

Gilgen helps safeguard door safety

With industry legislation covering door safety constantly changing and new European Standards becoming ever more stringent it's important for Facilities Managers to have the right advice. Mike James, Operations Director at automatic and industrial door specialists Gilgen Door Systems, examines best practice for reducing liability and risk.

It's important to make clear from the outset that the responsibility for the safety and reliability of any powered doors is shared across the supply chain, starting with the architect, specifier and manufacturer through to the facilities manager, building owner and servicing company. So, in the event of an accident involving a door, depending on the circumstances any of these could be liable – and that would be very bad for business!

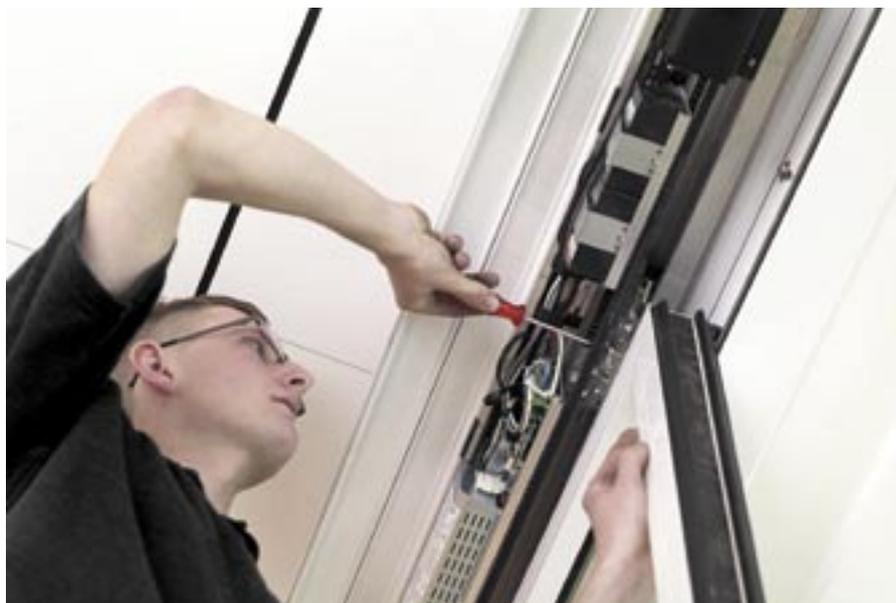
Staying on top of the regulations

Different types of doors are of course governed by various regulations. BS EN 13241-1 covers safety in use standards for industrial, commercial doors and gates where as BS EN 16005 is the European standard for powered pedestrian doors such as automatic sliding doors. Equipment safety is also governed by the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 and Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations 2008. The facilities manager is best placed by working with a door company that stays abreast of changes to UK and European standards and whose engineers are professionally trained across the different types of door products.

Gilgen Door Systems has 50 years experience in manufacturing, specifying, maintaining and repairing all types of automatic pedestrian doors and industrial doors. By providing support for all makes and types of powered door we help facilities managers to reduce costly administration time involved with multiple suppliers, whilst ensuring consistent standards. Our 90 mobile engineers are professionally trained and through our membership of various trade bodies, such as the automatic door suppliers association (ADSA) we stay up to date with changes to legislation and provide advice.

New automatic door safety standards

One of the most recent changes was the launch of a new European safety standard covering the use of automatic doors. EN16005 brings onerous new requirements covering the specification, installation and maintenance of automatic doors over the previous British standard. It highlights the need to identify danger points and make adjustments to reduce risk such as sensor activation distances, finger guards, failsafe systems, breakout protection, barriers, door leaf forces and warning signs.



Facilities managers must of course demonstrate that doors are well maintained and receive regular servicing through qualified engineers, so they remain in full working condition. Documentation provided by the door company should detail the frequency of visits required and explain what can be undertaken without or without specific training. Gilgen Door Systems recommends all powered doors are checked at least once a year by a fully qualified technician and repairs completed where necessary.

Why quality counts

Of course it's not just about door safety, the by-product of quality servicing is higher door uptime, operational efficiency, reduced repair costs and extended working life of equipment. It can be easy to forget the impact a broken door can have on daily operations, for

example, a jammed roller shutter on a busy warehouse or a broken automatic door on the entrance to a hospital. For this reason it makes sense to choose a proven supplier able to support you with quality equipment and service in the long run and not purely on initial cost.

Our Swiss designed automatic door systems are renowned for their high quality construction and durability even in the toughest of environments. Each system is CE marked and undergoes a stringent independent test to ensure compliance to EN16005 and when combined with Gilgen after sales support each system is guaranteed to provide long lifetime performance and high uptime.

The experience of maintaining automatic and industrial doors for blue chip clients over the last 50 years gives Gilgen Door Systems a unique understanding of door maintenance needs in different applications. Our Safeguard service packages give us the flexibility to match a solution to customers' needs so they receive the right level of service and minimise overall costs. National 24/7 service response is standard and our Safeguard Corporate agreement adds dedicated account management, priority call out and single point call handling for businesses that see door uptime as a high priority.

Visit us on stand R1010 at the Facilities Show, 17-19th June or go to www.gilgendoorssystems.co.uk

