



Case Study: Solar Control Window Film

Improving working conditions in Thomas Cook HQ - Zwijnarde, Belgium

Thomas Cook has been an established international holiday brand for nearly 170 years, and currently employs more than 600 people at its worldwide headquarters near Ghent in Belgium. Solar control Window Film was recently installed to improve heat rejection and reduce solar glare across the modern office building's 2000m² of windows, optimising working conditions for employees that had struggled to deal with the solar heat and glare during summer months.

THE PROBLEM

Thomas Cook's worldwide headquarters were constructed in 1996 in the business district of Zwijnaerde in Belgium. Over the years, employees working in the building had struggled with heat during the summer months, when temperatures often reached over 30°C. Solar glare also became an issue, with employees finding it difficult to concentrate on their screens because of sunlight streaming through the windows.

The high temperatures were made worse by poor ventilation in the affected areas as well as the fact there was no air-conditioning system in every office. Thomas Cook Belgium enlisted a glazing expert to advise on the most appropriate solution for their requirements. He recommended solar control Window Film.

THE SOLUTION

Almost 1000m² of specialist solar control Window Film was installed onto Thomas Cook's global HQ in just two weeks time, with almost no disruption to normal operations. It provided an environmentally-friendly and energy-efficient alternative to other replacement options such as extra air conditioning.

The chosen Window Film ensured high heat rejection of up to 61%, while maximising the visible light entering through the windows. It could also block up to 62% of solar glare, minimising the issues that employees were facing. Jean Marie Baetens, Head of Infrastructure at Thomas Cook Belgium, praised the positive impacts of the installed film for their staff: *"we have a much better work environment and no longer face any employee sickness due to excessive heat and glare (...) we will now be considering installing Window Film throughout the rest of the building"*.

For a better understanding of how window film can help tackling a number of problem situations, please visit our website: www.ewfa.org

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ABOUT EWFA

Established in 2000 by major window film manufacturers, the European Window Film Association represents and seeks to further the interests of the window film industry. It brings together manufacturers and distributors with the purpose of promoting window film products in the EU and highlighting their innovative performances and properties as well as introducing the concept of EU harmonised or EU endorsed window film standards as no such standard presently exists. In 2016, EWFA became the European chapter of the International Window Film Association (www.iwfa.com)