi-lights

If there's going to be more than one rooflight on the same roof, something to consider regardless of whether they are walk-on rooflights or not, is the distance they should be apart. This will depend on what finished look the property owner wants but especially for walk-ons, the internal effect needs to be married with the external effect, ensuring the final product looks great both inside and outside. Again, this will have to be managed on a case-by-case basis.

If at any point during installation there are

complications, it is normally possible to contact the manufacturer and it should have an army of experts on-hand to help. If you work with The Rooflight Company, we have a specialist builder, contractors and merchants team available to answer any questions.

### Options

It is also worth noting the different types of walk-on rooflight available. Many manufacturers now offer them, some are suitable for industrial and domestic use, some for

one or the other. So, before choosing a product take note of this and particularly the loadings they are designed to withstand. Walk-ons in an industrial setting will typically need much higher load-bearing specs.

There are also varying degrees of safety to consider. Our neo Advance Skywalk+ is the safest as standard product on the market for A1 category domestic walk-on applications. It features triple-ply laminated glass outer leaf, a laminated inner pane and anti-slip coating as standard. The frame is comprised of durable aluminium combined with a patented thermal shield technology to improve thermal efficiency and protect against

condensation, allowing for a whole-window U-value as low as 1.19 W/m<sup>2</sup>k.

Be sure to investigate the finer technical details before recommending a product to a homeowner to make sure they meet building regulations.

### Urban choice

Walk-on rooflights are a fantastic option for urban properties, allowing homeowners to make the most of the space available to them. Just like how a rooflight can unlock previously uninhabited attic space in a loft conversion. Although they may seem more complex, manufacturers will guide you through the specification process to provide you with another tool to help homeowners achieve their dream renovations. □

[www.therooflightcompany.co.uk](http://www.therooflightcompany.co.uk)





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# Help from the experts

Technical guidance from Rapiestar could play a vital role in improving end-user satisfaction and reducing negative consumer feedback, given the findings of a recent survey by consumer champions *Which?*

The *Which?* survey of nearly 3,500 buyers of double-glazing in the past decade found that the most common faults in installed windows and doors stem from poor hardware choices or assembly. Issues to do with locking systems, hinges and friction stays account for most of the problems that develop – substantiating for the first time anecdotal evidence reported by many installers.

According to researchers, 30% of householders reported that their windows or doors had become difficult to open or close at some point over the past 10 years. One fifth said a window or door had dropped over time so it no longer fitted as well, and 15% of respondents said they had experienced a problem with locks not working.

Andy Holland, technical & marketing manager at Rapiestar says: “Whilst damage in use or ‘user error’ could account for some of these reported faults, it does suggest one or both of two things – using poor quality hardware or not fitting hardware correctly. In the case of the latter, we can help fabricators prevent these issues with our advice on which fasteners to use to get the right hardware result every time.”

As part of the technical support for the UK and Irish door and window industry, Rapiestar produces *Recommended Fixings Manuals* (RFMs) for all the most popular PVC-U systems. Available to download free at



**Andy Holland**

[www.rapiestar.com](http://www.rapiestar.com), these guides clearly show which fasteners to use for different window or door constructions, helping to reduce the risk of quality issues with the finished unit. □

[www.which.co.uk/reviews/double-glazing](http://www.which.co.uk/reviews/double-glazing)

## Paint it grey

According to Renolit grey continues to be the most popular colour for windows and this trend is showing no sign of slowing down. The company reckons grey windows contribute to a smart and stylish exterior, establishing kerb appeal and create an alternative to traditional white installations. Renolit offers grey in a spectrum of tones. It says that anthracite grey has dominated the greys trend for many years and continues to be popular. The colour is now available with Ulti-Matt surface texture.

Two other colours in the Renolit portfolio are agate grey and pebble grey. Agate grey is on the lighter scale of grey with a muted green undertone. Pebble grey is a slightly stronger colour but also has undertones of green.

Slate grey is lighter than the dark shade of anthracite grey but is still within the main trend and has a slight azure colouration. □

[www.renolit.com](http://www.renolit.com)





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# MLA Key to security

**K**enrick has joined the Master Locksmiths Association (MLA) the UK's largest and longest-established locksmith trade association. The West-Bromwich based firm's TS007 3-star high security cylinder has now been tested and approved by the MLA to combat lock snapping.

The Secured by Design approved cylinder features multiple high security pins to provide maximum security and excellent resistance against the other known cylinder attack methods, including picking, drilling, bumping, pulling and screwing.

