

WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r27.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5b

Statement of: FOX, GARY

Age if under 18: Over 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18')

Occupation: MANAGER

This statement (consisting of 2 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature: G FOX

Date: 07/03/2021

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded ☐ (supply witness details on rear)

Further to my last statement dated 20th December 2019, I would like to add the following.

I was employed with Manse Masterdor, then to become named as Masterdor, however, some of my colleagues who I am about to mention were employed first of all with LB Plastics who were bought out by Synseal who were the parent company of Manse Masterdor, which became known as Masterdor. Synseal acquired Manse Masterdor 18/11/2014, and eventually removed the Manse from the company name.

I was part of a team that made changes to both GRP (Glass Reinforced Plastic) and timber doors. The team was made up of:

Jim DUNCAN, Technical Manager - Jim was employed by LB Plastics prior to moving over to Masterdor

Ivan BILBY, Quality Manager - Ivan was employed as I with Masterdor

Dan JONES, Managing Director of Seal Tight Solutions, who supplied the fire door components.

When Jim and I starting working on the changes to the GRP doors, we noticed that some of the fire door testing certification was from 2008 / 2009 and although was compliant, this was old style with third party involvement. This certification highlighted that there were too many third party involvement with

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different suppliers offering different components such as handles, letter plates, spy holes etc. this also meant that there were third parties fire testing the individual components but the doors were never tested as a 'whole set'. This type of fire testing was common place in the industry at the time and was not illegal.

Jim and I commenced looking at individual components with the expertise of Dan JONES from Seal Tight Solutions who was already known to Masterdor (he was a rep from the company that supplied the intumescent fire seals before setting up his own company). We commenced with the intumescent fire seals. Our findings were that on the original door the seals were lasting just over 30 minutes, this was on a FD30 GRP door (a fire door that had a 30 minute fire resistance). Although the door was lasting over 30 minutes, in a fire we wanted the door to last longer, ideally 45 minutes, hence the reason we started developing and designing a new door set

Once we had completed all our testing of the intumescent strips, we then looked at the individual hardware components.

Whilst we were looking at each segment to the door, fire testing was taking place at each stage, however, I was never present at the test centre when these tests were being undertaken. This was the responsibility of Jim DUNCAN who worked with Dan JONES on the testing. Jim and Dan would report back and advise the results from the tests and if further changes were needed to certain components.

After making all the changes necessary to the GRP FD30 door to ensure that the door was fire resistant for over 30 minutes. I recall Jim advising me that on test the new designed door lasted over 45 minutes.

Then as a team we commenced looking at the Timber fire door. We followed the same process in checking each component. However, I must point out that when I joined Masterdor, I received a brief to change the Timber Door to a better quality door as the original door set was rotting too easily and suffered by a high volume of complaints. I sourced the new timber door components through 3 suppliers, (1 x supplied the door wooden slab which was called Kerto-Q, the company was called Metsa, 1 x supplied the timber rails which went around the slab, the product was called Sapele Mahogany, the company was called Arnold Lavers and 1 x supplied the face covering, which was called Tricoya, the company was called James Latham.)

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After our changes had been made to the seals, hardware etc. Jim advised me after testing that the new timber door had a fire resistance on test more than 30 minutes.

Once we received the approval from Jim on the new style doors, both GRP and Timber we then commenced with training all our operatives on the new doors and components ready for production, the training was delivered by Ivan BILBY and myself.

I would have to guess at the date of these changes, I can recall we moved factories in 2015 so I would say, early 2014.

GRP is Glass Reinforced Plastic, some refer to these as 'Composite Doors' they are the same, these doors have 2 skins at 4mm thickness trapping a foam infill to give a thermal efficiency. In the case of a Fire Door, the foam is Pink which is a fire resisting foam making the door a FD30 fire resistant door (meaning, it will withstand fire up to 30 minutes - as stated above our new GRP door lasted longer than 30mins.)

A timber door, is just that, it is made out of wood components. To ensure that a timber door is fire resistant, it is made up of 3mm laminations all bonded together to create the door thickness and fire resistance. As stated above when all components were put together it created the FD30 Timber Masterdor.

I wasn't employed with Manse Masterdor at the time when the Grenfell doors were being produced so I can only confirm information that I saw from documentation.

If you look at the 'old style door GRP' as used at Grenfell to the new design there is visually no difference, however, the difference is the components and mainly the intumescent seals. Seal Tight Solutions intumescent seals were a lot thicker than those previously used and therefore were more fire resistant.

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Also in the new style GRP door, we changed several glazing tapes that were 1mm thick x 10mm wide on the original doors which were used for Grenfell to a tape that was 2mm x 25mm this meant that the intumescent seal was able to expand more, giving a longer resistance in fire.

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