

FeRFA E-Newsletter



December 2020

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Many thanks to everyone who joined us at the 2020 AGM, which was held virtually on 27th November.

We would like to thank all our members who have renewed their subscription with FeRFA for the year ending 30th September 2021 and we wish you a very prosperous 2021.

CORONAVIRUS (Covid-19)

Tier 4 Guidance (England Only)

In England, there are Tier 4 restrictions in place in London and the South East. The new rules impose greater restrictions on those living in Tier 4 areas and the main aim is to reduce social interactions between people living in different households. In terms of how these apply to the construction industry, the guidance specifies that:

- Those living in Tier 4 areas may continue to travel to work, where work cannot be undertaken at home. *"Where people cannot do so - including, but not limited to,*

people who work in critical national infrastructure, construction, or manufacturing - they should continue to travel to their workplace. This is essential to keeping the country operating and supporting sectors and employers."

- It is also allowable to travel into a Tier 4 area from a Tier 1,2 or 3 area for work purposes, again where work cannot be undertaken at home;
- Builder's merchants and suppliers of building products can also remain open, provided they can do so safely (other types of retailer can offer click and collect or delivery services). *"Other businesses and venues are permitted to stay open, following COVID-19 Secure guidelines. This includes those providing essential goods and services, including: Essential retail such as food shops, supermarkets, pharmacies, garden centres and Christmas tree retailers, building merchants and suppliers of building products and off-licences."*

The full guidance can be found [here](#).

Construction Industry Testing

Build UK has partnered with Eurofins to provide Lateral Flow and PCR tests to the construction industry at a discounted rate. Through FeRFA membership, members will be able to access these services. Find out more [here](#).

Construction Talent Retention Scheme

The Construction Talent Retention Scheme (TRS) have launched a new campaign to help give the scheme a promotional boost into 2021. You can now follow CTRS pages on [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#), and they will soon be launching an online communications resource pack, as well as regular e-newsletters.

Keep up to date with the latest Coronavirus news via [our dedicated webpage](#) and on our social media channels (@FeRFAResin). Keep an eye out for these updates, and if we can be of any assistance please [contact the FeRFA office](#).

BREXIT

With just a few weeks to until the end of the transition period, there will be new rules to follow from 1 January 2021. Businesses should act now to avoid their operations being interrupted when the transition period ends.

Information for the construction sector is available at [Gov.uk](#). According to the Government, the most important actions which should be taken now are:

1. Check the new rules on importing and exporting goods between the EU and Great Britain from 1 January 2021. Different rules will apply in Northern Ireland. Your business could face delays, disruption or administrative costs if you do not comply with new customs procedures from 1 January 2021.

2. Use GOV.UK to identify changes affecting manufactured goods, such as new marking requirements or approvals needed, to ensure your business is ready to sell them in the UK and EU.
3. If you are planning to recruit from overseas from 1 January 2021, you will need to register as a **licensed visa sponsor**. You may not be able to legally hire people from outside the UK if you do not have a licence. New employees from outside the UK will also need to meet new job, salary and language requirements. Irish citizens and those eligible under the EU Settlement Scheme are not affected.
4. If you are moving goods into, out of or through Northern Ireland, check the latest guidance. At the end of the transition period, the Northern Ireland Protocol comes into force. There will be special provisions which only apply in Northern Ireland so if you move goods into, out of or through Northern Ireland make sure you check the **latest guidance**.

You also need to check with your suppliers and customers that they are taking action.

Points-Based Immigration System

The new **points-based immigration system** from 1 January 2021 is going to be extremely challenging for construction. There is confusion over the responsibilities of employers to undertake right to work checks, and the Government guidance is difficult to follow. In addition, an old version of the **Standard Occupational Classification (SOC)** codes is being used, which does not correctly recognise key construction roles, and a number of occupations are unsure if they meet the required skill (RQF3) level.

Build UK is making strong representations to the Home Office, highlighting the complexity of the system and the significant impact it is going to have on the availability of labour in the industry just when it is being asked to step up and deliver the Government's 'Build Build Build' strategy.

Webinars

Government webinars to walk you through the changes are available to **watch on demand**.

*We will be providing members with guidance on Brexit via **our dedicated webpage** and by email over the coming weeks. Keep an eye out for these updates, and if we can be of any assistance please **contact the FeRFA office**.*

CFJLive Online Expo

On 1st July 2021, Contract Flooring Journal will be hosting their first online expo for the flooring industry. Set to take place from 2pm until 7pm, the expo is intended for contractors, retailers, distributors, architects, developers, facility managers and many more. With more than 100 companies taking part, this is sure to be an incredible face-to-face event in a digital format.

Register for the event [here](#) or [visit the website](#) to find out more.



TRAINING NEWS

We have been working closely with our members, partners and CITB to get our training programme safely back on track as quickly as possible. However, due to the current restrictions we are postponing our newest course groups.

Contact the [FeRFA office](#) for more information.

