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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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Part L 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; that's the view of solar energy experts from window film brand, Solar Gard, who believe that although buildings that comply will benefit from excellent insulation, they are at increased risk of overheating.



Ian Penfold believes some office buildings could become unbearably hot as a result of the new Building Regulations.

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 and 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.

The use of glass walls in buildings has often been questioned due to safety, durability and solar gain flaws. However, with energy efficient glass readily available, its U-value often being similar to that of a wall, Penfold argues that it could be considered that Part L 2010 encourages the use of glass as a building material. He said: "Heating is rarely an issue for commercial buildings. Heat is generated from employees, IT equipment and the sun and as a result many UK buildings don't use heating at all. Solar gain often leads to over-heating and businesses are more interested in how to keep the building cool in an environmentally sound way. With Part L 2010 encouraging the use of glass and promoting tightly sealed buildings, offices are going to become unbearable, increasing the need for additional cooling systems."

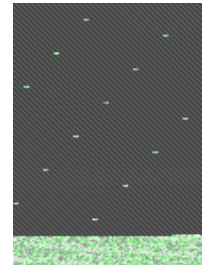
Solar Gard is helping businesses to control internal temperatures by installing its solar-controlled window film. Once installed, it claims to cut solar energy by up to 82%, reducing the need for additional cooling systems.

For further advice on solar control window film, please see www.solargard.co.uk/LEED or call **01905 640400**.

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