Steve Williams, Kenrick's sales and marketing director, says: "We're delighted to become a member of the MLA and to be doing our bit to help stamp out lock snapping. With more than 70% of burglars gaining access to a property through a door in a matter of seconds, the choice of hardware for that door is essential. We need to reduce the incidences of these types of crime and offer far greater peace of mind for the homeowner. Our new 3-star cylinder eliminates any possibility of tampering with the cylinder, making homes much less vulnerable to attack.

"What makes our cylinder special though is that it meets the standards of TS007 on both sides of the cylinder, which means that fabricators only need to stock one cylinder for both open in and open out doors. It's also compatible with an A1 key blank, so homeowners can easily buy extra affordably-priced keys from the high street if they need to. It is a reliable and versatile solution with no compromises."

The cylinder is manufactured in a polished brass or a



nickel finish and can be retro-fitted with no additional preparation. It is available as paired alike or thumb turn and in all sizes from 70mm to 110mm in 5mm increments. The cylinder has also been tested to 100,000 cycles and comes with a 10-year mechanical guarantee.

[www.kenricks.co.uk](http://www.kenricks.co.uk)

**Liverpool-based fabricator Door and Window Systems (DAWS) continues to increase productivity in response to customer demand, with the recent installation of its fifth new Kombimatec machine in 18 months – this time, the AMC308 automatic CNC machining centre. DAWS is a family-run business specialising in the manufacture of high-quality aluminium doors, windows, bi-folds and rooflights for both the domestic and commercial markets. The company was looking to increase productivity and boost its business growth cost effectively without the need to take on new staff – and Kombimatec provided the solutions.**

**The AMC308 machining centre was developed by Kombimatec for both aluminium and PVC-U profiles. Manufactured with a solid steel construction using high quality components, it incorporates advanced CNC control with CAD/CAM software that provides exceptional levels of precision and reliability during production. DAWS version comes with a 5HP electro-spindle inverter driven to 18000 rpm, closed loop servo driven system, automatic safety guard, and voltage monitor for electrical protection. □**



[www.kombimatec.com](http://www.kombimatec.com)



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# Bubbly G sponsor

**T**hermoseal Group will again sponsor the Glass and Glazing Industry's G-Awards Champagne reception, at the London Hilton on Park Lane Hotel. The Champagne reception precedes the G-Awards gala dinner presentation evening on Friday 26th November 2021.

The G-Awards is the industry's most established awards event when the best performing businesses are presented with awards for demonstrating exceptional standards within the year. It is also a great opportunity to sit back and enjoy a fun evening of great entertainment with some of the key influencers from across the window industry.

Thermoseal Group's representatives will join co-sponsors Emplas in welcoming attendees and keep the Champagne flowing as an introduction to the evening.

Managing director Gwain Paterson says: "Having sponsored this event for 11 years now, I wonder where all that time has gone? Whilst we have been growing and developing, we have seen the G-Awards grow as well. We have to congratulate Tony Higgin and his team for making it a key event in the industry calendar and one that we all look forward to. □

[www.thermosealgroup.com](http://www.thermosealgroup.com)



Gwain Paterson

**Vicki Hawkes** knows what it's like to operate in a man's world. The new area sales manager at Strand Hardware has worked in the construction and building products sector for 23 years and is delighted to be joining a company with a woman at the helm.

"It was one of the things that most interested me about the job," she says referring to Strand's managing director Catherine Franks. "Although there are now many more women working in the industry, there are relatively few who are in leadership roles."

Appointed in November 2019, Hawkes was just starting her sales activity, covering the southern/eastern half of the Midlands, south Wales, East Anglia and the south of the UK, when the UK went into its first Covid lockdown.

Following furlough and a part-time return, Vicki is now back in her full-time role and is keen to highlight the benefits of Strand Hardware's quality products to distribution, architectural ironmongers and locksmiths.

Having worked for Carillion and Assa Abloy UK, she is experienced in many areas of the industry including fleet management, customer services and sales.

