



Kestrel Aluminium Systems has collaborated with ASSA Abloy to create a new range of emergency exit hardware. Crispin Jedrzejewski, head of technical and design at Kestrel explores the concept behind the new products

When ASSA Abloy approached us to collaborate on a new range of emergency and panic hardware we jumped at the chance to be involved in the design of the new products, writes Crispin Jedrzejewski of Kestrel Aluminium Systems.

Kestrel has a history with ASSA Abloy going back nearly 30 years. We highly value this partnership because it allows us to leverage each other's expertise, to create better products for our customers. This collaboration has resulted in the concealed vertical rod (CVR) exit hardware range, a new product that fills a gap in the market.

The range includes a touch bar panic unit, push bar panic unit, push pad emergency unit and outside access device (OAD) and security escutcheon.

Easier product selection and fabrication

Selecting and fabricating emergency exit doors has always been a complicated process. There were so many different variations of hardware on the market, for different profile widths and door types – single, double, thermal, non-thermal. You might even end up sourcing one part of a system from one manufacturer and the accessories from another. There was no 'one size fits all' solution.

This was an issue we were keen to address. We wanted to develop a simpler, more cost-effective solution that would work across doors of all different widths and types. The new ASSA Abloy CVR exit hardware range offers universal application on all Kestrel Aluminium Systems' commercial door and frame products – no matter the size. In addition, the bar for the touch bar and push bar panic units can be cut to size to accommodate specific projects.

Added security

Security was another aspect that we wanted to improve. Emergency exit doors – by their very definition – must be easily opened from the inside. The focus has traditionally been on meeting the regulations for people to safely evacuate a building. Preventing people from entering the doors from the outside was a lesser consideration.

This was something we were keen to rectify.

Current building regulations for security, only apply to new dwellings which don't usually have commercial emergency exit doors. We expect the regulations to change and with this new hardware range we're one step ahead for the wider market with the CVR exit hardware having been tested to PAS 24.



Preventing access

With the touch bar, push bar and push pad units the two-point shootbolt locks into the threshold and the transom is withdrawn by pressing down on the bar or pad. The outside access device and security escutcheon has bolt through fixings to provide security when fitted to our aluminium door sets, with solutions to suit different section profiles. Locking the cylinder prevents access into the building but will not prevent escape out of it.

Looking good

Design aesthetics were another key consideration for this product line. While the hardware serves a functional purpose, it is crafted to look good as well. The entire range features an elegant design with fully concealed mechanisms. The touch bar has a low projection from the door face, giving it a modern, streamlined appearance. Although the standard finish is silver, other colours are available upon request to suit specific project needs. □

www.assaabloy.com/group/en
www.kestrelaluminium.co.uk

Special school project



Cardiff-based fabricator Dudley's Aluminium is supporting the redevelopment of Portfield School in Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire.

Portfield School is a special educational needs school for students aged between three and nineteen in the county with a diverse range of complex and profound learning needs.

Funded by Pembrokeshire County Council and the Welsh Government through its 'sustainable communities for learning programme', the redevelopment of the school includes replacing the current lower school building,

refurbishing the sixth form centre and the creation of a new children's residential centre.

The new and updated facilities will feature specialist therapy rooms, breakout and sensory spaces and dedicated outdoor areas to meet the needs of the school's students.

Dudley's Aluminium has teamed up with Morgan Sindall Construction on this project and will install Kawneer doors, windows and capped curtain walling. □

www.dudleys.uk.com



Over 100 Profile 22 windows from Epwin Window Systems were specified for the £3m redevelopment of Crown House, a prominent building in Great Yarmouth Norfolk.

The window contractor was Epwin Window System approved commercial partner Astraframe. Having successfully completed a private project for one of the project's developers, Astraframe was appointed to the Crown House contract on the strength of this previous work.

On the building's side elevation, ten top-over-fixed casement windows featuring bespoke gable frames were installed. To brighten the internal landings on each floor, five three-pane fixed frame windows each 3.4m wide by 2.7m high were also installed.

Large casement windows were also specified throughout the project. These feature two opening sashes next to a fixed light, each measuring 3.4m wide by 1.5m high.

Chris Wells, general manager at Astraframe, says: "This was a bold and exciting conversion that demonstrated the potential of transforming commercial buildings into stylish, thermally-efficient homes. We are proud to have played a part in this redevelopment and to showcase the benefits of Astraframe and Profile 22." □

www.epwinwindowsystems.co.uk