

The lost paper trail

A new report from the Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) has revealed widespread compliance failures across manufacturers of heat soaked thermally toughened glass, raising serious questions for the glass and glazing supply chain Ed Humphreys reports

Published on 5th March 2026 the findings of OPSS inspections found that every single heat-soaked insulated glass unit assessed failed compliance checks.

Only half of the companies inspected were able to produce any form of Declaration of Performance at the point of inspection – a legal requirement on every manufacturing business.

A further 93% failed to meet labelling requirements and 86% could not demonstrate compliance with marking requirements.

For IGU manufacturers, glass processors and fabricators, the implications are significant. Established following the Grenfell Inquiry, OPSS has the power to stop the supply of products to the market where compliance cannot be demonstrated.

Kevin Jones, head of technical at the Glass and Glazing Federation (GGF), warns that the headline figures should act as a wake-up call for the sector.

“We have to be very clear. The findings of the OPSS are absolutely unacceptable and we welcome the work that it is doing,” he said.

“What OPSS has uncovered is not a systematic attempt to produce unsafe glass, but a systematic failure to maintain the evidence that proves products are safe and compliant.

“In too many cases the glass itself was fine, but the declarations, labelling and conformity marking were incomplete, out of date or simply non-existent.

“That is a completely unacceptable gap in process and one that has the potential to shut down production.”

OPSS inspections found that some manufacturers were unable to produce the legally-required Declaration of Performance, while others could not demonstrate that their products had been tested against the relevant performance standards.

In others there was no evidence of initial type testing or records to confirm that required factory production control tests had been carried out.



Kevin Jones

“The headline figures sound alarming, but they do not mean that every pane of glass being produced is unsafe,” says Jones.

“What they show is that businesses have allowed their conformity systems to decay. Old managing director signatures on critical documents, outdated standards references, missing labels and missing declarations.

“All of those things are enough to trigger enforcement action. If something goes wrong on site and you do not have that documentation, you do not have a leg to stand on.”

Under the Construction Products Regulations, manufacturers must maintain technical documentation, operate factory production control systems and issue Declarations of Performance for products placed on the market. Without this evidence regulators can prevent products from being supplied.

The GGF is urging IGU manufacturers, glass processors and fabricators to review their conformity systems now rather than waiting for enforcement action.

“This isn’t just an issue for IGU manufacturers, it applies to fabricators and in certain circumstances, installers too.

“If records, test evidence and declarations from manufacturers to demonstrate that the product supplied has been properly processed and tested is missing or wrong, then the legal safety net disappears.

“Production can be shut down, or if failure relates in a far more significant failure of safety, then the consequences are infinitely greater.”

GGF Consulting is already working with IGU manufacturers, glass processors and fabricators, to audit documentation, rebuild technical files and ensure that Declarations of Performance and labelling systems remain current and compliant.

“In some cases that means starting from almost nothing. In others it means tightening up systems that were good in 2013 but have not kept pace with product changes.

“What we are not doing is simply issuing bits of paper. We are helping businesses create living systems that will stand up to OPSS scrutiny.” □

www.ggf.org.uk



Party up in Leeds!

Morley Glass is once again the main sponsor of the 2026 North Leeds Charity Beer Festival, an increasingly important community fundraising event which takes place on 10-11th April at North Leeds Cricket Club in Roundhay www.northleedscharitybeerfestival.co.uk www.morleyglass.co.uk

Now into its 14th year, the annual event organised by the Rotary Club of Roundhay is expected to attract hundreds of beer, cider and gin enthusiasts from across the region. All the proceeds from the two-day event, which features live music and food in addition to an array of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks, are used to support charities and community projects at local, national and international levels.

With over a month to go to this year's festival more than £100,000 has already been raised, giving valuable projects in the local area and further afield immediate support. And the event is gaining an international following too with The Rotary



Matt Short, Morley Glass's order logistics manager, pulls a pint at a previous beer festival.

local community events and good causes across West Yorkshire. The organisers and supporters of the event have helped it to develop into a community charity fundraiser without losing its original aim of showcasing locally produced beers from micro and independent breweries.

