

Grenfell Tower Enquiry Inquiry

Witness statement of Mike Hudson

Question 1: Role & responsibilities between 2010 -2014

1a Jan 2010 - Dec 2013

Employed as an Associate Director (not a registered director) responsible for day to day management & sales based in Knaresborough office.

[REDACTED] in December 2102 on closure of the Knaresborough operation.
(door production ceased in Knaresborough 2009)

1b Door sets to meet part B (building reg) full door set testing by UKAS registered test house(s) achieving 30 minutes fire resistance. Certified compliance to BS476 part 22.

Composite doors tested for integrity only.

My understanding is that evidence was provided under separate testing for air leakage, again tested at a UKAS test house.

Question 2: Relationship Manse M.dor - LB Plastics - Synseal 2000 - 2014

- 2 Manse Masterdor had been acquired by LB Plastics (approx 1998) for production of timber door sets manufactured in Knaresborough. Additional production was set up around 2002 run by LB Plastics at their works in Nether Heage - Derby. Masterdor being a wholly-owned subsidiary of LB Plastics all production was transferred to Derby 2009 leaving sales and customer services in Knaresborough. Synseal acquired Manse Masterdor from LB Plastics in 2014 and traded as Masterdor.
(Manse Masterdor had been purchasing PVCu components from LB Plastics since 1990)

Question 3: Manse Masterdor Sales to:

- 3 Manse Masterdor sold door sets predominantly to Local Authority & Housing Associations
Masterdor - timber door in PVCu or timber frame and Suredor - Composite door in Pvcu outer frame

Question 4: In relation to composite doors

- 4ai Standard doors approx 2004/5
- 4aii Fire rated doors approx 2007
- 4b Market forces - lower cost and lower maintenance product
- 4c External testing using UKAS test house(s) (development/testing under LB Plastics)
- 4d SMC (sheet material compound) on timber rails injected phenolic foam
- 4e Distinction Doors (Nan Ya door slabs)

Question 5: Describe Manufacturing process for FD30 composite

- 5a Composite door sets are bespoke made to order with relevant hardware at Derby works
- 5b Individual job cards with unique ref raised for each door set (identified location fire or non-fire)
- 5c Door slabs would be picked and identified with factory ref (visible difference to door edges)
S' refers to air leakage only relevant to the seal within the outer frame - all frames had these
- 5d To my knowledge all job cards followed the door through production and had to be initialled for each process. QC inspectors were present and team leaders in each department.
(Knaresborough based personnel did not have direct involvement at the Derby production plant)
- 5e Production process involved inserting retaining clips and fire sealant around the glass.
This being an important part of the process it would have been shown in evidence BSENISO9001 implemented by the works.
- 5fi Hardware protected with intumescent pads as shown on drawings.
- 5fii Test evidence should show that full size door sets were fire tested including front door hardware items
I do not have access to any documentation having left the company so long ago. There was a series of test reports detailing all hardware used for each test.
I have no knowledge of damage to any items, deliveries would have been direct to the works.

Question 6: Describe any changes to manufacturing process for composite FD's 2007 - 2013

Product development and testing was managed by LB Plastics - over a period of time there was a number of tests taken and any changes would have been itemised within the test report..

- 6a Training records not in my remit - production at Derby plant
- 6b Documents existed showing intumescent details - I do not have this information now
- 6c Smoke seals to my knowledge did not change (fitted to all outer frame)
- 6d Some LA/HA may have called for alternative spec for letter plate - test evidence would be required
- 6e Bracketing and sealing of glazing should be as stated in the production manual - information was available.
- 6f Pilkington wired glass was used for FD30 fire door sets
- 6g Door hinges and the latch part to the lock would not have changed from steel. Door closers generally overhead may have been cranked or straight arm subject to client preference and tenant needs.

Question 7: Why were changes made

- 7 As stated in 6 some alternatives may have been requested by clients likely to be closer type or lock.
Any changes or sourcing components would be managed by LB Plastics development team.

Question 8: Who was responsible for any change

- 8 LB Plastics managed this including ownership of all testing on composite door sets.

Question 9: Were fire doors tested after changes

- 9 Full door testing did occur a number of times - test reports were indexed and made available.
There was some involvement with International Fire Consultants who I believe provided assessment to small variations in specification.

