

Check industrial doors' wind load capacity before winter sets in

Global warming is leading to more violent winter weather. In Britain we are now used to trees being uprooted, garden sheds blowing over and coastal waters whipping up into a frenzy. Louise Nurse, Sales & Marketing Manager of sara LBS warns that owners and operators of warehouses and factories should make sure their industrial doors are designed to withstand anything nature is likely to throw at them.

Autumn is drawing to a close, which means winter is approaching and, to paraphrase John F. Kennedy's 1962 State of the Union Address: 'The time to fix industrial doors is when the sun is shining.'

Industrial doors have large (often very large) surface areas so can be subject to considerable wind loads. It is therefore a good idea to check them over within the next few weeks and make sure they are not likely to let you down in winter.

But how do you do that? There are three things that can be done fairly easily.

Firstly, you can do a physical check: see if the doors look robust and make sure they open and close freely; check around the edges to see if they seal into their frame or if there any gaps that could let wind through; look for signs of damage (wind induced or otherwise) and weakness.

Secondly, talk to the loading bay personnel; don't ask leading questions but try to ascertain how the door performs in winter – does it keep the weather at bay, let wind and rain through, rattle in its frame, function as normal?

Finally check the owners' manual or contact the manufacturer to confirm its certification against the standards of EuroNorm DIN EN12424.

Like all industrial standards EN12424 is great for bedtime reading – you will soon be sound asleep – but within its covers is some great wisdom about wind loads on industrial doors. At the core of EN12424 are four wind load classes (plus a Class 0 for when data is not available). These are as per the attached table.

Any responsible manufacturer should be able to tell you what class their doors meet. They will probably include the information in the user manual and may even have it as boilerplate information on the door itself.

All sara LBS high speed doors have a wind resistance class rating which helps to identify where they are suitable for installation:

- PVC curtain doors are typically Class 1 – EN 12424
- Aluminium profile doors are typically Class 3 – EN12424

This makes sara PVC Curtain doors suitable for indoor use and for outdoor installations where they are protected overnight and during bad weather by an external heavy duty door. Sara aluminium profile doors are suitable for all but the most extreme climatic conditions and ideal for use almost anywhere in the UK.

Of course it should be said that older doors that have given long and sterling service may be beginning to show their age. Regular maintenance and prompt attention to any damage will keep the wind and weather tight and lengthen their working life.

Now let us consider the effects a wind damaged door could have. Probably the worst thing is that a badly damaged door could render the loading bay total unusable until the door is fixed. (If the facility has only one loading bay, this is going to be a major problem.) The next issue is that the loading bay and surrounding area will be unprotected and exposed to the full extent of the winter weather and Health & Safety won't like that. Security from thieves will be compromised to the extent that a night watchman may have to be employed until a repair is completed. Similarly bio-security will fail and it is only natural that birds and small animals (up to the size of a fox or badger) are likely to come into the loading bay seeking shelter from the winter night.

We've enjoyed the best summer on record, but 'Winter is coming'. It's best advised to assume it us going to be a cold one, so check your loading bays are prepared for the winter ahead.

Photo Captions:-

Pic 1:- Sara LBS aluminium profile doors are suitable for all but the most extreme climatic conditions and ideal for use almost anywhere in the UK.

Pic 2:- sara LBS PVC Curtain doors are suitable for indoor use and for outdoor installations where they are protected overnight and during bad weather by an external heavy duty door.

Pic 3:- All sara LBS high speed doors have a wind resistance class rating which helps to identify where they are suitable for installation.

About sara LBS

sara Loading Bay Specialists supplies, installs and maintains loading bay systems, high speed doors and industrial doors. It has provided high quality product solutions and outstanding customer service since it was founded 30 years ago and this remains its sole focus.



Product Solutions

sara LBS's range of high quality products includes its complete loading bay packages (including scissor lifts, ramps and dock levellers), 'Sprint' range of rapid roll, high speed doors for internal and external use, insulated sectional overhead doors and roller shutter doors. It has extensive sector expertise and provides total packages that are tailored to meet all its customer's needs. Specialist sectors include food and beverage, pharmaceutical, automotive, manufacturing, logistics and distribution.

Maintenance & Repair

Sara LBS provides nationwide 24/7 service cover and rapid response times for all loading bay systems, dock shelters, high speed doors and industrial doors using its specialist engineers based across the country. It works with end users to extend the safe working lifetime of their doors and equipment by providing both preventative maintenance packages and standard and emergency repairs.

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