Most recently Hawkes worked for Alpro Hardware, where she was area sales manager and technical support advisor for the Midlands and South West, selling manual and electrical hardware to distribution and aluminium manufacturers and fabricators. □



Vicki Hawkes

[www.strandhardware.co.uk](http://www.strandhardware.co.uk)

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[www.a2n.co.uk](http://www.a2n.co.uk)  
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[www.dsbltd.com](http://www.dsbltd.com)

## Extruders

**Hydro Aluminium UK**  
01773 549300  
[www.hydro.com](http://www.hydro.com)

## Fabricators & Manufacturers

**3D Aluminium**  
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01733 889533  
[www.4ali.co.uk](http://www.4ali.co.uk)  
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[www.guardianglass.co.uk](http://www.guardianglass.co.uk)

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### **Sobinco**

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### **Titon Hardware**

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[www.titon.co.uk](http://www.titon.co.uk)

### **VBH (GB)**

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[www.vbhgb.com](http://www.vbhgb.com)

### **Window Ware**

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### **Winkhaus (UK)**

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### **Emmegi (UK)**

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## Systems Design & Supply

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### **ALUMIL Systems UK**

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**Epwin Window Systems**

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[www.stellaraluminium.co.uk](http://www.stellaraluminium.co.uk)

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**HUECK UK**

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[www.hueck.com](http://www.hueck.com)

**Hydro Building Systems UK**

01684 853500

[www.hydroextrusions.com](http://www.hydroextrusions.com)

**iKON Aluminium Systems**

0121 789 9936

[www.ikonaluminium.com](http://www.ikonaluminium.com)

**Jack Aluminium Systems**

024 7646 7449

[www.jackaluminium.co.uk](http://www.jackaluminium.co.uk)

**Kawneer UK**

01928 502500

[www.kawneer.com](http://www.kawneer.com)

**Kestrel Aluminium Systems**

0121 333 3575

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**Metal Technology**

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**Origin Frames**

01494 686868

[www.origin-global.com](http://www.origin-global.com)

**RAICO UK**

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[www.raico.eu](http://www.raico.eu)

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0121 421 1999

[www.reynaers.com](http://www.reynaers.com)

**Schueco UK**

01908 282111

[www.schueco.co.uk](http://www.schueco.co.uk)

**Senior Architectural Systems**

01709 772600

[www.seniorarchitectural.co.uk](http://www.seniorarchitectural.co.uk)

**Smart Architectural Aluminium**

01934 876100

[www.smartsystems.co.uk](http://www.smartsystems.co.uk)

## Testing & Certification

**BSI Assurance UK**

0345 086 9001

[www.bsigroup.com](http://www.bsigroup.com)

**Element**

01902 722122

[www.element.com](http://www.element.com)

**UL International (UK)**

01952 586580

[www.ul.com](http://www.ul.com)

**VINCI Technology Centre UK**

01525 859050

[www.technology-centre.co.uk](http://www.technology-centre.co.uk)

## Thermal Barrier Products

**Ensinger Building Products**

01443 678400

[www.insulbar.com](http://www.insulbar.com)

**Technoform Insulation Solutions UK**

01789 761323

[www.technoform.com](http://www.technoform.com)

**Watkiss Thermalbreak**

01335 344450

[www.watkissthermalbreak.co.uk](http://www.watkissthermalbreak.co.uk)

## Weatherproofing

**Adshead Ratcliffe & Co**

01773 826661

[www.arbo.co.uk](http://www.arbo.co.uk)

**Hodgson Sealants (Holdings)**

01482 868321

[www.hodgsonsealants.com](http://www.hodgsonsealants.com)

**Reddiplex**

01905 795432

[www.reddiplex.com](http://www.reddiplex.com)

**SealEco**

01698 802250

[www.sealeco.com](http://www.sealeco.com)

**Sherwin-Williams UK**

01752 202060

[www.geocel.co.uk](http://www.geocel.co.uk)

**CAB is the essential trade body for the Aluminium in Building sector. For further information on membership benefits including the extensive range of free seminars on contractual awareness, H & S and specialist technical and marketing topics, please contact Jessica Dean on 01453 828851 or email [jessica.dean@c-a-b.org.uk](mailto:jessica.dean@c-a-b.org.uk)**

**Alternatively go to**

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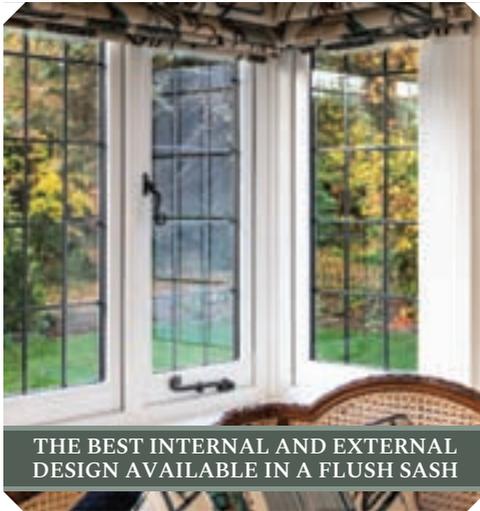


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