Specifying for a Project

1. Specifying windows and doors

There are two main types of plastics used in the manufacture of windows and doors, the dominant one being PVC-U, with Glass Reinforced Plastics (GRP) recently appearing on the scene.

Like anything else, to obtain the best product suitable for a particular use it is important to get the specification right. It is important to ensure that each party to a contract knows their responsibilities and it is vital for a specifier to give the correct information to a manufacturer to enable the correct product to be manufactured.

The following clauses would be deemed the most relevant:

- Product description - GRP
- Product description - PVC-U
- Benefits of plastics windows and doorsets
- The environment
- Quality assurance
- Specifier responsibilities
- Fabricator, surveyor and installer responsibilities
- User responsibility

By adhering to the guidance in this document, any chance of mistakes caused by confusion, or misleading information, will be minimised. It can also minimise costs by reducing over-specification, and clear specifications can ensure accurate comparisons between potential suppliers.

If you would like to speak to a BPF Windows Group member who could advise you on the specification of your windows and doors, then please go to www.bpf.co.uk/Windows/Default.aspx.

Hopefully the information provided above will help you to make the right decisions throughout the specification process. However, if you do have a specific question which has not been answered above, then please visit www.bpf.co.uk/Windows/Default.aspx now.

2. Building Regulations

One of the most important issues for those involved in the windows industry is the impact of the "Building Regulations". The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) is now responsible for Building Regulations and administers the constant process of updating each part of the regulations.

At present, the Building Regulations are divided into 14 different parts and these are:

- Part A - Structure
- Part B - Fire Safety
- Part C - Site preparation and resistance to moisture
- Part D - Toxic substances
Part E - Resistance to the passage of sound
Part F - Ventilation
Part G - Hygiene
Part H - Drainage and Waste Disposal
Part J - Combustion appliances and fuel storage systems
Part K - Protection from falling, collision and impact
Part L - Conservation of Fuel and Power
Part M - Access and facilities for disabled people
Part N - Glazing - safety in relation to impact, opening and cleaning
Part P - Electrical Safety

For more information on The Building Regulations, please go to
www.planningportal.gov.uk/buildingregulations/

You can purchase hard copies of the Building Regulations in The Stationary Office website
www.tso.co.uk).

For more information on the Building Regulations in Scotland, please go to
www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/Building/Building-standards