

FILON® roofscape

Your regular update from the leader in GRP building products

The !nnovation! !ssue

FILON ideas that shaped roofing & refurbishment...

PLUS:

Awards and accreditation for FILON ingenuity

Innovation in action: latest application case studies

New products for the traffic management market

More on GRP recycling: FILON's latest breakthrough

Welcome to **roofscape**



At FILON, research & development has been the driving force of our success over many decades. In this issue of Roofscape, we're highlighting some of the significant innovations we have introduced, including our Supasafe high strength rooflights, FAIRS (factory assembled insulating rooflights) and our GRP over-roofing system for roof refurbishment amongst others. All of these FILON innovations are now widely used on thousands of buildings throughout the UK and further afield. More recently, we have pioneered the new Fixsafe system – a revolution in roof refurbishment safety that will save lives by allowing roofing sheets to be replaced from below, without the need to access fragile roof areas. Our latest significant innovation is the commissioning of our GRP recycling plant which places us in the very forefront of GRP manufacturing, with a high recycled content in many new product lines – as well as the prospect of soon operating a recycling programme for end-of-life GRP products. Since we first started manufacturing GRP products in 1957, we have never rested on our laurels and we have always strived to be the best at what we do by staying out front in the development of new products and solutions. It's our intention that we will continue to do that. In fact, 2010 is looking like another interesting year for FILON innovation. In the meantime, please take the time to check out this issue of Roofscape to see what we've been up to in 2009.

David Hathaway F.I.o.R.
Director of Sales, FILON Products

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CPA Awards for FILON

FILON Products has been recognised with prestigious CPA awards (Construction Products Association) for two of the company's latest innovations.

Julie Cox, FILON's Financial Director, was delighted to be presented with the awards for the company's new recycling project at its Burntwood plant and its highly innovative Fixsafe system for installing profiled roofing sheets from below the roof.

Julie said: "The investment in our recycling plant has been significant and now we're starting to see the

payback, with huge interest in our new products which contain a recycled content as well as the operational efficiencies resulting from greatly reduced manufacturing waste.

Les Williams, FILON's Research and Development Manager was closely involved in the development of the company's Fixsafe system. He commented: "It's nice to be recognised for having come up with a new idea. However, with Fixsafe, the real buzz comes from the prospect of our helping to reduce accidents and save lives when roofing work is being carried out."◆



Les Williams and Julie Cox with FILON's CPA Awards

FILON achieves BS EN 14001:2004 environmental accreditation

FILON Products' environmental management system has been awarded the ISO 14001 accreditation, recognising the company's high standards in this respect.

ISO 14001 specifies the requirements for an organisation's environmental management system and applies to those environmental aspects over which the organisation has control and where it can be expected to have an

influence. Over the last two years, FILON has made major investments in energy-efficient manufacturing processes, resulting in energy savings estimated to be in the region of 50% – making a massive contribution to reduced carbon emissions. These are tested on a daily basis as part of the company's policy of operating within the ISO 14001 standard. New initiatives in recycling and water treatment have also played a role in gaining the accreditation.◆



Julie Cox and Stan Pyatt, FILON's Production Services Manager – part of the team behind FILON's ISO 14001 accreditation

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FILON Supasafe sheet - safety without compromise

FILON
Supasafe

FILON Supasafe GRP sheet for roofing and rooflights, was developed in the early 1990s to meet the demands of the new Construction Design Management (CDM) regulations which came into force in 1994.

These regulations stipulated that designers would have to design-in safety factors with regard to maintenance of existing and new buildings.

It was well known in the industry that GRP could provide the required strength for non-fragile roofing, by increasing the thickness of the resin and the glass fibre content. However, this created a problem. The thicker sheets resulted in a poor profile match with existing steel or fibre cement profiles, leading to poor sealing and unacceptable aesthetics.

FILON innovation scores

At this stage, FILON focussed its R&D resources on finding a solution which would provide the required strength without compromising the sealing and aesthetic properties of the sheets.

Drawing on the expertise of a team comprising many of the UK's leading experts in GRP for roofing applications, the specification for FILON's patented Supasafe system was developed.

After many months of trials and revisions to the original design, the concept for Supasafe sheets was born.



