



**Northern Ireland
Fire & Rescue Service**

Protecting Our Community

COMMUNITY INFORMATION BULLETIN NO. 6

‘FIRE GLASS’ ADVICE FOLLOWING FRAUD ALLEGATION

This Community Information Bulletin has been issued in response to the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) press release dated 24 August 2013, relating to an allegation that a Northern Ireland (NI) company named Glassworks Ireland Ltd sold non-fire resistant glazing whilst purporting it to be fire resistant to a number of businesses in NI and further afield.

Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS) wishes to clarify the legal position in respect of responsibilities under The Fire and Rescue Services (NI) Order 2006 and The Fire Safety Regulations (NI) 2010 for those premises affected by this alleged fraud.

Enquiries to date have given PSNI sufficient evidence to warrant an alert being made to the public and it is therefore appropriate and necessary for NIFRS to issue advice and guidance to persons potentially affected by this fraudulent undertaking. NIFRS will be liaising with PSNI to help identify any premises known to be affected and it will be our intention to work closely with all those affected to minimise the impact of this alleged fraud on public safety.

The investigation at present has identified two types of fire-resistant glass products allegedly supplied by Glassworks Ireland Ltd which have been stamped as Pyroguard fire-resistant glazing and there is some doubt over the authenticity of these particular products. It is believed substandard copies have been manufactured which replicate Pyroguard’s 7mm fire-resistant glass (3ply of 30 minute fire-resistance) and their 11mm fire-resistant glass (5ply of 60 minute fire-resistance).

PSNI investigations in conjunction with CGI, the UK manufacturer for Pyroguard, have determined that quantities of glazing purporting to be genuine Pyroguard 7mm and 11mm fire-resistant glazing products have been found at several locations in NI.

NIFRS wish to affirm that it has absolutely no concerns with genuine Pyroguard products supplied by any other company under licence and wish to reaffirm that the ‘Pyroguard’ trademark is a widely recognised, approved and certified fire-rated standard across the glass industry sector.

Legal Responsibility for fire safety arrangements is the responsibility of the appropriate person as defined by the Fire & Rescue Services (NI) Order 2006. In the event that you have installed the glazing referred to, you should take steps to remove and replace it with glazing of the required standard. Failure to do so may give rise to an offence and / or legal proceedings requiring its removal. It could also lead to prohibition of the use of premises for certain purposes.

NIFRS therefore strongly urges that if you/your company/your contractors or sub-contractors have had any dealings in relation to the purchase of fire-resistant glazing from Glassworks Ireland Ltd, to take immediate steps to verify the validity of the fire-resistant glazing that has been fitted on your premises.

CGI, the manufacturers of Pyroguard glass products can be contacted by customers who believe they have been sold a product of which the legitimacy is in question.

For technical advice and guidance on fire resistant products from CGI please call +44 (0) 1942 710 720 or for further information please visit www.pyroguard.eu.

Anyone who finds the products they have purchased are not the authentic Pyroguard products should contact the PSNI investigation team on 028 9448 1644.

NIFRS will update this Community Information Bulletin as and when new information becomes available.

Should you require any further information from NIFRS please contact your nearest NIFRS Community Development Department for assistance.



Genuine Pyroguard Stamp



**Stamps Applied by Glassworks Ireland Ltd
Etched on Glass Under Investigation**

For further information phone NIFRS HQ 028 9266 4221 or visit www.nifrs.org   #STOPfire