

FeRFA E-Newsletter



January 2021

CORONAVIRUS (Covid-19)

LONDON WORKERS ENCOURAGED TO MAKE ALTERNATIVE TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

There continues to be concern about the large numbers of people still using public transport in London. Construction sites across the capital should make sure they have reviewed the [TfL toolkit](#) and are implementing the following as a priority:

Changing operating hours and introducing shift working to avoid peak times of 05:45 - 08:15 and 16:00 - 17:30.

Coordinating with neighbouring sites, particularly around the [busiest stations](#). Encouraging workers to walk or cycle wherever possible and providing lockers, showers and storage. Find out more [here](#).

Closure of travel corridors

The Government has [introduced emergency border measures](#) to prevent the spread of new variants of coronavirus into the UK, and all [travel corridors](#) are now suspended until at least Monday 15 February. All international arrivals, including British and Irish nationals, must now have a negative COVID-19 test taken up to 72 hours before departure and self-isolate immediately for 10 days on arrival into the UK. Find out more [here](#).

Training during lockdown

The Department for Education has published guidance on [Providing Apprenticeships](#) during the Coronavirus Outbreak, which confirms that training and assessment for apprentices should take place remotely wherever possible. Face-to-face training and assessment can continue in colleges and training providers' premises for vulnerable young apprentices and the children of key workers who need it; however, the CITB National Construction Colleges are closed until at least 22 February. Construction apprentices can continue their training in the workplace where the apprentice cannot work from home and the workplace is COVID-19 secure.

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

Brexit. The new rules are here

Keep your business moving. Doing business with Europe has changed. You need to follow new rules on exports, imports, tariffs, data and hiring. You can use the [Brexit checker](#) to get a personalised list of actions.

[Click here for more information.](#)

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](#).

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.

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.



Anhydritec is the UK and European Market leader in Anhydrite (calcium sulphate) technology with over 25 years of experience in the formulation of self-levelling screeds. Our research and development centres design innovative products, which benefit a wide range of applications.

01925 428780

sales@anhydritec.com

Click [here](#) for more info.



Addagrip Terraco Ltd is a resin manufacturing and formulating company established in 1980. Part of the Terraco Group of companies, Addagrip offers a range of high quality external and internal resin surfacing products and finishing materials for commercial and domestic use.

01825 761333

sales@addagrip.co.uk

Click [here](#) for more info.



Manufacturer and supplier of professional paint rollers & associated products, factory located in Amsterdam, Holland and established for over 50 years supplying customers worldwide from Holland & warehouses located in Hull, UK & Dubai, U.A.E.

01482 782333

info@rollroy.co.uk

Click [here](#) for more info.

INDUSTRY NEWS

Isocyanates - Restriction

On 4 August 2020, the REACH restriction on diisocyanates was published in the EU official journal applying after a transition period of three years from 24 August 2020. The restriction will introduce mandatory training requirements for workers using diisocyanates.

The main points of the legal text affecting the resin flooring sector include:

- Professional and industrial substances and mixtures containing greater than 0.1% diisocyanate shall only be placed on the market after the 24 February 2022 that include the following statement on the packaging 'As from 24 August 2023 adequate training is required before industrial or professional use.'
- Professional or industrial users of substances or mixtures containing greater than 0.1% diisocyanates will be required to be trained by the 24 August 2023. The training is the responsibility of the employer or self-employed and needs to be conducted by an expert on occupational safety and health with competence acquired by relevant vocational training.

The EU REACH Regulation was brought into UK law on 1 January 2021. This is known as UK REACH. The Health & Safety Executive are considering how the restriction will be implemented and how it relates to any existing measures in the UK. FeRFA will continue to provide information about this REACH restriction and other regulatory issues affecting our industry though our new Regulatory Digest due to be launched in the coming weeks.

Raw material price increases pressure on manufacturers

Sharp price increases for epoxy resins and supply bottlenecks are now adding to the difficulties for coatings manufacturers in the UK and across Europe, and further compounding the already existing pressures caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and resulting disruption. On top of this some manufacturers are also reporting additional friction being caused by the new trading conditions the UK has with the EU where 60% of the UK industry's raw materials are sourced.

