

REPORT OF A MEETING OF THE FeRFA TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday 16th April 2019

AT: Smart Marketing Works, Stone ST15 0HG

PRESENT:	Mark Spowage (Chair)	FeRFA
	Tamsin Beach	TPS 360
	Tom Carter	Anhydritec
	John Green	Don Construction Products
	Richard Hobson	Resdev
	Andy Hone	Anhydritec
	Dr Derrick Hulett	John Lord & Son
	Miqesh Jassal	Fosroc
	Emma McDonald	Ardex
	Andy Monopoli	Conica
	Chris Orme	PPG Architectural Coatings
	Mike Rhodes	Ronacrete
	Stuart Whiteley	BSI CB/300
	James Wright	Conica

APOLOGIES: Shamshad Ali (Instarmac), Matt Baldry (Degafloor), Alison Bishop (Altro), Mike Carberry (Köster Aquatecnic), Darren Chambers (Limegate), Gary Chapman (Flowcrete), Simon Clark (Sika), Tom Dossett (Remmers), Osvaldas Galinis (OGS Floor Screeding), Natalie Jinks (Campden BRI), Lee Moreland (Sherwin Williams), Ian Perkins (Flowcrete), Heloysa Remoaldo (Uzin), David Riskus (OGS Floor Screeding), Susan Rogers (Campden BRI), Jack Sant (Uzin), Neil Taylor (Fosroc)

1. **APOLOGIES** **ACTION**
Apologies are noted above.

2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 15th DECEMBER 2018**
The Minutes were confirmed as a correct record.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**
All matters arising are dealt with in the minutes.

4. **EN 13813 REVISION**
As previously reported, despite the positive voting results of the Formal Vote, the CEN consultant gave a negative assessment which would cause the non-citation in the OJEU. Certain editorial only changes have been proposed and a second formal vote is expected. The CEN Committee is still waiting for the second Formal Vote draft to be circulated. Any updates will be circulated to this committee.

5. **FERFA GUIDANCE NOTES**

5.1 **FERFA GUIDE TO CLEANING RESIN FLOORS**

No comments have been submitted regarding this guidance note but in order to ensure that the document is up to date, James Wright being the original author agreed to review the document and suggest any amendments for a refresh. FeRFA are represented on a newly formed Campden BRI working group to update their Guideline 55 – Cleaning & Disinfection of Food Factories and will be credited in the document as a contributor. Although content directly related to the cleaning of floors is limited, Mark Spowage will provide any relevant copy to James for possible inclusion in the FeRFA guide. Further contributions should be sent to mark@ferfa.org.uk for inclusion.

James
Wright/Mark
Spowage

5.2 **FERFA GUIDE TO THE SPECIFICATION & APPLICATION OF SCREEDS**

Following a query from a contractor member regarding section 2.4 – Thickness, specifically of floating polymer modified screeds, the committee agreed that the figures in the existing table are correct, but it was agreed that the table should be made clearer and more substantial. The footnotes A, B and C are to be replaced as they can be confused with the BRE screed categories. Mike Rhodes agreed to draft an amendment to this section. The guide contains a large amount of repetition. Mark Spowage agreed to draft an amendment to the guide removing as much repetition as possible and incorporating the new section on thickness. It should be clear to a reader that the document is for guidance only and is intended to provide the reader with enough knowledge so that they can approach a manufacturer with the right questions. The draft will be circulated for comment.

Mike
Rhodes/
Mark
Spowage

6. **RISK MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR HANDLING DIISOCYANATES IN THE WORKPLACE**

6.1 **UPDATE FROM ISOPA AND ALIPA**

A web meeting of the PU Exchange Panel was held on 8th April. Meeting notes have been circulated to the FeRFA Technical Committee. It is proposed that there should be no restriction on the placing and use of diisocyanates if workers have successfully completed training and records are kept of that training. Appropriate information on the need for training must be provided on the packaging. It has been decided that there should be no obligation for industry on training but rather training will be defined by member states. Unfortunately, this means that the training will not be harmonised, and the UK's position is unclear after Brexit. The next REACH committee meeting is scheduled for June. The PU Exchange Panel will report on this meeting in October.