On this seven year old factory roof, the plastisol coated steel sheeting has failed due to exposure to fumes - but the adjacent Supasafe sheeting is 'good as new'!

Glass filaments - the key to Supasafe performance

Where others simply increased the thickness of the glass fibre matting to increase strength, the team at FILON found that by incorporating glass filaments in addition to the matting, the strength could be greatly increased without severely compromising the thickness.

The resulting sheet, Supasafe, has become a well-known industry standard. Supasafe sheets are produced in hundreds of different profiles to match existing patterns and can be specified in classifications to meet all levels of fire rating. Supasafe sheets can also be specified as opaque or translucent.

Save lives, save costs

With a non-fragile life expectancy in excess of thirty years, Supasafe sheets will outlast the surrounding roof materials in most instances. As there is no need for costly repairs or replacements, Supasafe not only increases safety, it can also reduce costs over the lifespan of the installation.

Supasafe sheets can be incorporated into FAIRS (factory assembled insulating rooflights) as well as other rooflights to meet the requirements of Part L of the Building Regulations.

Our Technical Department is always available to answer any queries you may have, or for a quotation for your next project, please contact our Sales Team. ♦





The roofing safety revolution gathers pace...

In today's challenging climate, where cost is the biggest driver for many projects, compliance with Health & Safety standards has come under pressure. FILON's new Fixsafe system is providing solutions that offer the best of both worlds: greatly improved site safety, with reduced costs.

How does FILON do it? Read on to find out about some recent Fixsafe success stories...



HSBC banks on Fixsafe...

Manchester-based roofing & cladding contractor Blackwell Stanistreet has used FILON's Fixsafe system in a contract to replace acrylic rooflights in a double six metric sheeted roof at an HSBC storage facility in Manchester.

David Hathaway, Director of Sales at FILON, takes up the story: "The rooflights had deteriorated to such a state they were causing leaks all over the building. Following a surveyors report, it was decided to replace the rooflights and at the same time incorporate a double skin box under the rooflights to increase the insulation value so that the building would comply with the latest regulations with regards to U-value requirements under the Part L Regulations."

Having worked with FILON for a number of years, the team at Blackwell Stanistreet were enthusiastic about the opportunity of improving working practices on site by using the Fixsafe system.

John Watson of Blackwell Stanistreet explains: "We had been made aware of the fact that using Fixsafe meant that none of our roofers or even any scaffolding contractors would have to go onto the roof – because the installation could be carried out entirely from below. This is obviously a major step forward in terms of safety, so we were keen to find out more and assess the system."

FILON's Research and Development Manager Les Williams attended the site and oversaw initial training, after which the project was initiated.

The building is in use six days a week and the contract needed to be carried out without disrupting operations. This highlighted another advantage of the Fixsafe system: the fact that the underside of the rooflights did not need to be safety netted. All work was carried out from beneath using a cherry picker - with little or no disruption to the busy daily routine within the building.

John Watson summed up: "This project was particularly difficult due to the need to remove existing under-rooflight shading and having to work around and over large storage racks at height, with other obstacles including wiring and sprinkler systems. The Fixsafe system definitely improved safety for our operatives".

For further information, please contact Blackwell Stanistreet on 0161 8722821 or visit www.blackwellstanistreet.co.uk ♦



Fragile acrylic rooflights at HSBC's Manchester facility required urgent replacement

First corporate manslaughter charge

The first application of the new Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 has been authorised by the Crown Prosecution Service, against a Cotswolds-based company over the death of an employee in September 2008. Sentencing guidelines are yet to be finalised, however, the Sentencing Advisory Panel has recommended fines of up to 10% of turnover. With roofing related accidents making up a high percentage of industrial accidents, it makes sense to minimise risk to your workforce.

STAY SAFE WITH FILON'S REVOLUTIONARY FIXSAFE SYSTEM



Fixsafe - making history at Duxford

Rooflights on Hangar Two at Duxford's Imperial War Museum have recently been replaced using FILON's Fixsafe system, allowing the project to be carried out entirely from below.

The hangar, which houses a collection of priceless historic aircraft including the famous Grace Spitfire, had sixteen runs of in-plane rooflights which needed replacing.

Had the replacement been carried out using traditional methods, the building would have to have been closed and all the exhibits moved

to avoid potential damage. External scaffolding would also have been required as well as netting out internally.