Epoxy resin prices have risen sharply since the latter part of 2020 while polyester resin prices are also well up. In particular, recent data from the German Paint and Printing Inks Association show very significant increases for epoxy resins - an important binding agent for many coatings - of as much as 60% in recent months. UK manufacturers are also seeing sharp increases and with some suppliers to the industry now also resorting to monthly price increases.

Strong demand from certain markets is driving up prices while an unexpectedly rapid V shaped recovery in China is also fuelling demand for these essential raw materials. In addition, the situation is being compounded by a current global shortage of containers which has led to a sharp rise in transport costs from Asia to Europe thus further restricting supplies to Europe.

Similar problems are affecting the market for polyester resins with factory closures in Singapore and Sweden as well as an explosion at a factory in China adding to the difficulties. This in turn has resulted in suppliers diverting product to their local markets rather than Europe, further pushing up prices. There are also problems with bisphenol-A with stocks being diverted to polycarbonates.

This complex mix of higher demand, capacity and supply problems together with restricted availability of transport resources is increasing uncertainty in the market and driving up raw material prices sharply. On top of this, the coatings industry in the UK is faced with additional non-tariff costs related to the new UK customs arrangements with the EU for both raw material imports, as well as exports and imports of finished coatings



Online Employer Events

CITB would like to invite you to online employer events where you can find out how to take part in consultation on the Levy Proposals 2022-25 and feed back on future support required for skills.

The online events in March and April will cover how CITB proposes employers will be assessed to CITB Levy over the next three years. The collection of the Levy Assessment in 2020 was temporarily suspended and the Levy rates for assessment in 2021 have been reduced by half. At the same time CITB have prioritised direct financial support for employers and apprentices.

As CITB look at the best means to contribute to industry's recovery in the months ahead, your view can shape the way forward. At the events they will share how Levy registered employers can take part in consultation on the Levy Proposals 2022-25 and have their say on the proposed areas of support for construction businesses.

If you are a Levy registered employer and wish to join please register [here](#).

HS&E Test Centres

CITB has ceased delivery of the Health, Safety and Environment (HS&E) test in Scotland in line with updated Government guidance. Testing remains in place in England and has resumed in Wales but companies should check the [CITB](#) website for the latest information before booking.

Construction Skills Fund: free training available

It is essential that construction employers are provided with the workers they need to help rebuild the economy in the wake of COVID-19. Now in its second phase, the Construction Skills Fund (CSF) continues to provide free training for school leavers, people who are long-term unemployed and career changers who want to join the construction industry.

Despite the pandemic, 14 learning hubs across England continue to deliver site-ready workers. To December 2020, 3,414 beneficiaries have started on the CSF2 programme across all the Hubs of which 2,376 have achieved employment-ready or site-ready status, and 885 have entered employment.

One practical problem has been that learners are sometimes unable to visit sites due to COVID-19 regulations. Here employers have shown great flexibility by recognising virtual learning approaches so they can continue training until site visits are able to resume. This means CSF is still on target to get 3,000 people into jobs by September 2021.

[Find out more about how CSF can support you.](#)

Research: Artificial intelligence (AI) and automation in construction

The pandemic has seen a much greater emphasis on technology and safety. CITB is researching how industry can benefit from modern methods of construction, and asked 1,500 employers, 97% of them SMEs, if they used tools such as artificial intelligence and automation.

What the response showed was a belief that while present take-up is limited, Government commitments on de-carbonisation to Net Zero, the Grenfell Tower Inquiry, as well as the pandemic response will drive increased adoption in the near future, with implications for workforce retraining and new skills.

Smaller firms, in particular, will also need more support to access transformative technologies, which is why we're working on pilot projects focusing on the needs of SMEs and the supply chain.

[Read the report.](#)



#StopReverseVAT Campaign

Build UK is part of a coalition of industry trade bodies [calling on the Chancellor](#) to withdraw the VAT Reverse Charge which is due to be introduced on 1 March. The new legislation will restrict the cash flow of companies throughout the construction supply chain, and Build UK is launching a campaign #StopReverseVAT next Monday 1 February to ensure that the Treasury and HMRC fully understand the impact of Reverse VAT. We are keen to involve all our members and you can feature your company or trade organisation on [Build UK social media postcards](#) by emailing us the following:

- a hi-res headshot of your Chief Executive or Chairman/President
 - their name, job title and company
- a quote (50 - 75 words) that sums up the impact that Reverse VAT will have on your business or sector.

