

# FeRFA E-Newsletter



## October 2020

### CORONAVIRUS (Covid-19)

The Prime Minister addressed the nation on Saturday evening to announce a [four-week lockdown](#) in England from this Thursday 5 November until Wednesday 2 December. The new restrictions include requiring people to stay at home except for specific purposes, not mixing with other households, and the closing of certain businesses and venues.

Construction and manufacturing should stay open across all four nations, which is testament to the industry's response to the pandemic so far. Sites are advised to review their social distancing measures and remind the workforce of the importance of complying with the [Site Operating Procedures - Version 6](#) whilst on site, as well as the new restrictions off site to protect their family and colleagues.

Hotels can remain open to provide accommodation for workers. We are currently reviewing the implications for construction workers and please let us know if you have difficulty finding accommodation for workers working away from home.

Build UK has produced an [authorisation letter template](#) for employers in the event of workers being stopped on journeys to and from sites anywhere in the UK.

#### **What if a worker develops symptoms or has to self isolate?**

Build UK has published an [easy to follow flowchart](#) on the actions to take if a worker

develops COVID-19 symptoms, receives a positive test result, or has to self-isolate.

## Devolved Nations

**Scotland** now has five COVID protection levels in place, ranging from 'Level 0 - Nearly Normal' to 'Level 4 - Lockdown', and you can check the level for an area by [entering the postcode](#).

**Wales** is under its own 'firebreak' lockdown until Monday 9 November 00:01am.

**Northern Ireland** has its own restrictions in place until Friday 13 November.

## Furlough Scheme Extended

The **Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme** has been extended for one month, with employees receiving 80% of their current salary for hours not worked, up to a maximum of £2,500. Under the extended scheme, employers will only have to pay National Insurance and pension contributions, with the Government paying the full 80% of wages, and details of how to claim will be available shortly. The Job Support Scheme, which was due to start on 1 November, has been postponed until the Job Retention Scheme ends.

The grant available under the **Self-Employed Income Support Scheme** from 1 November 2020 until 31 January 2021 has already been doubled to 40% of average monthly trading profits, capped at £3,750. The level of the second grant covering 1 February until 30 April 2021 will be confirmed in due course.

*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

The UK has left the European Union and the one year transition period comes to an end on 1 January 2021. This will trigger changes affecting many businesses in our sector. As we head towards the end of the year, FeRFA aims to provide information for members on the key developments as they affect your business.

Our information is sourced from a number of different organisations such as Build UK, the Construction Leadership Council and the Government itself. We will make this information available on a weekly basis, hopefully in an easily digestible format, so that you know what you have to do in order to protect your business from any negative impacts and take advantage of any new opportunities.

## Get ready for 1 January 2021

The Government is urging businesses to prepare for the end of the transition period, and

the Construction Leadership Council has published guidance on a range of issues, including:

- [The movement of goods and materials](#)
- [The new immigration system](#)
- [Data protection and GDPR](#)

Businesses can use the Government's [checker tool](#) to confirm exactly what they need to do.

Build UK has set up a [special website](#) designed to help businesses prepare for Brexit.

### **Industry concerns about 'No Deal' continue**

Build UK has joined the CBI and 71 other organisations to issue a [joint statement](#) calling for a trade agreement to be reached and reiterating the dangers of 'no deal' for businesses. This statement claims that more than three quarters of UK firms are saying they need a deal.

*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](#).*

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Due to current restrictions, the 2020 FeRFA Annual General Meeting will be held virtually via Zoom.

The meeting will take place on 27th November at 12pm. Members will receive an email in due course with more information.

## **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.



Blastrac is the worldwide leading manufacturer and supplier of surface preparation equipment. Blastrac's techniques are environmentally friendly (no use of chemical products, no waste of water), yet very efficient. As one of the originators of the enclosed blasting principle, Blastrac also has an extensive portfolio of scarifiers, strippers, diamond grinders, hand tools and dust extraction units.

01909 569118

[info@blastrac.co.uk](mailto:info@blastrac.co.uk)

Click [here](#) for more info.



Long Rake Spar have gained national status as a leading UK supplier of specialist dried aggregates for commercial surfacing. With such a variety of projects available within the resin surfacing sector, we ensure to stock multiple products to cater for each eventuality. All of our products are washed, dried, screened and produced to the highest quality to provide functional and aesthetically pleasing finishes for all sectors of the surfacing industry.

01629 636210

[grantex@longrakespar.co.uk](mailto:grantex@longrakespar.co.uk)

Click [here](#) for more info.



NCC is a leading materials consultant who specialises in flooring and chemical products for the construction and building industry. Working in Partnerships with international manufacturers on an exclusive basis, NCC is able to offer solutions to specifiers and contractors, from specification stage through to material supply.

01257 266696

[jon.morris@nccinaction.co.uk](mailto:jon.morris@nccinaction.co.uk)

Click [here](#) for more info.

## INDUSTRY NEWS



### New app features to support industry wellbeing

It was World Mental Health Day on 10th October, and with such major challenges and uncertainty impacting everyone's way of life to some extent this year, the focus was on 'mental health for all'. This reinforces the importance of looking out for loved ones, but also acts as a reminder to take time out to consider your own mental wellbeing.

The Lighthouse Construction Industry Charity recently launched a free helpline app, which encourages people to seek guidance and information, while providing a discreet platform for them to do so. Following employers' feedback, the app has since been upgraded with new features and tools to support financial wellbeing. Working in partnership with 'nudge', a financial wellbeing platform, the app reminds users when to take financial action, helps with budgeting, and provides content to boost financial knowledge. You can download the [app here](#).

## Your views on the CITB Grants Scheme matter

CITB have asked for your feedback throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, to enable them to support the construction industry where it matters most and to shape the work they do. Now, more than ever, your views are helping CITB ensure limited funds are directed to where they can make the most difference.

As part of their review of the support they offer, they are inviting organisations and their employees to share their views on training and the Grants Scheme. Your feedback matters and this is your opportunity to help CITB develop what they offer in the future. Please complete [the feedback form](#), which should take no longer than 10 minutes, by 5pm on 2 November 2020.



## Construction Activity Recovery Begins

The latest information from Builders' Conference shows that both the number and value of contracts awarded in September increased compared to recent months, providing a welcome boost for the industry.

[Read the full article](#)

## Talent Retention Scheme

Businesses across the industry are making good use of the new [Construction Talent Retention Scheme](#).

Please promote your vacancies and tap into the growing pool of candidates. Over 250 applications for jobs have already been made through the system since its launch two months ago, and the first candidates have now been successfully redeployed. With the end of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme on 31 October, the system will have a key role to play in retaining talent within construction.

[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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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' NEWS

### Kemtile Rebrands To Promote Excellence in Flooring

Hygienic flooring experts Kemtile have celebrated 40 years in the UK commercial flooring sector and becoming part of an ambitious global flooring group by investing in a brand refresh.

[Read more](#)



## MEETINGS & EVENTS

Council Meeting: 27th November, 10am, to be held via Zoom

Annual General Meeting: 27th November, 12pm, to be held via Zoom

Technical Meeting: 10th December, to be held via Zoom

FeRFA The Resin Flooring Association

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