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Safety first

The recent student demonstrations in London illustrate the need for businesses to comply with glass safety regulations, according to safety window film company Solar Gard.

Following the recent attacks on Milbank tower, press coverage was full of reports of broken glass, although no one was seriously injured or killed as the building had installed safety window film, and complied with Health and Safety Regulation 14.

Ian Penfold, safety window film specialist at Solar Gard UK, said: "The measures taken on Milbank's windows kept both the students, and the police assigned to restrain them, safe from serious injury. But with countries across the world warning of the risks of terrorist attacks in the UK and Europe, and major worldwide events like the London Olympics on the horizon, business owners should be regarding safety as an issue they cannot afford to take lightly."

Regulation 14 requires business premise owners to ensure that "every window or other transparent or translucent surface in a wall, partition, door or gate should, where necessary for reasons of health or safety, be of a safety material or be protected against breakage of the transparent or translucent material; and be appropriately marked or incorporate features to make it apparent."

When glass breaks, whether by accident, vandalism or even a terrorist attack, it poses a serious risk of injury or death to a building's occupants and general passersby. Almost 90% of all injuries from a bomb blast are related to flying glass, rather than the blast itself.

By reinforcing existing glass and helping to hold broken pieces together in the event of an explosion, safety window film greatly reduces the chance of glass breaking in a dangerous manner.

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