Welwyn Garden City based Letchworth Roofing tendered for the project based on using the Fixsafe system which they had jointly developed with FILON Products.

Letchworth Roofing were awarded the project and with the Fixsafe system, were able to carry out the work with minimal disruption to the museum's schedule, greatly reduced risk to roofing operatives and an overall saving amounting to around £10,000 on the project.

For further information, visit www.letchworthroofing.co.uk ◆



Fixsafe: now fragile roofs need never claim another life

Safety first - no need to access fragile roofs

The Fixsafe system has been designed to allow profiled roof sheets or rooflights to be replaced from below, eliminating the need to access dangerous fragile roofs, thereby increasing safety for maintenance operatives and equipment erectors. By removing the requirement for costly safety netting, roof staging, fall protection or external scaffolding, access equipment costs are minimised, on-site time is reduced and lives are not put at risk.

Fixsafe allows those involved in repairing fragile roofs to work fully in compliance with Regulation 9 of the Working at Height Regulations, 2005.

Flying high: FILON's HSBC connection...

By coincidence, Duxford Imperial War Museum Hangar Two, featured above, houses a unique WWII Spitfire with an insurance programme sponsored by HSBC Insurance Brokers, part of the HSBC Group – another FILON Fixsafe customer, as outlined in the story opposite. To complete the link, HSBC provides banking services to FILON. Thanks for the excellent service and support over the years HSBC! Together we'll continue our high-flying record! The Grace Spitfire is an aeroplane with a great history, currently piloted by Carolyn Grace, the world's only female Spitfire pilot, who has been flying the Spitfire since 1990. Carolyn recently took TV presenter James May for a flight in this incredible machine as part of the 'James May's Toy Stories' series on BBC2. The aeroplane was built at

Castle Bromwich (now the Jaguar factory for which FILON also supplied the rooflights) in early 1944. It served in the front line of battle throughout the last twelve months of WWII, with six squadrons of the RAF's 2nd Tactical Air Force, carrying out 176 combat sorties. For further information, visit the Grace Spitfire website at www.ml407.co.uk ◆



Recycling GRP: The breakthrough that's changed manufacturing at FILON

FILON Products is the first major UK GRP building products manufacturer to incorporate recycled waste from manufacturing into many of its product lines. From rooflights to road signs, FILON is leading the way with sustainable manufacturing.

Over the last few years, FILON Products has pursued a goal that many in the industry believed to be commercially unattainable: to break down GRP waste from the manufacturing process and re-introduce it back into the process together with virgin raw material.

Years of research and subsequent practical trials have resulted in the design and commissioning of FILON's unique new GRP recycling plant, which is now complete and fully operational. The plant enables a two-stage process by which the GRP can be cost-effectively reduced, first to small flakes of approximately 10mm², then to a fine powder. The material in both of these states can be recycled for use in manufacturing processes.

Following tests to establish the optimum percentage of recycle

for a given product, FILON is now offering a complete range of products incorporating recycled material, including rooflights, roofing sheets, trims and flashings, valley gutters and flat sheet for signage.

FILON's persistent commitment to this innovative new manufacturing process has created tangible benefits in terms of sustainability:

The demand for raw materials is reduced, creating savings in energy and emissions.

Pressure on landfill is reduced as almost 100% of raw materials can now be utilised.

FILON's recycling plant also creates the potential for recycling GRP building products at the end of their working life - creating further efficiencies and savings. ♦



*Above: FILON's unique GRP recycling plant is housed in a soundproofed building adjacent to the main factory.
Below: A complete range of products with recycled content is now available.*



Flat roofing: get the perfect finish, faster!



Kim Davies, proprietor of Farnborough-based Kim D Ltd, is a big fan of FILON's innovative Flextrim uPVC flat roofing flashings. Here's why...

Kim D Limited is a well established business specialising in domestic and commercial roof work and draws on years of hard-won experience of proprietor Kim Davies.

"As a local business, we're very protective of our reputation as much of our business results from personal recommendations in our area", Said Kim Davies. " This means that we're usually cautious about using new products until we're entirely convinced of their performance and suitability."

