

What's the Buzz

Welcome to the Winter 2015/16 edition of our newsletter

Doorsets and Doorkits Are the way forward



The last decade has seen a shift for housebuilders from the traditional method of purchasing and building internal doors to buying them as doorsets or doorkits. Traditionally, a builder would be using three or more suppliers to provide the items required. A skilled joiner would cut the linings to size, mortice for hardware, trim the doorleaf, if required and hang the door. The advent of doorsets and kits meant there could be just one supplier and all the components would be ready machined and fitted for putting together on site with simple tools, no cutting or trimming required.

Later this year we should see the full suite of pedestrian doorset European standards available and products can be CE marked. EN14351-1 has been around for a few years now and we have already seen external non-fire doorsets CE marked on the UK market. But we shall soon see internal non-fire doorsets CE marked to EN14351-2 and fire doorsets CE marked to EN16034.

CE marking of doorsets will be mandatory, so if a door is supplied as a doorset or in kit form then it should be CE marked. There are those who will try to find the loop-holes and omit an essential component, or not machine for something which would mean it is classed as a door assembly and cannot be CE marked. However, we at Ian Firth Hardware Ltd strongly recommend CE marked doorsets/kits are specified by our customers as it gives them many advantages over the traditional route. Many builders are already realising the benefits of doorsets/kits without even considering the CE marking aspect, as they basically save time and ultimately cost.

The obvious benefit is that fitting doorsets/kits is more accurate and much quicker than the traditional assembly method. Labour time per doorset is reduced so saves costs for the builder. However, some builders have switched door installation from skilled joiners to semi-skilled labourers. The danger here

is that they wrongly assume that as a door comes as a doorset or in kit form they have abdicated some or all of the responsibility to ensure it is fitted correctly. We know that the accurate installation of a doorframe or lining is essential to the correct operation of the doorset especially fire resisting doorsets which have the potential to save lives. Therefore, we must strive to encourage builders to continue to employ skilled joiners to hang doorsets to ensure the product performs as intended.

Fewer purchasing transactions result in supply chain economies for the administration side of a business ultimately saving the builder costs.

More components travel together so use less fuel to reach their destination, a plus for companies wanting to reduce their carbon footprint and environmental impact. Many doorset/kit manufacturers will make up lining sets and doorleaf sets in plot lots, so less storage is required on site as the linings can be called off and fitted then the doorleaves come later just when they are required. The benefit of having components delivered in plot lots can help reduce pilferage on sites as a person is less likely to open the packaging to take one lever handle from a plot lot than from an opened bulk box that could have any quantity inside.

Less energy required on site as fewer power tools are required again improves a builder's

'green' profile and saves costs. Also, having fewer power tools required on site reduces risk of injury.

Single supplier means one line of responsibility/accountability so, in the event of something going wrong, there is only one supplier to approach.

All the above benefits could be seen before CE marking of doorsets became possible. However, the CE mark gives additional plus points to the customer as it also means it is much easier for them to prove compliance of the doorsets to a third party. There is just one manufacturer to talk to and one document to obtain, the Declaration of Performance. Buildings falling under the RRO would particularly benefit from this factor as it gives the building owners confidence that if challenged they could provide the DoPs and show due diligence.

Buying doors as doorsets or in kit form doesn't mean a building's designer must compromise on style. Almost any door design and lever handle pattern can be incorporated into doorsets or kits, giving the client the finished look they were seeking.

Once builders switch to doorsets/kits they don't go back to the traditional methods proving categorically that doorsets and doorkits are here to stay and the way forward.

Are you on Q?

The latest Approved Document Part Q of Building Regulations was published last year and came into effect from 1st October 2015. It only applies in England and to just new dwellings. However, if work had already commenced on site, or the work was subject to a building notice, full plans application or initial notice submitted before 1st October 2015 this does not apply, providing work is started on site before 1st October 2016.

Approved Document Q requires that reasonable provision is made to resist unauthorised access to new dwellings or to any part of a building from which access can be gained to a flat within that building. It sets out standards for both doors and windows to resist physical attack by a casual or opportunist burglar by being sufficiently robust and fitted with appropriate hardware.

The document also stipulates the frames of both doors and windows should be mechanically fixed to the structure of the building. This is vitally important to ensure the doorset performs in-situ as designed and tested.

The easiest way to ensure a builder complies is to purchase PAS24 Secured by Design doorsets from Ian Firth Hardware Ltd as they not only meet, but exceed the requirements under Part Q. To achieve Secured by Design status each year our doorsets are rigorously tested and our factory third-party audited to guarantee our doorsets continue to meet the strict performance criteria required and our factory production control continues to manufacture a consistent, high quality product each and every time.

What makes our Secured by Design GRP doorsets so special?

1. Steel reinforced uPVC frames
2. Five Point locking system with Kitemarked cylinders
3. Adjustable lock keeps and hinges
4. Stainless steel lever furniture
5. Tried and tested weather performance
6. Level Access threshold to meet the requirements of Part M
7. An extensive range of door designs covered by SbD
8. Large choice of door colours and glass styles
9. U-Values to meet and exceed the requirements of Part L
10. Ozone Depletion Rating of zero and Global Warming Potential of 5.

Download our full External Door brochure on our website www.ianfirth.co.uk



To Infinity and Beyond!



Of all the new glass patterns launched in summer 2015 one pattern stands out as the favourite – Infinity. Understated yet stylish design incorporating black diamond tiles, 'lead' work, ice effect obscure areas with the ever popular sandblast effect. This glass design can be used in a variety of door styles, Ontario, Ullswater, Michigan, Alto, Clearwater, Luteyans and Corrib to name but a few.



