

FOREL boosts productivity and performance at new POLFAM factory

Since 2005 Polflam has chosen to specialize in fire-resistant double-glazed units (DGUs), achieved by filling the cavity between two panes of glass with a special hydro-gel interlayer. The resulting fire-resistant DGUs, which must pass strict quality tests, meet both integrity and full thermal insulation for Polflam EI and integrity with reduced heat radiation for Polflam EW.

In 2019 the company was acquired by private equity group Baltisse, which enabled it to expand into new regions which later involved the construction of the new factory, the organization of production flows and the installation of a complete new fleet of equipment.

QUANTUM LEAP

“Before the Baltisse Group investment, Polflam was still a semi-craft business, where processing was 85 percent

A year has passed since the inauguration of POLFAM's new Warsaw factory in Poland, which saw the installation of two integrated logistics systems from FOREL, as well as its edge processing and IG assembly lines - all yielding a truly modern, fully-automated factory dedicated to the production of fire-resistant glass.





manual,” explains Director Jean Luis Canelle. “Our goal has been to transform the company, increasing productivity and sales glob-

ally, especially into Western European markets - an achievement not possible from the old site.” “Production capacity of the

initial factory was already at maximum,” commented David Ulens, CEO of Polflam. “We could not grow anymore there. Moreover,

the manual processing hindered us from establishing standard levels of quality, cycle times and precision. As such, we had to start from the basics and com-







large, automated warehouse connected to horizontal cutting tables. Once the glass is cut to its required sizes it gets loaded onto an initial sorting system: this system, recognizing each pane with a specific ID, organizes the material and before sending it to the three different edge processing lines according to the production and process schedule. Two of these lines are equipped with processes by which the two toughening plants need to be fed. After the tempering process has been completed, the glass panes re-enter the downstream sorting system, which sorts them into pairs ready for the insulating glass line process. An advanced tracking system assigns a unique ID to each pane of glass as it enters the flow, such that each pane is monitored throughout the process.





Overall, this reduces manual handling, minimizing human intervention and so allowing operators to merely supervise the process in most cases.

"We hold that our glass certainly offers added value compared to that of our competitors," continues David Ulens. "Firstly, we can increase the level of fire resistance without making the glass unit heavier. For example, if we manufacture a fire-resistant glass unit acting as a barrier against hot gases and effectively blocking heat transfer for two hours then we simply increase the thickness of the cavity and so the amount of hydrogel inside - but still only using two panes of glass. Instead, most competitors will create

a glass unit with either triple or quadruple glass panes. The result is that our glass weighs less for the same performance, which makes it much easier to handle and install. A further great advantage of Polflam's product is its format: by using Forel's systems, we can assemble large fire-resistant glass units of up to 5 X 2.80 metres, delivering a performance/weight to size ratio of our product that ranks very high indeed - putting is among only a few in the world that can offer this performance."

PUTTING SAFETY FIRST

The investment in Polflam was considerable, yet well-motivated and understood

by clear market prospects. Fire-resistant glass, in fact, is a product that's not chosen 'spontaneously' but rather imposed by safety legislation that's becoming ever more accepted and enforced across the globe.

"Fire-resistant glass is, in many cases, simply mandatory by law," concludes David Ulens. "Housing density is increasing throughout Europe. Consequently, new regulations will require buildings to be fitted with fire-resistant glass. It's therefore easy to deduce that our market will continue to grow over the long term. Here's why Polflam has equipped itself to increase its competitive edge and play a leading role."

FOREL SpA

FOREL

Via per Monastier, 4
31056 - Vallio di Roncade TV
- ITALY

Tel.: +39-0422-840507

Fax: +39-0422-840900

E-mail: info@forelspa.com

www.forelspa.com

POLFLAM
FIRE RESISTANT GLASS

POLFLAM Sp. z o.o.

Aleja Krakowska 3

05-555 Jeziorzany

POLAND

Tel.: +48 22-726-92-17

E-mail: export@polfam.com

www.polfam.pl