Question 10: In relation to those working on manufacture

- 10a Quality control systems and evidence of training was evident the manufacturing unit having a QC team and section controllers. Independent reviews were conducted as part of the BS EN ISO 9001 certification. For the time I was employed production decisions were made by the Production Director.

10b See answer 10a

10c See answer 10a

Question 11: In relation to testing between 2005 and 2017 give details of:

- 11a LB Plastics development team were responsible for composite door testing from the start and any subsequent testing. All tests were booked and paid for by LB Plastics.
- 11b Secured by Design would have little impact on change to FD30 specification. Doors were fitted with multi-point locks however the hooks were not engaged when fire tested. (latch only)
- 11c A number of tests were carried out with various UKAS test houses.
- 11d I do not re-call contracts being done where testing occurred for the particular contract.
- 11e through to 11i - 11 vii see above I cannot answer this part of the question

Question 12: Did Manse Masterdor ever supply doors that differed to those tested?

- 12 I would not expect this, the experienced team were aware of the requirements.
The door closer may have varied but test evidence would have been sought.

Question 13: Manse Masterdor relationship with London Housing Consortium?

13. Manse Masterdor was an appointed company to the LHC

Question 14: Did LHC generate much business?

14. I can't recall the first year for the appointment (around 2003-4) . The original appointment was for Masterdor (Timber) with Suredor coming much later. Masterdor would have been £1m + p.a. Suredor being a lot less not being included until around 2010.

Question 15: LHC's role in securing the Contract

15. I believe this project was awarded using the London Housing Consortium procurement rules.

Question 16: Pre or post-contract discussions

Pre or post contract discussions between Manse Masterdor and KCTMO on ability of doors:
I recall a visit to KCTMO offices to meet 2 of their representatives, Allan Davis of the LHC was present. This was to be introduced and probably some time before the contract had been agreed, quite informal and no minutes taken.

- 16a. Discussions between KCTMO and Manse Masterdor are likely to have taken place over the ability of the product offering meeting FD30 fire resistance and backed up with test reports as evidence. I was not involved in any contract meetings with KCTMO
- 16b. I can not confirm what evidence was provided.

Question 17: Give details of Certificates or evidence provided to KCTMO

17. Copies of documents would have been held in the pre-start file for this project and held on site. I believe there was an office based in Kensington which I did not visit. I can't answer 17a or 17b the documents / information that came back would have been sent to Derby. I can't confirm what documents were provided at tender or pre-contract stage, however I would expect test evidence was supplied.

Question 18: Confirm specification for FD30 used on Grenfell as tested

18. I am not aware of any changes to the standard FD30 specification being requested, if so this information would be in the contract file.

Question 19: Amended references in the Contract - MF to SG

19. I am not aware this had occurred.
MF refers to the timber door blade (Masterdor) - SG refers to the composite door blade (Suredor). Suredor is the lower cost option

Question 20: In relation to self-closing devices supplied under the Contract

- 20a I cannot state what type of closer was supplied, having no records and **not** visiting any KCTMO sites
- 20b Generally Rutland overhead closers, standard arm or cam action closers.
- 20c I do not know of any issues.
- 20d I am not aware of any discussions

Question 21: Who was responsible for:

- 21a Derby production team for overseeing manufacture of door sets for the project.
- 21b The Project Manager based in Kensington overseeing the installation of door sets at Grenfell.
- 21c Initially the site RLO and Project Manager for installation - referred to Derby QM if product issue.
- 21d Initially referred to Masterdor National Installations Manager. I am not aware any claims.

Question 22: Complaints received by Manse Masterdor between 2006 and 2017 regarding Fire Doors/Door Closers and installations.

- 22 I have no access to this information and I am not aware of issues not resolved at site level.
The Knaresborough operation (sales/admin) was closed December 2012 and all records transferred to Derby

Question 23: Give details of any complaints received on supply and installation specific to KCTMO Contract

- 23 I have no access to this information and do not recall any issues prior to close down.

I believe the facts I have provided in the above statement are the truth. I agree that my statement may form part of the evidence before the Inquiry and if required be published on the Enquiry's web site.

Jul-19

5 Mike Hudson

M Hudson 24 July 2019