The European Commission has requested ECHA to provide recommendations on occupational exposure limits for diisocyanates. This may or may not lead to more than one OEL being proposed. The deadline for this is September 2020.

6.2 **ISOCYANATES & WORKERS WITH ASTHMA**

Stijn Roekaerts was unable to attend this meeting and the committee is still waiting for clarification on the subject of persons with a history of asthma working with diisocyanates as put forward by Derrick Hulett at the previous meeting.

Stijn
Roekaerts

The PU exchange panel is carrying out a cohort study to check the effectiveness of current safety measures and to minimise work-related illnesses relating to the use of diisocyanates in the workplace. The study aims to verify that the current occupational exposure limits are protective and to clarify if diisocyanate skin contact plays a role in the context of respiratory sensitisation. It will also aim to advance the diagnosis of occupational diseases caused by diisocyanates and to establish a basis for the calculation of incident rates of occupational diseases caused by diisocyanates. This feasibility study has already been started and is due to end in 2020 with the main study running until 2025 aiming to involve 2000 participants. The main focus of the study is companies in Germany. Exposure checks will include air monitoring at workplaces, biomonitoring of urine and blood and quantification of diisocyanate skin contact. Health checks will include lung function measurements, analysis of exhaled air and analysis of blood including total blood count, antibodies and markers of inflammation.

7 RESIN BOUND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

7.1 TECHNICAL PERFORMANCE STANDARD

Manufacturer members of the committee agreed to cooperate on an initial test programme but not all participants had data available at the meeting in January. Initial results have shown that both aliphatic and aromatic formulations show an increase in compressive and flexural strength after UV exposure to approximately the same degree. It is envisaged that the FeRFA standard will require that products should show no significant drop off in these two properties after exposure and meet minimum requirements for compressive and flexural strength.

8 TRAINING

Mark Spowage has contacted the PRA and BCF regarding technical training for formulators involved in the resin flooring industry but neither organisations offer specific training in these areas. Mark Spowage will enquire whether Deutsche Bauchemie offers and such training. It was noted that in Europe, technical training and University placements are much more common than in the UK and that the UK is facing a skills gap in this area.

M Spowage

9 CONSULTANTS

Mark Spowage raised this issue of a lack of consultants within the industry at the FeRFA Council meeting in March and suggested that FeRFA could look at developing its own group of consultants working under the FeRFA banner. However, Council were of the opinion that there would be too much conflict between manufacturer and contractor members in the event of a dispute.

10 FERFA RECYCLING SCHEME

Mark Spowage noted that the “Halving Waste to Landfill” scheme on which the FeRFA scheme is based has not been supported by the original organisation WRAP for several years. WRAP has passed the scheme relating to the construction industry to CIRIA who do not seem to be actively promoting said scheme. Mark Spowage is currently looking for other partners to work with in promoting recycling within the resin flooring industry.

Mark Spowage

There is currently a lack of reporting by members on their recycling figures. The last email requesting figures was sent to all members’ main contact on 10th January. A further email was sent out on 17th April to all members’ main contact. Hopefully the new email system will reach the intended recipients. The reporting will be closely monitored.

SEC

11 PRESENTATION BY ANHYDRITEC

New FeRFA member Anhydritec gave a brief presentation on the use of anhydrite screeds with resin flooring. This prompted some interesting discussions. Andy Hone expressed his interest in working closely with FeRFA members in developing more knowledge in the area of anhydrite screeds and resin flooring and would welcome contact from any member.

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Richard Hobson highlighted to the Committee that ECHA have given an opinion that titanium dioxide should be classified as having the potential to cause cancer in its inhalable form. Given that the powder form of titanium dioxide is no longer present in liquid mixtures of coatings, we welcome the EU’s proposal to exempt liquid mixtures such as paints, coatings and printing inks. The classification will however have

implications for manufacturers using raw titanium dioxide within their processes.

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DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 10th September 2019 at 10.30 – SMW

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING