

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Structherm EWI System Achieves BS8414 Fire Performance Standard

The Structherm Research & Development team have, literally, been playing with fire down at the Building Research Establishment in order to demonstrate that their External Wall Insulation (EWI) systems have a BS approved fire performance rating for use on multi-storey buildings.

Following a fire in a residential housing block at Garnock Court Irvine in 1999 the potential risk of fire spread in buildings by way of the external cladding system has been gaining greater and greater significance within the English, and more prevalently, the Scottish Building regulations.

In order to meet the requirements of these regulations, the first of two full scale fire tests was undertaken. Eight metres of mineral wool insulation was fixed and rendered to a specially constructed masonry test facility, which houses a combustion chamber at its base. A wooden crib was used to provide the necessary heat source and is engineered to give the specific combustion characteristics required.

Thermocouples (temperature sensors) are placed both within the insulation and on the external face of the EWI at a height of 5m from the combustion chamber. If the temperature read in either of these locations reaches 600°C within a 15 minute time period, the spread of fire is deemed to be accelerated by the system and it is failed. Further, if any collapse or excessive damage to the system is observed within a 30 minute time frame, this also needs to be reported to the Building Regulations officer.

The Structherm system successfully passed the fire test with impressive results, strengthening the reputation of their systems and giving added confidence to specifiers.





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Notes to Editors:

Structherm Ltd – part of the Hanson HeidelbergCement Group - has been providing solutions to the construction industry for over 25 years. Our technical expertise in the manufacture and supply of innovative building solutions (Structherm Fastbuild® precast concrete building system, external wall insulation and structural insulated cladding) combined with comprehensive support throughout the construction process is unrivalled.

Hanson Building Products is one of the world's largest suppliers of heavy building materials to the construction industry. Hanson produce aggregates (crushed rock, sand and gravel), ready-mixed and precast concrete, asphalt and cement-related materials and a range of building products including concrete pipes, concrete pavers, tiles and clay bricks.

Hanson are part of the Heidelberg Cement Group, which employs 57,000 people across five continents, and has leading positions in concrete and heavy building products and is the global leader in aggregates.

For more information, contact:

**Damian Haigh
Marketing Executive
Structherm Ltd
Bent Ley Road
Meltham
Holmfirth
West Yorkshire
HD9 4AP**

**Tel: 01484 855413 Fax: 01484 851388
Email: damian@structherm.co.uk
Web: www.structherm.co.uk**