



#### Materials

In addition, specifiers should pay attention to the source of material. BREEAM requires that all timber is legally and responsibly sourced. Three BREEAM points are available per element for FSC and PEFC certified timber.

Wood-based products can be made from timber which is supplied from sources that comply with either the Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) chain of custody, the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes (PEFC) or any other source that complies with the FSC standard for Non FSC-Certified Controlled wood.

With sustainability being high on the agenda, manufacturers are looking for ways of increasing their responsibility to the environment and sustainable options for house builders. With doors that comply with FSC and PEFC, a manufacturer will be able to provide full chain of custody upon request.

It is worth checking that a manufacturer holds both FSC and PEFC certification and is able to provide full chain of custody. CPL (Continuous Pressure Laminate) door cores should also be FSC approved.

CPL-faced doors provide a durable, easy to clean product which also has consistent colour and uniformity of grain providing an economical solution for areas with several doors or double door sets.

Natural wood veneers are also a popular choice and available from high-end manufacturers. They can include Ash, American Cherry or Black Walnut, and Oak.

A further, much wider range of natural wood veneers are available for use through bespoke door manufacturers offering the specifier greater flexibility in the selection of veneer species, the veneer cut and the assembly of the lay-on. The use of laser cut inlays can enable logos and other motifs to be incorporated into the door finish. In addition, paint finishes can also be applied, from priming coats through to fully finished RAL colours or British Standard ranges.

Enquiry No. 184



# Stringent DDA Requirements

**M**alcolm Stamper, Brand Manager, SAS International, looks at the complex regulations when specifying doors for a new build or refurb project.

When specifying doors it's often the finish, material and colour that immediately come to mind. However, whether in a new build or refurb project, the building regulation requirements presented at the design stage now demand equal attention from the outset.

New doors can be subject to strict and sometimes complex fire regulations. Adhering to DDA and approved Document M of the building regulations require considerations. British Building Regulations and British and International Standards vary between buildings and project types, from domestic to public buildings.

Acoustic attenuation can be achieved to meet the requirements of Approved Document E of the Building Regulations 2003 and needs to be considered for many projects.

Sourcing a manufacturer at design stage can perhaps alleviate many of the compliance concerns early on. Using an off the shelf or a bespoke door manufacturing service can provide a comprehensive option not only in terms of choice of finish, but also on-hand technical advice.

With the bespoke solution it is possible to combine aesthetics with acoustic and fire resistance requirements available for specification with a number of other key considerations in mind; these include acoustic performance to 33BB and 60 minute fire resistance.

To achieve full fire performance specifiers must be aware that doors must be installed with all necessary intumescent materials and an approved self-closing device fitted.

#### DDA Requirements

Doors are required to meet stringent DDA requirements. Part M of the Building Regulations 2004 (Access to and use of buildings) requires that all entrance doors and internal doors, where the door leaf or side panel is wider than 450mm, other than for reasons of security, include a vision panel. The vision panel should be installed towards the leading edge of the door and its vertical dimensions should include the minimum visibility requirement.

Selecting from a range of standard or bespoke vision panels, the specifier has further opportunity to create an individual look. This includes glass retaining beads, matching hardwood bolection beads, flush quirked hardwood beads, and stainless or painted steel. Vision panel options meet fire performance to 30 minute or 60 minute fire resistance if required.

DDA requirements and Part M Approved Document of the Building Regulations 2004 and Code of Practice BS 8300:2001, which ensures the design of buildings and the approaches meet the needs of disabled people, set out provisions which must be made in both public and private sector.

The house builder or developer will be required to consider the following:

- Widths of access routes and doorways; the effective clear width is the width of the opening measured at right angles to the wall in which the door is situated
- Visual contrasts between doors, door frames and the surrounding structure, and between door faces and door edges, which is defined by the document as a difference in light reflectance values exceeding 30 points
- Limiting door opening forces allowing independent access through a building