Ontario
with Infinity Glass

Michigan
with Infinity Glass

Cottage Corrib
with Infinity Glass

Cottage Aire
with Infinity Glass

Alto
with Infinity Glass

Luteyans
with Infinity Glass

Ryan
with Infinity Glass

To order - Call us on 01924 438 112, visit www.ianfirth.co.uk, email enquiries@ianfirth.co.uk

COMING SOON FOR 2016

Parcel Delivery Boxes

Ian Firth Hardware Ltd have supplied mailboxes in a variety of shapes and sizes for many years to customers where a traditional through the door letterplate was not desirable or practical.

These can be individual such as our IFS10.25 Mailbox which measures 250x80x320mm, or in banks made specifically to the requirements of the contract. However, as internet shopping is continuing to grow by a phenomenal rate, more and more householders are receiving parcels rather than letters and so the conventional mailbox may not be suitable. Between 2005 and 2013 parcel deliveries grew by 8% and is forecasted by The Royal Mail to grow by another 5% by 2023. This is the complete opposite to inland letter deliveries which has fallen by just under 10% between 2005 and 2013 with forecasted volumes expected to fall by the same % again by 2023. Therefore, could Parcel Delivery Boxes be the future? Set to launch in Spring/Summer 2016 we are pleased to announce that we shall be adding two parcel boxes to our range:

The top flap lifts for a parcel to be delivered. It falls into the box and when the flap is set down again the parcel cannot be removed except through the front opening door that can only be unlocked with the correct key.

Each box is suitable for external use being made from galvanised steel powder coated dark grey. Both models incorporate three-point locking mechanism with two keys per box. The smaller can be wall mounted, but both can be floor fixed and are supplied complete with anchor bolts.

Please ask for more details.



IFS10.25 for post, measuring 320x80x250mm



IFS10.11 for small parcels, box measuring 330x210x490mm



IFS10.24 for medium parcels, box measuring 400x350x1250mm



CIH Housing Manchester

The CIH Housing Conference and Exhibition in 2015 attracted around 8000 visitors and we were pleased to be involved.

Since then the government have extended the 'Help to Buy' scheme, launched in 2013, to carry on until 2020 and have set a target for the UK to build 1 million new homes over the next five years. With such a momentum for growth and change CIH Housing 2016 is the perfect opportunity for the housebuilding sector to come together, take stock and re-energise. Therefore, we are delighted to announce that we shall be exhibiting at the 2016 CIH Housing Conference, again at Manchester Central, 28-30th June 2016 where we shall be showcasing our newest product ranges. We will have our team available to meet with our customers to discuss the hot topics highlighted at the conference. Visit www.cihhousing.com for details of the exhibition and conference programme.



portfolio
Designed for life **PREMDOR**



Get the new Premdor portfolio range from Ian Firth Hardware

To order - Call us on 01924 438 112, visit www.ianfirth.co.uk, email enquiries@ianfirth.co.uk



This new suite of brochures shows the most extensive range of products in over a decade and include some exciting new products.

- **External Doors** - showcasing a new range of glass designs to appeal to a wide range of tastes and to suite every budget.
- **Internal Doors** - our most comprehensive range yet of door designs, from traditional to contemporary styles.
- **Ironmongery** - a range specifically selected for the housing market, from designer handles to the basic commodity doorstops, we have it all.
- **Associated Building Products** - an extensive range of loft doors, loft ladders, access panels, sealants, mastics, roof ventilations, carpenters metalwork, all you need to finish your build.
- **Environmental Products** - whether building to Code for Sustainable Homes or the Home Quality Mark, we have products to help ranging from clothes airers to bird boxes.



We are pleased to congratulate three members of our team in successfully passing Level 1 of the GAI Certificate of Architectural Ironmongery. Zoe Tingle (left) and Jonathan Newton (right) work in our Sales Office and Holly Watson (centre) works in our Stock Control. All three have enrolled on the next stage of the three year course to become full diploma holders. We wish them the best of luck.



Meet the newest member of the Ian Firth Hardware LTD team...

Albie Derek Claydon born 14.12.15 weighing in at 7lbs 15oz, first son for our Sales Director, Paul Claydon and his wife, Fran.



All in a good cause.

The Christmas Jumper Day at Ian Firth Hardware raised over £86 for Text Santa.



Presenting our ECO RANGE of door handles

These stylish contemporary designs are attractively priced and are all available at the same price to make your budgeting easy.

All patterns are available Ex Stock for delivery Nationally.

Starling

Lever on Rose
IFHE44.06 PCP
Polished chrome plated.



Swift

Lever on Backplate
IFHE41.04 PCP
Polished chrome plated.
Lever on Rose IFHE41.06 PCP
Polished chrome plated.



Peregrine

Lever on Backplate
IFHE42.04 PCP/SNP
Polished chrome plated /
Satin nickel plated.
Lever on Rose IFHE42.06 PCP/SNP
Polished chrome plated /
Satin nickel plated.



Curlew

Lever on Backplate
IFHE43.04 PCP
Polished chrome plated.

Available to order today!

Ian Firth Hardware Limited offers a dedicated personal service to the UK social & private housing industry with everything you need to build the highest standard of homes.

With over 30 years' experience, our technical team works with you to specify your exact requirements to deliver best value quality products, from internal doors, ironmongery, loft doors and access panels, to external doorsets manufactured on site in Yorkshire, as well as environmental products for sustainable housing, builders metalwork, sealants and adhesives.

Growing on our commitment to certification including **ISO9001, ISO14001, FSC & PEFC, Q-Mark** we continue to supply quality and high performance products.