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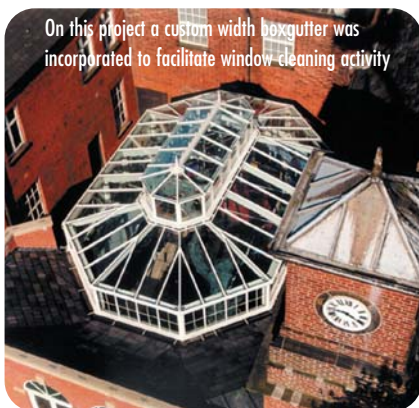
Ultraframe technical support engineers, Bill Kenyon and Mick Rowley, conclude the two part feature on Construction, Design and Management Regulations (CDM) 1994.



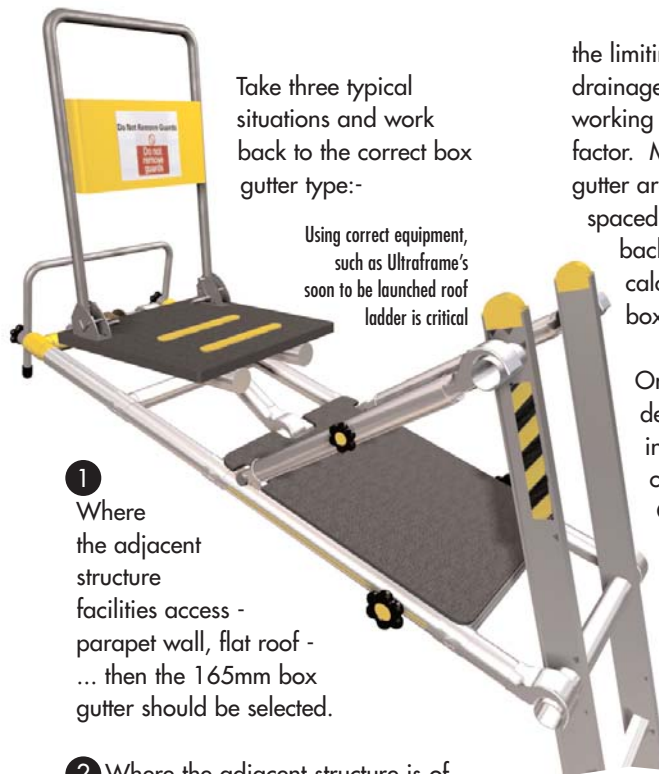
In the first part of this two part series, the CDM Regulations were examined in depth to determine their impact on the conservatory industry. In this feature, practical details will be discussed that allow compliance with the "design" aspect of the Regulations.

Firstly, it is important when designing the conservatory (and remember the salesperson could be deemed to be the designer) to take all reasonable steps and care in the intrinsic design. Where "significant risk" cannot be avoided, you must give information to alert others to the risk - remember, this could be to the final homeowner who may want to clean their conservatory.

Correctly selecting and specifying box gutters is an example of how good design can reduce risk and help compliance with CDM regulations.



On this project a custom width box gutter was incorporated to facilitate window cleaning activity



Take three typical situations and work back to the correct box gutter type:-

Using correct equipment, such as Ultraframe's soon to be launched roof ladder is critical

- 1 Where the adjacent structure facilities access - parapet wall, flat roof - ... then the 165mm box gutter should be selected.
- 2 Where the adjacent structure is of such a construction that access is restricted - sloping tiled roofs, full height wall - then 265mm box gutters should be selected.
- 3 Where two conservatories drain back to back into the same box gutter then the 300mm standard or the custom width box gutter should be selected.

It is usually imagined that wider box gutters are installed for reasons of water capacity - in most cases this is not so as it is the rain water pipe that usually is

the limiting factor in optimising drainage - but it is the need for safe working access that is the determining factor. Means of support for the box gutter are just as vital too. Correctly spaced brick piers or gallows brackets backed up with structural calculations ensure that using the box gutter for access is safe.

Once the correct box gutter is designed, fabricated and installed these are other considerations to be aware of. Only experienced installers should normally climb on the roof using the correct access equipment such as crawl board. In the winter months, icy conditions or leaf mould build up can make for slippery conditions.

The conservatory industry has a good reputation and complying with CDM regulations is good business sense. It saves injury's and site down time and "designing CDM in" is much easier than bolting on a solution once a problem is highlighted by a disgruntled homeowner who happens to be a solicitor!

