

SPECIFICATION

Method of manufacturing a thermally insulating sash bar

DESCRIPTION

5 The present invention relates to a method of manufacturing a thermally insulating sash bar.

Japan Patent Laid-Open Publication (Kokai) No. 54-119739 discloses a method of manufacturing a thermally insulating sash bar. As shown in

10 Figures 1a to 1g of the accompanying drawings, the prior method comprises: (a) providing an elongated hollow metallic sash bar A including a pair of spaced interior and exterior outer members 1, 2 connected by a pair of first and second inner members 3, 4 so as to define between the outer members 1, 2 a longitudinally extending hollow chamber 5 and a pair of longitudinally extending first and second channels 6, 7 (Figure 1a); (b)

15 forming a longitudinal gap 9 in and along the first inner member 3 by use of a cutter 8 (Figure 1b); (c) covering the longitudinal gap in the first inner member 3 with a thermally insulating strip 10 (Figure 1c); (d) then introducing a mass of thermally insulating synthetic resin into the curing

20 the same within the first channel 6 to fill the latter with the cured thermally insulating synthetic resin 11 (Figure 1d); (e) then forming a longitudinal gap 12 in and along the second inner member 4 by use of a cutter 8 (Figure 1e); (f) covering the longitudinal gap 12 in the second inner member 4 with a thermally insulating strip 10 (Figure 1f); and (g) then introducing a mass of the thermally insulating synthetic resin into and curing the same within the second channel 7 to fill the latter with

25 the cured thermally insulating synthetic resin 11 (Figure 1g).

Thus, the longitudinal gaps 9, 12 in the first and second inner members 3, 4 are formed at absolutely separate stages of process, i.e. the

40 steps (b) and (e) above. This requires two separate cutting stations in the assembly line, making the assembly line complicated and costly. Yet, if there is only one cutting station in the assembly line, it is necessary to bring the sash bar A back to such one and the same cutting station for the step (e) (after the first channel 6 has been filled with the cured thermally insulating synthetic resin 11), which is very time-consuming.

It is therefore a primary object of the present

50 invention to provide a method of manufacturing a thermally insulating sash bar, with which an increased degree of productivity can be achieved.

Another object of the invention is to provide a method of manufacturing a thermally insulating

55 sash bar, which requires less stations in the assembly line.

According to one aspect of the present invention, a method of manufacturing a thermally insulating sash bar comprises the steps of: (a)

60 providing an elongated hollow metallic sash bar including a pair of spaced outer members and a pair or spaced first and second inner members extending between the outer members so as to define therebetween a pair of longitudinally

65 extending first and second channels, respectively; (b) introducing a mass of thermally insulating synthetic resin into and curing the same within the first channel to fill the latter with the cured thermally insulating synthetic resin; (c) then

70 forming a longitudinal gap in and along each of the first and second inner members; (d) covering the longitudinal gap in the second inner member with a thermally insulating strip; and (e) then introducing a mass of the thermally insulating synthetic resin into and curing the same within the second channel to fill the latter with the cured thermally insulating synthetic resin.

According to another aspect of the present invention a method of manufacturing a thermally insulating sash bar comprises the steps of:

(a) providing an elongated hollow metallic sash bar including a pair of spaced outer members, a first inner member extending between said outer members so as to define therebetween a

85 longitudinally extending first channel, and a pair of second inner members each longitudinally extending on and along one of said outer members, said second inner members transversely extending toward the terminating short of each other to define therebetween a longitudinal gap;

90 (b) introducing a mass of thermally insulating synthetic resin into and curing the same within said first channel to fill the latter with the cured thermally insulating synthetic resin;

(c) then forming a longitudinal gap in and along said first inner member;

(d) then covering the first-named longitudinal gap between said second inner members with a thermally insulating strip to provide between said outer members a longitudinally extending second channel; and

(e) introducing a mass of the thermally insulating synthetic resin into and curing the same within said second channel to fill the latter with the cured thermally insulating synthetic resin.

