



Recently we have seen significant focus in the press and online regarding U-values, with calls made by industry leaders to bring increased clarity to published performance claims. As most readers will know, the calculation method can be subjective and, as a result, variations in resulting U-values for the same system are possible depending on the parameters chosen. There is no 'right or wrong' as no-one is acting to review which parameters must be followed and to check methodology applied
CAB CEO Nigel Headford writes

The membership of the Council for Aluminium in Building has decided that the association should step up and try to resolve the issue. Whilst discussion is healthy in bringing the issue to the table, a solution is needed to ensure aluminium fenestration products maintain their high perceived value. CAB has an opportunity to make a high value contribution to not only the debate, but in driving positive change, so the CAB aims to rise to the challenge, as one voice, one industry.

So far 13 system company members have agreed to work together and form a *U Value Charter* that, once complete, will be made freely available. The charter will not rely solely on BFRC accredited thermal simulators, but be an agreed and descriptive calculation method for aluminium fenestration. By working alongside notified bodies across Europe, a unified U-value calculation method will be developed which will be clear and agreed by all with no loopholes and no room for manipulation.

Members of the *CAB Charter* will have the opportunity, collectively, to decide the parameters required in U-value calculation so that there is a single unified calculation method.

All the charter members already have certified U-value calculations for their systems and have U-values independently verified by notified bodies in Europe, however, as has become obvious, not all system companies fully understand the process. The founder members of the charter will be working alongside CAB's technical team to ensure this misunderstanding can be rectified. The plan is for the charter to be published early in the new year. It is believed that products that bear the U-value stamp are not only fairly calculated, but can be independently verified by CAB. I firmly believe that this approach is one of the key objectives of any association.

Dale Pegler joins CAB in January as our technical director and we look forward to welcoming him to the team. Justin Furness has been chosen as chair of the UK working group, B/538/6 – curtain walling which is responsible for the drafting of the national, European and

international standards for curtain walling. The work of the group consists of planning, programme and co-ordinating standards in this field, organising the work necessary to develop, produce and maintain these standards. The UK group will provide input to and mirror the work of the European CEN/TC33/WG6 curtain walling working group. Interested members of CAB have the opportunity to get involved in this important committee; please reach out to Justin for further information.

Looking forward into 2025 we have had a good uptake of members wishing to sponsor our events in the new year. The schedule of events has been updated to retain the popular meetings and new events added. These have been agreed with the marketing committee. Jessica is busy behind the scenes organising the events to ensure members and their guests are well looked after.

CAB is evolving and it will continue to change to meet members and industry needs to truly become the voice of the industry through its members. The CAB website is going to get a facelift in the coming months to reflect the changing nature of the association. With new committees dedicated to aspects of the facade supply chain and a growing membership there has never been a better time to join CAB. I am happy to visit any prospective member to discuss the benefits of joining. Not only is a membership of the association a value to your business, it also shows the wider industry that your business supports professional standards and practices. □

It is my pleasure to welcome our new members Mormet Aluminium Ltd, Midori Aluminium Ltd, Furh, ProGlide Aluminium Ltd, Alubend, Glazpart and Total Façade Solutions into membership of the association. We look forward meeting up with members of their respective companies at our future events.