

Design and deliver

With the publication of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase two report, we have witnessed an industry checkpoint, with the events of 14th June 2017 and subsequent findings rightly having a massive impact on not only how we design and deliver facades now, but also with the important governance and legislation changes that will follow to deliver safe buildings, writes Nigel Headford



Our thoughts are with the family and friends of all those caught up in this disaster that tragically took 72 lives. A lot of discussions are also taking place around the Building Safety Act 2022, which itself means more accountability and regulation. We all agree that changes are required, and I promise you that CAB will endeavour to be at the spearhead of these changes, ensuring that our members are informed and more importantly can interact via the technical committee. As a member, if you are not already a regular attendee of the technical committee meetings, please contact Justin Furness, CAB's senior consultant, for details on how you can attend and be a part of our commitment to give you a voice during legislative changes.

CAB is seeing firsthand the impact this is having on main contractors. We are now actively working with Bouygues to train its managers and supervisors via our CSCS curtain walling course to ensure they can challenge any proposed change of specification, detailing and working practices on its projects.

This all ties into the theme for the autumn forum at Cardiff's Principality Stadium on 3rd October: *The Design & Delivery of Contemporary Facades*. First off Rio Architects on the evolution of Cardiff through the years. Starting with its heyday in 1905, with bustling docks servicing the world with coal, to its decline in the 60's and now its resurgence, with a new business district in the centre of the city creating a demand for more high-rise contemporary glass and aluminium facades. This was followed by a presentation on Detail design and the impact of the Building Safety Act on project delivery and the role of the façade consultant by Total Façade Solutions.

Following the presentations a panel discussion explores the challenges of delivering a complex façade and how our members can add more value during the specification, design and implementation stages. Members of the panel include a housing delivery specialist looking at things from the client's side, Bouygues' quality manager for a main contractor's perspective, Steve Bramhill from UL regarding testing and also Rio Architects.

I believe the members conference sets a new standard for CAB and one I wish to pursue further in 2025 helping our members gain more traction in the windows and facade industry across the UK & Ireland.

This month we offer an update on on where we are on aluminium's recyclability. What is key is the ability for aluminium now to be recycled within aluminium grades meaning that a architectural extrusion grade aluminium can be recycled back into new extrusions without loss of quality, as discussed at our last members' conference.

There are currently eight series of grades used to identify the different types of aluminium alloy available. An alloy is created by mixing other types of materials into the pure aluminium to offer desirable features such as greater strength or a higher melting temperature. Grades are identified using four-digit numbers with the first number denoting the series or grade which also indicates the primary alloying elements. This grading system is known as the *International Alloy Designation System*. Extrusion grade aluminium used in fenestration is normally a 6061 or 6063 grade of alloy both of which use magnesium and silicon as the alloying elements to create magnesium silicide. Quickly identifying the alloy enables a closed loop recycling opportunity where there is no loss of quality through cross contamination with other alloys. This has been something that CAB has been pioneering for some time with its own closed loop recycling scheme where members report their recycling amounts within the scheme.

At no cost to specifiers and main contractors adopting the CAB closed loop recycling scheme for all projects where aluminium is being removed from an existing building is a choice that helps reduce our carbon footprint.

I believe it is important to recognise that an association belongs to its members and the more influence that members can bring into the association, the further it will grow. The CAB board of directors is committed to grow the association and continue to increase value for membership. □

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.