The invention will be described by way of examples with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:-

Figures 1a to 1g (referred to above) are cross-sectional views illustrating a series of steps of a prior art method of manufacturing a thermally insulating sash bar;

Figures 2a and 2e are cross-sectional views illustrating a series of steps of a method of manufacturing a thermally insulating sash bar according to the present invention;

Figures 3a to 3e are views similar to Figures 2a to 2e, but illustrating a second embodiment;

Figures 4 and 5 are fragmentary cross-sectional views of sash windows in which the thermally insulating sash bars manufactured according to the invention are used;

Figures 6a to 6e are cross-sectional views illustrating a third embodiment; and

Figure 7 is a fragmentary cross-sectional view of pair of interior and exterior sash windows in which the insulating sash bars manufactured according to the third embodiment are used.

Figure 2a cross-sectionally shows an

elongated, hollow extruded aluminium sash bar B which is used here as a starting material for a thermally insulating sash bar B' described below. The sash bar B includes a pair of spaced interior and exterior (first and second) outer members 21, 22 connected by a pair of spaced first and second inner members 23, 24 so as to define between the outer members 21, 22 a pair of longitudinally extending first and second channels 26, 27 and a longitudinally extending hollow chamber 25.

A mass of foamable and thermally insulating synthetic resin (hereinafter referred to as "foamable synthetic resin") such as polyurethane is introduced into the first channel 26 and then cured to fill the latter with the cured or foamed synthetic resin 31 (Figure 2b). Then, a pair of longitudinal gaps 29, 32 is formed in and along the first and second inner members 23, 24, respectively, by means of a cutter 28 (Figure 2c).

After that, the longitudinal gap 32 in the second inner member 24 is covered with a thermally insulating strip 30, preferably made of polyester (Figure 2d). Finally, like the step of Figure 2b, a mass of the foamable synthetic resin is introduced into the second channel 27 and then cured to fill the latter with the cured or foamed synthetic resin 31 (Figure 2e). The centrally hollow, thermally insulating sash bar B' has thus been produced.

As mentioned above, both the longitudinal gaps 29, 32 are formed at the same time at one and the same cutting station (or cutter 28) in the assembly line. And, the longitudinal gap 29 is formed after the first channel 26 has been filled with the foamed synthetic resin 31, requiring no special covering strip (30) for the gap 29 which covering would have been necessary if the gap 29 were formed before the step of Figure 2b.

Figures 3a to 3e illustrate a second embodiment in which a modified sash bar C (Figure 3a) is used as the starting material. The modified sash bar C includes a pair of spaced interior and exterior (first and second) outer members 21, 22 connected by a first inner member 23 so as to define between the outer members 21, 22 a longitudinally extending first channel 26. The sash bar C further includes a pair of second inner members 24, 24 each longitudinally extending on and along one of the outer members 21, 22. The second inner members 24, 24 transversely extend toward and terminate short of each other to define therebetween a longitudinal gap 32.

A mass of the foamable synthetic resin (same as used in the preceding embodiment) is introduced into the first channel 26 and then cured to fill the latter with the cured or foamed synthetic resin 31 (Figure 3b). Then, a longitudinal gap 29 is formed in and along the first inner member 23 by means of a cutter 28, as shown in Figure 3c.

After that, the longitudinal gap 32 defined by the second inner members 24, 24 is covered with a thermally insulating strip 30, thereby providing between the outer members 21, 22 a

longitudinally extending second channel 27 as well as a longitudinally extending hollow chamber 25. Finally, like the step of Figure 3b, a mass of the foamable synthetic resin is introduced into the second channel 27 and then cured to fill the latter with the cured or foamed synthetic resin 31 (Figure 2e). The centrally hollow, thermally insulating sash bar C' has thus been produced, which is just the same as the sash bar B' of Figure 2e.

Figures 4 and 5 are fragmentary cross-sectional views of sash windows in which the thermally insulating sash bar B', C' manufactured according to the invention is used.

Figures 6a to 6e illustrate a third embodiment in which a modified sash bar D (Figure 6a) is used as the starting material. The modified sash bar D includes a pair of spaced first and second outer members 21, 22 having generally J-shaped and I-shaped cross sections, respectively. The first and second outer members 21, 22 are connected by a pair of spaced first and second inner members 23, 24 so as to define between the outer members 21, 22 a pair of longitudinally extending first and second channels 26, 27 and a longitudinally extending hollow chamber 25. The first channel 26 has a generally cross-shaped cross section.