You can also help us to raise the profile of this issue by sharing the postcards on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) using the hashtag #StopReverseVAT and tagging in [@hmtreasury](#) and [@HMRCgovuk](#). By working together, we can demonstrate the significant impact Reverse VAT will have on the industry at a time when we have been singled out as vital to the economic recovery.

Delivering Zero Retentions

Fair and transparent payment practices are essential for a successful construction industry, but the practice of cash retentions is problematic for all parties in the supply chain.

That is why Build UK and its members support the industry ambition to move to zero retentions by no later than 2025. To achieve this, we are implementing a [Roadmap](#) to Zero Retentions with milestones to show that progress is being made. [Read more.](#)

Disinfecting Systems

The HSE has published [advice on walk-through spraying or misting disinfecting systems](#) for reducing the transmission of coronavirus, stating that spraying people with disinfectants is not recommended under any circumstances as it is potentially harmful and does not reduce the spread of the virus.

Virtual CSCS Cards

CSCS has launched [virtual CSCS cards](#) providing instant access to an individual's training and qualification records. Virtual cards carry all the same information as physical cards but are stored within the My CSCS app, which is free to download via [Google Play](#) and [Apple Store](#).

Kickstart Threshold

The Kickstart Scheme will remove the [threshold](#) of 30 job placements from 3 February, meaning employers will be able to apply directly for any number of placements. Employers can also still choose to apply through a Kickstart gateway, including those supporting sole traders.

[Read more updates on the website.](#)

MEMBER BENEFITS

COBRA Become 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

Treatment Plant, Clitheroe

A major UK provider of environmental services asked ACC Flooring Ltd to deliver a solution for their internal sump and drainage channel and an external tank area. The sump and channel were both in a very poor condition caused by the aggressive chemicals which over time has eaten away at the linings.

Both areas were mechanically prepared to remove any laitance. A polymer modified screed was then installed to line the sump base and walls and laid to falls to the channel so that any liquid ran into the sump. The channel was then protected with marine ply to allow the polymer modified screed to cure. The advantages of a polymer modified screed over a traditional sand and cement screed include minimising shrinkage and cracking, improved flexural strength and reduced permeability.

[Read more.](#)



IFT install flooring at Craigmarnloch Nurseries factory

IFT was contracted by Craigmarnloch Nurseries Ltd to carry out the refurbishment of an existing industrial floor at their factory in Cumbernauld, North Lanarkshire.

The existing substrate was fully prepared using our range of specialist floor preparation equipment. Correct surface preparation is the vital difference between success and failure of a complete flooring project and it pays to get it right first time. IFT have the skills and the tools to be able to implement the best service - from organising machinery and labour, we ensure the floor preparation is carried out properly, safely and with minimal hassle, disruption and mess.

[Read more.](#)



MEMBERS' NEWS

SIKA



SIKA'S INNOVATIVE PU FLOOR COATING NAMED AS FINALIST IN PRIZED INDUSTRY AWARDS

Sika ComfortFloor® Marble FX, a high-performance, polyurethane, self-serving, UV-resistant, marble effect flooring system, has been shortlisted for a prized industry award. The innovative PU coating, which produces a fine marble-like design as part of its hard-wearing, smooth, low-maintenance surface finish, is among the finalists in this year's Tomorrow's Contract Floors Awards. The contest celebrates the most innovative products and services in the flooring industry. A public vote is now open until March 2021 to decide the award's overall winner.

[Read more.](#)

Events

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.



CHEMUK 2021 Expo

NEW DATES: 15th & 16th September, 2021

NEC, Birmingham, UK

Free To Attend – Admission age: 18+

The CHEMUK EXPO & speaker programme brings together the UK's industrial chemicals, biochemical, chemicals processing & chemical product formulation industries.

Targeting chemical & process specialists & sector management teams embracing chemical synthesis, formulation / blending & manufacturing / processing segments

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



Surfex

Surfex is organised by OCCA in recognition of the importance of keeping up to date with all aspects relating to innovation, development, manufacture and supply of coatings, inks, adhesives and an array of allied and associated industries.

Surfex brings an essential focus to science and technologies and offers attendees an opportunity to discover new ideas, find answers to technical challenges and source information for immediate use in their working environment.

Surfex is also free to attend.

[Visit the website to find out more.](#)



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