

Flooring Magazine July 2009 – Training & Development

Training and development is an area of high priority for FeRFA and its members. Representing two specialist skill areas, insitu resin flooring and surface preparation, has led FeRFA to take on the role as the training provider for this industry. Until FeRFA's direct involvement, no relevant qualification route was available to operatives involved in this skill activity, nor any formal and accredited training courses. Working with ConstructionSkills, FeRFA developed two new qualifications, NVQ Level 2 Resin Flooring and NVQ Level 2 Prepare and Profile Substrates. Both of these qualifications are available via two routes, the first via onsite assessment by a FeRFA Assessor for experienced operatives, and the second via a 2 year apprenticeship scheme run by FeRFA.

The FeRFA apprenticeship schemes involve offsite training days in conjunction with onsite supervised practical experience. The offsite training courses could not be run without the commitment and support of the FeRFA manufacturers, by making available the use of their training facilities and equipment and supplying specialist materials. Working in partnership with the manufacturers has great benefit to our apprentices by giving them the opportunity to mix and lay a wide range of resin flooring products, as well as using a wide range of specialist equipment for surface preparation. Training venues used by FeRFA have included Altro, Sika, Remmers, The Preparation Group, SPE and Instarmac. The courses are all run by FeRFA approved trainers, to meet with national standards, and cover a wide range of topics from the all important Health & Safety to specialist skill areas such as coatings, self smoothing and screeds for the Resin NVQ Level 2, and shotblasting, planning, multi-stripping, grinding & polishing for the Prepare & Profile Substrates NVQ Level 2.

To further develop the skills and knowledge of our members, FeRFA will be running a series of upskilling courses, again in conjunction with our manufacturing members. These courses will cover a series of topics, requested by FeRFA members, providing another opportunity to learn new techniques and practices.

FeRFA will be running further one-day upskilling courses throughout 2010 at venues around the country, on the following topics:

- Decorative Stone & Quartz systems (to include coving, transition and gulley details)
- Self smoothing, static dissipative and slip resistant systems
- Flowable polymer modified screeds
- Finishing skills (grinding & polishing)

Courses cost £350 per delegate (discounted by 50% for FeRFA members). This includes all tuition, training materials, course papers, certificate, lunch and refreshments. You may also be eligible for grant funding of between £17.50 and £26 in grants.

As course dates are announced a booking form will be available via the training page of the website but if you wish to register an interest in any of the courses, please contact FeRFA on 01252 714250.

For career enhancement support, the NVQ level 3 and level 4 in Supervisory/Project Management are available.

We believe that training is the key to success and by offering specialist skills and knowledge, FeRFA contractors are indeed specialists in their field. A real testimony to the commitment by FeRFA and its members to training development must be the number of NVQ qualified operatives we now have, currently 130 with an additional 40 going through the process.

FeRFA Training courses

Feb 2010 Apprenticeship course – Insitu Resin Flooring

Feb 210 Apprenticeship course – Prepare & Profile substrates

The full schedule for both apprenticeship courses are available on the training pages of the FeRFA website – go to www.ferfa.org.uk and click on apprenticeships under the training section.

Contact FeRFA for further details or check the training pages of the website at at www.ferfa.org.uk or call 01252 714250