ASSOCIATE SPOTLIGHT

This month, FeRFA are highlighting three more of our Associate members. Associate members are companies who are involved indirectly with the manufacture, application and maintenance of resin flooring such as Surface Preparation Plant Suppliers, Chemical Suppliers to Manufacturer members, floor cleaning machinery suppliers, test houses etc.



ACO Building Drainage specialises in the development of corrosion resistant drainage systems and building products for applications across the internal and external built environments. Engineered to eliminate design risk, to optimise installation and to minimise lifetime ownership cost, every product in the range delivers exceptional levels of performance, finish and durability.
01462 810400
abinfo@aco.co.uk
Click [here](#) for more info.



Established in 1989 in the ceramic and accessories market, Genesis quickly became a leading brand in the UK and around the world supplying trims, nosings and edging profiles. Since then Genesis have diversified the range to cross over into the contract flooring, ceramic and soft flooring tools and more recently entrance matting industries.
01642 713000
info@genesis-gs.com
Click [here](#) for more info.



With over 325 years of innovation and passion, Husqvarna Construction Products is a world leader when it comes to equipment and diamond tools. Husqvarna's floor grinders and dust collectors boast a unique balance between the machines power and design, and the tools speed and efficiency.
0344 844 4569
husqvarna.construction@husqvarna.co.uk
Click [here](#) for more info.

INDUSTRY NEWS



Support for Employers: Survey

CITB is continuing to look at how we best support industry with an expected income reduction of 30% over the next four years, and they would like to get the views of all our employers on these decisions.

For several years CITB has funded a network of Training Groups (TGs). These groups help their members – local employers, and mainly micro and small companies – to join up and use their collective buying power to arrange discounted local training for their workforce.

At a time when many other programmes have been paused, CITB has maintained its support for TGs, at a reduced level. This reflects our belief that it is important to support employers locally with accessing the training they need.

CITB are currently looking at the best ways to help employers access training at a local level and have developed an options paper on potential funding models which can be accessed [here](#). The survey consultation closes on 15 January.

Supporting Bringing New Learners into Construction

Did you know that only two out of five learners on construction-related further education (FE) courses join the industry?

CITB investigated why this is, and potential solutions, in a new report, [Learning to Earning](#), published last week. Their researchers spoke with employers, learners and college providers to find out the barriers to entry and what could be done about it. The report revealed very different perceptions of college courses. For example, many employers see FE courses as an alternative to apprenticeships, whereas learners often see them as a route to one.

It's clear that helping learners become more aware of what the industry is like, and giving them more experience of it, is part of the solution. That's why CITB are working with industry and government to design a new Construction Traineeship for England to ensure learners have the skills needed to move onto an apprenticeship or employment.

In Wales, we have been involved in the development of new qualifications to address issues with existing FE routes. Hundreds of existing qualifications are being simplified into eight new ones with better progression routes and streamlined assessments.

In Scotland the Pathways into Apprenticeships initiative has been introduced, offering 36-week construction training for young people who are out of work. Around 120 opportunities are expected to be available from early next year.

Apprenticeship Support Expanded to all Levy-Registered Construction Employers

2020 has been an incredibly difficult year for everyone, and not least those in the construction industry, so CITB is changing its apprenticeship support to enable all levy-registered construction employers to benefit from an expanded support service.

Currently, CITB offers employer and apprentice support for its 7,000 contracted apprenticeships, about a third of the total number across the industry. Under the new plans, throughout 2021, CITB will withdraw from the direct, funded delivery of apprenticeships in England, and instead provide a support service to **all** employers with construction apprentices. Funded apprenticeship support will continue in Scotland and Wales, and the wider offer will also apply in those nations.

Support for employers will include help accessing grants; choosing the right apprenticeship standard and the right training provider; guidance through the Government's online apprenticeships system; and building partnerships with colleges and training providers. We will continue to offer recruitment support to employers who recruit large numbers of apprentices each year. More details will be made available soon.

[Read the full article](#)



The Construction Playbook

Build UK joined a Ministerial round table for the launch of the Government's new Construction Playbook. Aimed at resetting the relationship between the public sector and the industry, the Playbook offers the opportunity for a more strategic and less transactional approach to the delivery of construction projects.

Read the Construction Playbook [here](#).

[Read more updates on Build UK's website](#)

MEMBER BENEFITS

COBRA Become PIB Insurance Brokers



**The same professional
and friendly service**

A new name

PIB Insurance Brokers



From 1st October COBRA insurance Brokers changed their name to PIB Insurance Brokers, reflecting their move in 2019 to become part of PIB Group, a leading insurance intermediary group.

PIB Insurance Brokers will continue to have access to a wider range of experts across many different industry sectors and insurance types. They'll also be able to draw on the skills of colleagues in PIB Risk Management and PIB Employee Benefits to provide you with important services beyond your insurance needs, should you need them. If you would like to speak to Howard about your company insurance needs and organize a **free insurance health check** please don't hesitate to contact him at howard.collins@pib-insurance.com or call him on 07775 888933.

FeRFA and PIB Insurance Brokers are excited to offer a facility which gives all your resin floor protection with an **INSURANCE BACKED WARRANTY**. The scheme has been set up so that **all your customers** benefit from the **security** of an **Insurance backed warranty** once you are signed up. You pay an upfront premium based on your annual turnover and then simply register each resin contract online when completed.

[Read more.](#)

CONTRACT REVIEW SERVICE



CONTRACT AND LEGAL SERVICES

FeRFA have partnered with BEB Contract & Legal Services so that as a member of FeRFA, you will get 10% off their Bronze, Silver and Gold packages for bespoke, robust contracts.

Contact BEB on 01604 217365 or email info@bebconsultancy.co.uk and quote FeRFA10 to get started.

BEB are passionate about protecting businesses with watertight contracts. It's what they do, day in, day out. Their approach is hands-on so they'll find out as much as they can about what your business does, how you work and any problem customers you may have had – because it's only when talking about those practical, real-life issues you've encountered that BEB get to really understand how to protect you from those things happening again, in your Ts & Cs.

BEB can help with:

- Terms and conditions
- Sub-contractor agreements
- Shareholder agreements
- Manufacturing and distribution agreements
- GDPR and privacy policies
- And much more

OR are you signing contracts you don't really understand? BEB offer a unique review service where they will check and confirm if the contract you've been sent:

- Protects you fully
- Is clear and unambiguous
- Contains clauses that could be risky for your business

[Click here for more information](#)

H&S Advice and Business Shield from Stallard Kane Associates



Stallard Kane Associates Ltd provide a support service to SMEs for both Health & Safety and Employment Law. FeRFA members can access its services for free via the Business Shield. All FeRFA members have FREE access to the Business Shield service giving you:

- **FREE** access to the FeRFA Business Shield online portal
- **FREE** and unlimited use of the 24hr hotline
- **FREE** one hour review of your daily activity and associated risks
- **FREE** one hour review of your existing employment contracts.

The dedicated FeRFA Business Shield Account Manager is Barry Nicol, please call him on 07854 938693 for more details.

Read more about Stallard Kane [here](#).

FeRFA Recycling Scheme - are you taking part?



FeRFA partners **Reconomy** can assist you to reduce your total waste management costs, increase your landfill diversion, ensure compliance, under current Environmental Agency legislation, maintain consistency and best practice across all sites and back-office functions. Contact Reconomy on 0800 834 133/01952 211790.

If you are not already submitting your recycling data to FeRFA please start doing this now to qualify for the recycling logo within your FeRFA website entry.

It is easy to do using the datasheet (if not using Reconomy) - only two figures are needed per month - total weight collected and total weight recycled or recovered. This is information that should be provided by your waste collector. If it isn't then ask them why

not. The spreadsheet includes a graph, automatically generated from your figures - which you can show to prospective clients

More details on the recycling initiative are [here](#).

You can also read Reconomy's brochure [here](#).

MEMBERS' CASE STUDIES

Contract Sterilisation Company, Bradford

ACC Flooring was awarded the contract to refurbish a warehouse facility for a leading provider of infection prevention and other procedural products and services who has over 50 worldwide locations. The company offers contract sterilisation, laboratory testing and products and packaging services to medical device and pharmaceutical manufacturers. The 1,700m² area had existing walkways, demarcation and pallet markings but the floor coating was badly worn and damaged in some areas and required a full refurbishment.

[Read more](#)



IFT contracted by Bute Fabrics

IFT were contracted by Bute Fabrics Ltd to supply and install over 1,500sqm of resin floor finishes throughout their premises on Rothesay.

All substrates were fully prepared using our range of preparation equipment - this is a critical part of the process and helps to ensure the longevity of the finished floor.

The resin finishes included a 4mm resin quartz system to various areas. This provides a moderate level of chemical and impact resistance and is suitable for use in medium to heavy duty areas.

We are delighted to have been able to work with Bute Fabrics on this project. Founded in 1947 by the 5th Marquess of Bute, with the sole purpose of providing employment opportunities for service people returning home from the Second World War, Bute Fabrics is now an internationally acclaimed textile business.



MEMBERS' NEWS

The Preparation Group



Christmas & New Year Opening Hours

 

CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				18 OPEN Order before 3pm for pre-christmas delivery
21 CLOSED Contracting Coverage as normal	22 CLOSED Contracting Coverage as normal	23 CLOSED Contracting Coverage as normal	24 CLOSED Contracting Coverage as normal	25 CLOSED
28 CLOSED Contracting Coverage as normal	29 CLOSED Contracting Coverage as normal	30 CLOSED Contracting Coverage as normal	31 CLOSED Contracting Coverage as normal	01 CLOSED
04 Open We return to our Standard Next Day Delivery Service	MERRY CHRISTMAS			

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Council Meeting: 12th January 2021 to be held via Zoom

FeRFA The Resin Flooring Association

FeRFA PO Box 3716, Stone, ST15 9EU

[Unsubscribe](#) - [Unsubscribe Preferences](#)