Pyrostop began life as a multi-layer sandwich of glass and sodium silicate layers, batch made and set in a steel frame. The number of layers varied depending on the fire regulation to be met. Three to five such intumescent layers would meet architectural specifications in most applications, but an oil rig or tanker, might require as many as ten. Pyrostop can provide fire protection for as long as 120 minutes, affording both radiant heat insulation and protection against smoke and flame penetration. Development continues to meet ever-tightening fire regulations.

In 1987, Pilkington developed Pilkington Pyrodur™ which is also a laminated glass based on similar technology. Pyrodur offers a compromise between integrity only and full thermal insulation in case of fire by limiting the level of radiant heat transmitted through the glazing. Pyrodur typically comprises one or two intumescent layers.

In 2001, another new product, Pilkington Pyrodur Plus™, was introduced into the UK market. In this, the fire resistant interlayer was modified to add impact safety while maintaining its excellent fire resistant properties. The product is cuttable on normal cutting tables.

Pyrostop and Pyrodur are produced at Gelsenkirchen in Germany. In 1994 Pilkington commissioned a major investment in a fully automated plant as part of the drive to cut manufacturing costs. In 2001, the capacity of the Gelsenkirchen plant was further expanded. Careful factory production control procedures including checks of raw materials, control of process parameters and testing of the final product are put in place in order to secure a consistent and reliable product performance. Pyrostop is produced in stock sizes centrally and cut to the customer end size in de-centralised processing centres in Europe, North America and Asia. Other functions like solar control, thermal insulation, sound reduction and security can be added by combining Pyrostop and Pyrodur with double glazings, coatings and polymer interlayers.