

# Please don't damage British industry



Association for the  
Conservation of  
Energy

## Open letter to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (The Rt Hon Eric Pickles, MP) and the Minister for Building Regulations (The Rt Hon Don Foster MP)

Dear Secretary of State, Dear Minister,

### Building Regulations for the Conservation of Fuel and Power

You have already announced your decision not to introduce a requirement for consequential improvements when homes are extended. Now the long awaited and much promised changes to Part L regarding energy standards for new buildings are being delayed – with the impression being given that these will not be introduced or will be watered down.

If this occurs, the effect on this industry will be severe and damaging, as those who know – the leaders of major companies concerned with this market – testify.

I urge you to implement your proposals, upon which you consulted, urgently.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Warren, Director

#### 'Wasted investment'

John Sinfield, Managing Director, Knauf Insulation Northern Europe:

"The expected amendments to Part L for new build and refurbishment homes offers a real opportunity to increase investment as well as securing job opportunities, and also future proofing the UK's homes against fuel poverty. As a manufacturer, we have invested accordingly, but with no Government certainty for the industry, the abandoned roadmap to zero carbon represents a significant wasted investment for the energy efficiency sector."

*Knauf Insulation Limited is the leading UK manufacturer of insulation materials. We employ 580 people across four sites in the UK.*



#### 'Less investment and fewer jobs'

Robert Barclay, Managing Director (UK) and ROI of SIG plc:

"The lack of clarity from government on Part L 2013 is unhelpful. Our company has made a significant investment against the backdrop of the stated Part L timetable comprising two joint ventures centred around the marketing of high energy performance building systems and a team of specialist people with the sole aim of advising the house building community as to the most effective product solutions required to meet the revised regulations.

"If the Part L 2013 amendment is postponed/withdrawn this is not only disappointing for those who endeavour to differentiate through innovation but it will further knock confidence in our business and the wider sector which will inevitably result in less investment and fewer jobs."



*SIG plc is UK largest distributor of insulation and related products, employing 3,500 people.*

#### 'Negative impact on export market'

Bill Gibson, Head of Marketing Communications, Kingspan Insulation:

"Kingspan Insulation has been planning and implementing product developments and improvements in construction best practice and materials to support the Zero Carbon Homes initiative. I therefore find it of great concern that there is a lack of clarity around the Government's timetable for the proposed 2013 Part L implementation.

"If the Regulations do not meet the standards required by the roadmap for carbon reduction commitment, then investment and growth in the construction sector is likely to be inhibited. This will impact negatively on the ability of manufacturers to invest in developing competitive products for export markets."



*Kingspan Insulation is the largest manufacturer of rigid insulation products in the UK. We employ over 400 people and have over 40% of market share.*

#### 'Deter innovation'

Eamon McDonnell, Managing Director Saint-Gobain Isover:

"Delay in the implementation of Part L has undermined the roadmap that had been set out to achieve zero carbon homes and will impact on the timing and scale of future investments in glass wool insulation manufacture in the UK. It will also deter innovation in the housing sector and leave new house owners saddled with unnecessarily expensive running costs for their homes."



*Saint-Gobain Isover is the global leader in the manufacture of mineral wool insulation and has been present in the UK as a glass wool manufacturer for over 30 years.*

#### 'Damage to a fragile industry'

David Robson, Managing Director, Instagroup:

"This decision will further damage a fragile industry and result in further job losses and will lead to less investment in this industry."

*Instagroup is the leading systems designer for insulation and sponsors the UK's leading energy efficiency network. Instagroup is a Green Deal provider and has invested in Green Deal finance.*



#### 'A huge impact on our future investment'

Alex McLeod, Chief Executive, Superglass Insulation:

"The timetable for implementation of Part L Building Regulation timetable, including a 44% improvement on 2006 standards in the 2013 regulations and a move to Zero Carbon homes in 2016 is critical to investor confidence. Superglass PLC raised substantial investment capital in 2011. Critical to continued investment is confidence in the regulatory framework which is a significant driver of growth in energy efficiency products and service. Any delay in the implementation of Part L will have a huge impact on our future investment plans."



*Superglass is one of the last remaining independent building materials manufacturers, and is based in Scotland.*

#### 'Small companies should not be penalised'

Nick Hunt, UK Sales Director, Honeywell Control Systems:

"Honeywell is proud to have invested considerable time and effort in developing products and training installers. The good installers who have already embraced the necessary changes would be disadvantaged by having the rug pulled out from under their feet by delays in Part L. These small companies have invested time and effort in keeping up to date and should not be penalised. Nor should their customers – consumers – be disadvantaged, as they continue to be sold products that may not have the energy efficiency benefits that are included in most modern heating controls."



*Honeywell is a major manufacturer of energy controls, employing over 7,000 people in UK, many in manufacturing facilities. They have facilities in 75 different constituencies, and manufacture in 20 constituencies. The biggest are directly affected by the Building Regulations.*

#### 'A potential blow to the economy'

Jayne Law MBE, Commercial Director, Dow Building Solutions:

"At Dow we believe the proposed changes to Part L would have provided substantial environmental and economic benefits. It will be a serious disappointment to those committed to a greener future for the UK as well as a potential blow to the economy if the clear support within the UK industry for the introduction of these positive measures is not embraced and taken forward."

*Dow was the sole sponsor of the Energy Efficiency Mission Launch Event at the Royal Society on February 4, at which the Prime Minister gave his long-awaited keynote speech on the importance of energy efficiency to our economy.*

