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Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics
Unit 13, Ball Mill Top Business Park
Grimley, Worcestershire WR2 6LS
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0) 1905 640 400
E-mail: solargardukinfo@saint-gobain.com
www.solargard.co.uk

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Latest Part L Building Regulations Fail to Address Overheating Issues for Commercial Buildings

01/10/10

By Claire West

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Despite recent energy-efficiency amendments that come into force today, Part L 2010 of the Building Regulations fails to adequately take into account the impact of solar gain and internal heat sources on most commercial buildings in the UK, claims solar energy experts from Solar Gard. As a result, although buildings that comply with the new regulations will benefit from excellent insulation, they are at increased risk of overheating.

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According to Ian Penfold, UK Architectural Manager at Solar Gard: "While these buildings meet strict Part L energy-efficiency guidelines they are more likely to require the installation of...air-conditioning as a result."

The Approved Documents for Part L 2010 of the Building Regulations apply to all domestic and non-domestic buildings. They attempt to address issues around conserving fuel and power and play a key part in helping the government meet its wider goal of carbon-neutral buildings.

The latest amendments to Part L focus on storing heat and insulating buildings. While these methods are useful in homes and residential buildings, for many commercial and industrial buildings they could have detrimental consequences due to the widespread use of glass walls.

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