

AGC Flat

NEW FLOAT LINE, NEW PRODUCTS,
AT ITS CUNEO PLANT



Glass Italia



After a cold repair process of three months AGC Flat Glass Italia's new float plant presents high-end technologies that enhance the plant's productivity and its environmental impact. This article takes a look at the products that make up the new plant's production range, and how these products are continuing the company's 'green' philosophy.

The AGC Cuneo plant entered service in 1963 and is now the largest glass manufacturing plant supplying the construction industry in Italy. It has one float glass line, together with downstream facilities for processing the float glass into laminated glass, mirror glass, coated glass and matt glass.

THE AGC PLANT IN CUNEO

The AGC plant in Cuneo started operations in 1963 and is today the largest glass production plant in the Italian construction sector. The plant stretches over 360,000 square metres and employs about 220 people. With a daily production of 600 tons of glass, it covers the needs of the Italian and overseas markets. In addition to the float line (primary glass production), the site features processing facilities: laminated safety glass, mirrors, acid-etched windows and solar control coatings.

AGC Group President and CEO, Takuya Shimamura, at the official inauguration of the new float line at Cuneo plant

The float line produces two types of primary glass:

1.3 to 6 millimetre thick float glass: mainly used for products transformed at the same plant (laminated, mirrors, acid-etched, coatings); and 2.8 to 25 millimetre thick float glass: the exclusive Linea Azzurra range, highly appreciated by architects and designers for particular interior design needs.

A MODERNISED AND GREENER PLANT

During the summer, renovation work was carried out on the Cuneo plant using the most innovative design techniques. The upgraded float line will significantly increase the plant capacity, reducing energy consumption by 25 per cent, with a corresponding positive

impact on its performance and product quality. Lower energy consumption also means a remarkable reduction in atmospheric emissions, with 50 per cent less CO (carbon monoxide), 14 per cent less CO₂ (carbon dioxide) and 30 per cent less NO_x (nitrogen oxides).

In fact, in 2010, AGC Glass Europe was the first and only European glassmaker to be Cradle to Cradle™ certified for its float glass and low-E and selective glass (with magnetron coating).

In 2013, AGC Glass Europe also obtained Cradle to Cradle Certified™ Silver for its range of per la gamma di vetro stratificato di sicurezza Stratobel laminated safety glass and Stratophone acoustic laminated glass, as well as for

its decorative glass the previous year. Nel 2017, AGC Glass Europe was the first and only global glassmaker to obtain Cradle to Cradle Certified Bronze certification for its insulating glass.

IMPROVED PRODUCT RANGES

The Cuneo site manufactures a wide range of products in various thicknesses, from 3 to 25 millimetres. Besides clear float, the site now also produces the renewed Planibel Linea Azzurra range, a float glass made solely in this plant. Available in thicknesses from 8 to 25 mm, this special glass has a slightly bluish tint. It is made from nickel-free materials without any inclusions, yielding a unique product that is easy to cut and process. It is therefore particularly suitable for large glazed surfaces and the most refined furniture creations.

Planibel Light (residential sector) and Stopray Smart (large glazing areas and curtain walling), up to products for interior design such as Matelac and Lacobel (satin-etched and enamelled), Mirox (mirror) and, for safety and comfort, Stratobel and Stratophone laminated glazing. The most recent new arrivals of AGC's extensive product range include Clearsight and Planibel Clearlite anti-reflective glass. Clearsight is an extra-clear type of float glass with a special anti-





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AGC Group President and CEO, Takuya Shimamura, cutting the ribbon at the official inauguration of the new float line at Cuneo plant

reflective coating, which reduced light reflection to just 0.8 per cent, significantly lower compared to traditional float glass. See from the outside, the glass is highly transparent and does not reflect the surrounding environment.

Planibel Linea Azzurra

Planibel Linea Azzurra is made exclusively at AGC's Cuneo plant, and is a clear, large-thickness (8-25 milli-

metres) float glass, without stresses and nickel inclusions that make it unique, easy to cut and process.

At the new plant, Planibel Linea Azzurra has an even more neutral aspect, with increased technical features and improved performance. The new formula of this glass reduces its levels of energy absorption, providing higher light transmission and optimum energy yield.

Planibel Clearlite

Planibel Clearlite is a minimum thickness clear glass (3-6 millimetres) with a reduced iron content, which provides improved perfor-

mance with regards to luminosity and energy.

And thanks to its high luminosity transmission, Planibel Clearlite permits more natural light to enter the internal environment, reducing the use of artificial lighting. Moreover, thanks to its low level of energy absorption, it reduces the risk of thermal shock.

COATING ON DEMAND

'Coating on Demand' is AGC's new customized process in response to the growing needs and demands for flexibility. This unique and exclusive AGC

technology enables architects and designers to request a 'tailor-made' glass type, developed as per their specific needs both in terms of aesthetics as well as performance.

AGC Flat Glass Italia

AGC

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