Ian Short, managing director of Morley Glass, says the business is proud to play a role in helping the festival continue to grow. He says: "The North Leeds Charity Beer Festival really has become a highlight in the North Leeds calendar, bringing people together while raising vital funds for fantastic causes. Supporting our communities has always been a key part of what we do at Morley Glass, so we're delighted to sponsor the festival this year. We hope our involvement helps the organisers continue the brilliant work they do and encourages more people to come along and enjoy the weekend."



(L-R) Morley Glass's Charlotte Gilbert, marketing assistant, with Beth Mackay, office administrator, at a previous North Leeds Charity Beer Festival

Festival organisers have welcomed the sponsorship, saying that support from local businesses like Morley Glass is essential in ensuring the event can raise as much money as possible for the community.

North Leeds Charity Beer Festival organiser, Richard Wharton, says: "The North Leeds Charity Beer Festival has now been running for 14 years and raised over £100,000, all of which has been donated to charity. At the same time, it has become a much-anticipated and well attended event for the local community.

Club of Lausanne International, Switzerland also joining in and supporting the event. Morley Glass has sponsored the North Leeds Charity Beer Festival for a number of years, and its continued support reflects the company's commitment to supporting "We are grateful for the support of Morley Glass, which have been involved in the festival for many years and provides a huge amount of support and help in running the event." □



Ian Short, managing director of Morley Glass, with visitors to a previous event.



Visitors to the North Leeds Charity Beer Festival, reflecting its family and community focus.

The glass working wizard

Three Tenon vertical washing machines are the latest addition to UA Glass' ongoing programme of machinery investment with Flat Glass Solutions, which amounts to a total of nearly £1m over the last two decades

“UA Glass is one of those family-run businesses that has glass in its blood...”

The Norfolk-based glass company manufactures an average of 2,000 sealed units per week and has collaborated with FGS with every stage of its glass processing equipment update over the last couple of decades.

As well as the Tenon vertical washers, UA Glass operates a Yuntong glass tempering furnace, Viprotron scanners and Hakon storage racks.

“With the rapid advancement in glass processing technology, and the expectations around regulations, the relationship we have with Oz and his team at FGS has been an essential part of our growth,” says Neil Tomlinson, founder and director of UA Glass. “The key is to invest to maintain efficiencies, remain competitive and protect margins, and somehow Oz knows instinctively what we need to make that next move.”

Neil Tomlinson and ‘Oz’ (aka David Cahill, managing director of FGS) first met at a UK trade show more than 20 years ago, and have grown friendship and businesses (in that order) in lockstep ever since. That friendship has crossed continents as they have visited plants in Los Angeles, China and Europe, assessing machine performance and calculating length of time any investment will take to recoup costs.

“We installed the Yuntong tempering furnace nearly five years ago after carefully looking at all the options. Prior to this, FGS conducted an extensive feasibility study on ROI for us looking at the total range of the products we manufactured. It was estimated that payback would be less than four years,” says Tomlinson. “It actually paid for itself within two and a half years. And the machine is still running with no issues all these years later. No matter where in the world the machine has come from, if there is any issue at all, FGS will bring in a specialist engineer to sort it out – real local service from a global supplier.”

As well as the IGU line, UA Glass also runs a bespoke service for more decorative glass products such as kitchen splashbacks, balustrades and wall art. The variety in products also requires a versatility on the factory floor – something that Oz Cahill has worked into the specification and design of the plant.

“UA Glass is one of those family-run businesses that has glass in its blood, so working with them over the years has been an education for myself,” says Cahill. “It’s safe to say



Neil Tomlinson

we have grown and matured together, nurturing a production process that has kept UA Glass as front runners in local glazing supply.” □

www.uaglass.co.uk