A mass of the foamable synthetic resin (same as used in the preceding embodiments) is introduced into the first channel 26 and then cured to fill the latter with the cured or foamed synthetic resin 31 (Figure 6b). Then, a pair of longitudinal gaps 29, 32 is formed in and along the first and second inner members 23, 24, respectively, by means of a cutter 28 (Figure 6c).

After that, the longitudinal gap 32 in the second inner member 24 is covered with a thermally insulating strip 30 (Figure 6d). Finally, like the step of Figure 6b, a mass of the foamable synthetic resin is introduced into the second channel 27 and then cured to fill the latter with the cured or foamed synthetic resin 31 (Figure 6e). The centrally hollow, thermally insulating sash bar D' has thus been produced.

Figure 7 is a fragmentary cross-sectional view of a pair of interior and exterior sash windows in which the thermally insulating sash bars D' are used.

Although various minor modifications may be suggested by those versed in the art, it should be understood that we wish to embody within the scope of the patent warranted hereon, all such embodiments are reasonably and properly come within the scope of this contribution to the art.

CLAIMS

1. A method of manufacturing a thermally insulating sash bar, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing an elongated hollow metallic sash bar including a pair of spaced outer members and a pair of spaced first and second inner members extending between said outer members so as to define therebetween a pair of longitudinally extending first and second channels, respectively;

(b) introducing a mass of thermally insulating synthetic resin into and curing the same within

elongated, hollow extruded aluminium sash bar B which is used here as a starting material for a thermally insulating sash bar B' described below. The sash bar B includes a pair of spaced interior and exterior (first and second) outer members 21, 22 connected by a pair of spaced first and second inner members 23, 24 so as to define between the outer members 21, 22 a pair of longitudinally extending first and second channels 26, 27 and a longitudinally extending hollow chamber 25.

A mass of foamable and thermally insulating synthetic resin (hereinafter referred to as "foamable synthetic resin") such as polyurethane is introduced into the first channel 26 and then cured to fill the latter with the cured or foamed synthetic resin 31 (Figure 2b). Then, a pair of longitudinal gaps 29, 32 is formed in and along the first and second inner members 23, 24, respectively, by means of a cutter 28 (Figure 2c).

After that, the longitudinal gap 32 in the second inner member 24 is covered with a thermally insulating strip 30, preferably made of polyester (Figure 2d). Finally, like the step of Figure 2b, a mass of the foamable synthetic resin is introduced into the second channel 27 and then cured to fill the latter with the cured or foamed synthetic resin 31 (Figure 2e). The centrally hollow, thermally insulating sash bar B' has thus been produced.

As mentioned above, both the longitudinal gaps 29, 32 are formed at the same time at one and the same cutting station (or cutter 28) in the assembly line. And, the longitudinal gap 29 is formed after the first channel 26 has been filled with the foamed synthetic resin 31, requiring no special covering strip (30) for the gap 29 which covering would have been necessary if the gap 29 were formed before the step of Figure 2b.

Figures 3a to 3e illustrate a second embodiment in which a modified sash bar C (Figure 3a) is used as the starting material. The modified sash bar C includes a pair of spaced interior and exterior (first and second) outer members 21, 22 connected by a first inner member 23 so as to define between the outer members 21, 22 a longitudinally extending first channel 26. The sash bar C further includes a pair of second inner members 24, 24 each longitudinally extending on and along one of the outer members 21, 22. The second inner members 24, 24 transversely extend toward and terminate short of each other to define therebetween a longitudinal gap 32.

A mass of the foamable synthetic resin (same as used in the preceding embodiment) is introduced into the first channel 26 and then cured to fill the latter with the cured or foamed synthetic resin 31 (Figure 3b). Then, a longitudinal gap 29 is formed in and along the first inner member 23 by means of a cutter 28, as shown in Figure 3c.

