

Lighting up LEGISLATION

Specifiers should look to source windows that have achieved a FSC or PEFC certification



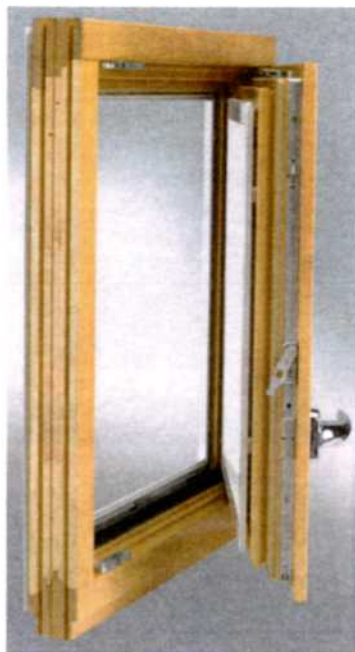
The new amendments to Part L 2010 of the Building Regulations stipulate an additional 25% improvement in energy efficient requirements compared to 2006 levels, meaning specifiers will need to seek new and innovative ways to keep their developments' energy consumption low. While methods such as insulation and solar panels remain hugely popular, specifiers should also be aware that fenestration can contribute significantly to a greener property.

Timber has long been seen as an aspirational choice when it comes to window specification. Its natural beauty provides a classic finish to any property, adding curb appeal to the exterior as well as fitting seamlessly into any interior design concept. However, it is timber windows' sustainable qualities that really set them apart from their competitors.

Timber framed windows fare exceptionally well environmentally. Specifiers should look to source windows that have achieved an FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) or PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification) certification. Such endorsements guarantee that the timber has been reasonably sourced and is sustainable. Greenpeace has also gone on record to promote timber's sustainable benefits and stated that it is its product of choice when it comes to window specification.

Category One of the Code for Sustainable Homes aims 'to future proof the energy efficiency of dwellings over their whole life by limiting heat losses across the building envelope.' Not only do timber framed windows achieve a manufacturing process that is far less energy intensive than common PVCu windows, but research suggests that timber frames are the most effective in preventing heat loss, therefore contributing to credits in the aforementioned code category.

Good fenestration can also have a bearing over another section of the Code, Category Seven - Health and Wellbeing. This section aims to improve the quality of life in homes through good daylighting and reduce the need for energy to light the home. With research suggesting



that increased exposure to daylight improves health, there are timber window manufacturers producing slender frames, which ensure as much light as possible is allowed into the dwelling. In addition to improving the wellbeing of occupants, slim line window frames decrease the need for artificial light sources, reducing significant energy costs.

Low-E glass coating is the final essential tool when it comes to a window's energy efficiency. In the summer, it allows the sun's rays into a property whilst preventing the build up of heat, and in the winter, the Low-E coating reflects a property's central heating back into a room.

To ensure its windows stay on trend and to meet increasing environmental demands, Black Millwork has launched its own range of narrow profiled, high quality timber windows, offering the best in terms of strength and durability. The extensive portfolio includes casement, sliding sash, H-frame and tilt and turn window configurations, with bi-fold, French and sliding doors to match.

There is no doubt that the influx of sustainable building legislation is putting an increasing amount of pressure on specifiers to ensure the products they select reflect such requirements. Fenestration should not be overlooked when it comes to sourcing green materials, as it can add valuable points within the Code for Sustainable Homes, in addition to bringing properties in line with the revised Building Regulations.

For more information about Black Millwork use any of the four enquiry methods below quoting number AT284

Send in a response
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With new stipulations from Part L of the Building Regulations, and an on-going emphasis on the Code for Sustainable Homes, sustainability continues to be a focal point of the construction industry today. Gary Hutton, general manager of Black Millwork, considers the role windows play in achieving the desired eco credentials such legislation requires

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