One of the first commercial applications of revolutionary LEXAN™ Solar Control IR polycarbonate sheet from SABIC’s Specialty Film & Sheet business is helping to block the elements from crowds as they come and go at the ArenA in Amsterdam. The four escalators leading to the ArenA are enclosed in the new material. The escalators are designed to help handle large crowds, which can lead to uncomfortable temperature levels within the enclosures. Natural ventilation combined with the LEXAN Solar Control IR glazing helps to avoid heat build-up. LEXAN Solar Control IR polycarbonate sheet helps absorb infrared (IR) and near-IR radiation from the sun, potentially reducing interior heat buildup by up to levels as much as 40 percent. In addition it can offer up to 60 percent more visible light transmission than other plastic-based IR-absorbent glazing products.

The escalator enclosures benefit from the toughness of LEXAN polycarbonate sheet, allowing them to shrug off rain, snow, hail and wind. The curved, transparent escalator glazing of LEXAN Solar Control IR polycarbonate sheet helps admit large amounts of natural light, enhancing aesthetics and reducing energy needs for interior lighting and cooling. LEXAN Solar Control IR sheet is lightweight and its formability, as well as impact and fire resistance, makes it an excellent choice for this structure. Finally, it has excellent flame resistance, building-code approval with EU and ICBO, and other high-performance properties. The LEXAN sheet glazing offers outstanding design freedom thanks to its ability to be cold formed and/or thermoformed without losing impact or weathering properties. It offers a 10-year written limited warranty against reduction of light or solar transmission properties, yellowing, and breakage due to hail impact. LEXAN Solar Control IR sheet products are available in all standard gauges and dimensions.

The LEXAN Solar Control IR polycarbonate sheet-based escalator covering joins an earlier application – the ArenA’s 20,000m²-sliding roof, glazed with LEXAN THERMOCLEAR™ polycarbonate sheet, which allows events to be staged regardless of the weather. Amsterdam Arena in The Netherlands was Europe’s first stadium with a sliding roof, which was constructed from transparent Lexan Thermoclear sheet. An independent research organization, TNO Science & Industry, tested the properties of Lexan Thermoclear multiwall sheet from the roof of the Amsterdam ArenA stadium after 15 years and found no significant change. The minimal loss in light transmission of 1.5 percent and small increase in yellowness index of 1.1 point met the product warranty.

The Amsterdam ArenA has a total capacity of some 52,000 seats. Conventional seating combined with nine founder boxes, 54 skyboxes, 8 skylounges, 12 skyrooms, 20 VIP seats and 1,500 business seats together with 230 press seats and 68 wheelchair spaces. In addition to major sports and concert events, the ArenA is also popular for such smaller events as product presentations, theatrical performances, sales training, and company celebrations. Altogether, the Amsterdam ArenA hosts about 70 major events per year, with around 2.1 million visitors in total, including tours.
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