After that, the longitudinal gap 32 defined by the second inner members 24, 24 is covered with a thermally insulating strip 30, thereby providing between the outer members 21, 22 a

longitudinally extending second channel 27 as well as a longitudinally extending hollow chamber 25. Finally, like the step of Figure 3b, a mass of the foamable synthetic resin is introduced into the second channel 27 and then cured to fill the latter with the cured or foamed synthetic resin 31 (Figure 2e). The centrally hollow, thermally insulating sash bar C' has thus been produced, which is just the same as the sash bar B' of Figure 2e.

Figures 4 and 5 are fragmentary cross-sectional views of sash windows in which the thermally insulating sash bar B', C' manufactured according to the invention is used.

Figures 6a to 6e illustrate a third embodiment in which a modified sash bar D (Figure 6a) is used as the starting material. The modified sash bar D includes a pair of spaced first and second outer members 21, 22 having generally J-shaped and I-shaped cross sections, respectively. The first and second outer members 21, 22 are connected by a pair of spaced first and second inner members 23, 24 so as to define between the outer members 21, 22 a pair of longitudinally extending first and second channels 26, 27 and a longitudinally extending hollow chamber 25. The first channel 26 has a generally cross-shaped cross section.

A mass of the foamable synthetic resin (same as used in the preceding embodiments) is introduced into the first channel 26 and then cured to fill the latter with the cured or foamed synthetic resin 31 (Figure 6b). Then, a pair of longitudinal gaps 29, 32 is formed in and along the first and second inner members 23, 24, respectively, by means of a cutter 28 (Figure 6c).

After that, the longitudinal gap 32 in the second inner member 24 is covered with a thermally insulating strip 30 (Figure 6d). Finally, like the step of Figure 6b, a mass of the foamable synthetic resin is introduced into the second channel 27 and then cured to fill the latter with the cured or foamed synthetic resin 31 (Figure 6e). The centrally hollow, thermally insulating sash bar D' has thus been produced.

Figure 7 is a fragmentary cross-sectional view of a pair of interior and exterior sash windows in which the thermally insulating sash bars D' are used.

Although various minor modifications may be suggested by those versed in the art, it should be understood that we wish to embody within the scope of the patent warranted hereon, all such embodiments are reasonably and properly come within the scope of this contribution to the art.

CLAIMS

1. A method of manufacturing a thermally insulating sash bar, comprising the steps of:
 - (a) providing an elongated hollow metallic sash bar including a pair of spaced outer members and a pair of spaced first and second inner members extending between said outer members so as to define therebetween a pair of longitudinally extending first and second channels, respectively;
 - (b) introducing a mass of thermally insulating synthetic resin into and curing the same within



- said first channel to fill the latter with the cured thermally insulating synthetic resin;
- (c) then forming a longitudinal gap in and along each of said first and second inner members;
- 5 (d) covering the longitudinal gap in said second inner member with a thermally insulating strip; and
- (e) then introducing a mass of the thermally insulating synthetic resin into and curing the same
- 10 within said second channel to fill the latter with the cured thermally insulating synthetic resin.
2. A method according to claim 1, said thermally insulating synthetic resin being foamable.
- 15 3. A method according to claim 2, the foamable synthetic resin comprising polyurethane.
4. A method of manufacturing a thermally insulating sash bar, comprising the steps of:
- (a) providing an elongated hollow metallic sash
- 20 bar including a pair of spaced outer members, a first inner member extending between said outer members so as to define therebetween a longitudinally extending first channel, and a pair of second inner members each longitudinally
- 25 extending on and along one of said outer members, said second inner members transversely extending towards and terminating short of each other to define therebetween a longitudinal gap;
- (b) introducing a mass of thermally insulating synthetic resin into and curing the same within
- 30 said first channel to fill the latter with the cured thermally insulating synthetic resin;
- (c) then forming a longitudinal gap in and along said first inner member;
- 35 (d) then covering the first-named longitudinal gap between said second inner members with a thermally insulating strip to provide between said outer members a longitudinally extending second channel; and
- 40 (e) introducing a mass of the thermally insulating synthetic resin into and curing the same within said second channel to fill the latter with the cured thermally insulating synthetic resin.
5. A method according to claim 4, said
- 45 thermally insulating synthetic resin being foamable.
6. A method according to claim 5, the foamable synthetic resin comprising polyurethane.