

What's the Buzz

Summer 2018

Ongoing investigations into fire doors following the Grenfell Tower fire and how this affects GRP fire doors.

Dear Customer

This week I attended a meeting held by ACDM (Association of Composite Door Manufacturers) and GGF (Glass and Glazing Federation) where I was joined by our major competitors in the composite door market as well as some of our component suppliers. The meeting was to formulate an industry response to a set of questions raised by the MHCLG (The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government) following fire door testing work they have carried out as part of the wider investigation in the Grenfell Tower fire last year. The MHCLG took several GRP apartment entrance doorsets from 5 different manufacturers in the UK and subjected them to independent fire furnace testing to BS476:22 from both sides of the door (open in and open out). These door samples were both glazed and unglazed and some had letterplates, however the results of these tests were varied with some failing the required 30 minute test.

Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP put out a statement earlier this week saying that whilst investigations were still ongoing there was sufficient evidence with the testing carried out to suggest there is a broader issue across the fire door

market. The composite door industry was then requested to provide government with a clear plan of action to rectify existing problems and to make sure such failures are not repeated in future.

At the meeting ourselves, along with other composite door manufacturers, agreed to withdraw FD30 GRP doorsets from sale with immediate effect until such time we have received approval from the appropriate body that our doorsets can be placed back on the market. For any customers needing fire doorsets to complete housing or apartment developments over the next few months please contact our Sales Representatives who will advise regarding possible timber alternatives.

We, like all other GRP doorset manufacturers, are part of a wider government led testing programme so whilst we have some primary test evidence to both BS476:22 and EN1634-1, at this stage we cannot confirm when we will be in a position to start supplying GRP fire doors again. Also we are unsure what, if anything, this means for GRP fire doorsets already supplied, however we will be working closely with our trade associations so as we know more we shall inform you.

If you have any queries either myself, my fellow Directors or the Sales Representatives, will happy to discuss the situation with you.

With best regards

Amanda M Haley
Technical & Marketing Director
Ian Firth Hardware Ltd

6th August 2018