He continued: "GRP is a great roofing material that we have used for many applications over the years and we have used a lot of pre-formed GRP flashings. These provide an excellent, durable job, but for projects where detailing and finish are important, the flashings need careful finishing and painting, which can add time and cost to a project. So when FILON approached us with an alternative, we were very interested, to say the least."

FILON innovation scores again!

The alternative that Kim was offered, was FILON's innovative Flextrim system: a uPVC flashing range with a unique design feature allowing it to be used with GRP flat roofing. This combination was never previously possible, because

uPVC and GRP resins do not make a natural bond. FILON innovation provided a solution combining the simplicity and durability of GRP roofing, with the excellent finish of uPVC trims. The new Flextrim system employs a line of tapered ridges in the flashing, into which the GRP resin flows. When the resin cures and hardens, a strong, permanent joint is achieved.

"Flextrim is so easy to use and with it's full range of joints and corners it makes even the trickiest projects quick and easy to complete. We still use GRP flashings for some projects, but wherever the flashings are visible, I use Flextrim. The smooth finish of Flextrim means that we don't have to apply a paint finish to make the job look good, so we save time and materials."

More than just roofing...

Kim D Ltd and FILON Products have worked together for a number of years on a variety of products. "I find FILON excellent to work with. They offer great service and support to back up the product range. Over the years, we've used FILON rooflights on a number of projects, as well as their canopies. Whatever the product, the quality and service are the same - first rate".

For further details, call Kim on 0771 2106530, or visit Kim D's website at www.kimd.contractor.co.uk ♦



Kim D Limited has also installed other FILON Products including canopies (above) and rooflights

Right: Flextrim installation on a flat roof overhang on a domestic property

Industry first for traffic signs

You probably know FILON Products for their expertise in rooflights and roofing - but did you know that the company also supplies products for the traffic management market?

For many years, FILON has supplied its FILON Plate flat GRP sheet as a substrate for temporary road traffic signage. Now, working in partnership with Morlock Signs, FILON has introduced an upgraded sheet to meet the needs of the permanent road signage industry.

Available under the name MPGRP Supaplate, the new sheet has been tested independently by the BSI and has achieved BS EN12899 2001 & 2007 part 1. It is the only GRP substrate currently approved for permanent signage.

GRP has a number of advantages over the aluminium sheet currently widely used for traffic signs.

Firstly, it has no scrap value and therefore does not constitute a target for thieves. In this day and age, where scrap metal values are high, local and highways authorities have suffered heavily at

the hands of professional thieves. Sign theft not only results in unplanned replacement costs - it presents a real safety threat. Missing signage can cause confusion or mis-understanding for drivers, with potentially serious consequences. MPGRP Supaplate is also lighter than aluminium and whilst strong and durable, it will deform or break in the event of an impact, thereby contributing to 'passive' sign safety.

Holger Wassink, FILON Products' Operations Manager was instrumental in driving the development of the new MPGRP Supaplate sheets. He said "It's good to be making a contribution to road safety as well as meeting demands for a cost-effective long-term sign substrate."

For further information, visit www.morlock.co.uk ◆

Waymarkers put safety first

FILON ingenuity has resulted in another simple yet highly effective product for the traffic management market...

FILON Waymarkers are verge markers for roads, designed to offer longer life and better safety than conventional markers.

Manufactured from GRP, FILON Waymarkers have a curved section which provides great rigidity - except in the event of the product being hit by a vehicle. On accidental impact, the Waymarker will collapse but return to its upright position when the vehicle has passed over it. This eliminates the risk of injury or damage caused by striking a solid object and maintains the function of the Waymarker after it has been hit.

FILON Waymarkers comply with all relevant traffic management regulations and are not affected by exposure to UV radiation, so they retain their colour even after many years in the field

This combination of properties make FILON Waymarkers a durable long-term solution to verge marking, particularly on rural roads.

They have no scrap value and are therefore not vulnerable to theft and they are also extremely cost-effective compared to conventional verge markers. ◆

FILON Waymarkers and MPGRP Supaplate are available only through selected distributors.

For details, please call us today.

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MPGRP Supaplate is the safe solution for permanent traffic signs. With no scrap value, it's not vulnerable to theft.



FILON Waymarkers provide safe and durable verge marking for rural roads.



FILON®