



May 2021

GLOBAL RAW MATERIAL SHORTAGES CONTINUE

Global supply chain shortages for many key raw materials have been impacting resin flooring manufacturers since the end of 2020 contributing to sharp price increases and supply bottlenecks and further compounding the already existing pressures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

These issues are due to many diverse factors including core chemical material supply problems, forced shutdowns due to industrial accidents and severe weather conditions, mandatory factory maintenance shutdowns and lack of labour due to Covid 19 restrictions.

Some manufacturers are experiencing additional friction and costs caused by Brexit and the new trading conditions the UK has with the EU where most of the UK industry's raw materials are sourced. The situation is being compounded by a global shortage of shipping containers which has led to a sharp rise in transport costs from Asia to Europe thus further restricting supplies.

Some examples of the diverse nature of recent problems affecting the global raw material supply to the resin flooring market are as follows:

In February, the United States was hit with Winter Storm Uri resulting in disruption to power and water services and raw material supply to plants in Texas which led to a tightening in supply of bisphenol A (BPA), a crucial feedstock for epoxy resins.

During October and November, isocyanate supply in North America tightened following planned and unplanned shutdowns as the US Gulf Coast saw one of the worst hurricane seasons in years.

In November, a plant in Germany manufacturing isocyanates, mainly those used for UV stable polyurethane coatings, experienced a fire resulting in production of HDI and related derivatives used to manufacture epoxy curing agents being restricted due to force majeure.

The export of castor oil derivatives used to manufacture polyurethane resins from India where more than 80% of the world's castor seeds are grown came to a virtual standstill in early April because of actions taken by the Indian government to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

The Construction Leadership Council's Product Availability Working Group has issued a [statement](#) on the availability of construction products, which confirms that *'in addition to availability and resulting longer lead times, there is an impact on prices'*. The products that are most affected are timber, steel, pitched roofing, plastics, cement and surface coatings. Specific information relating to surface coatings can be found by clicking the 'Coatings' link near the bottom of the statement.

CORONAVIRUS (Covid-19)

Coronavirus (COVID-19) has had a significant impact on businesses across the construction industry and this dedicated Build UK [webpage](#) collates the latest information and support for employers

Keep up to date with the latest Coronavirus news via 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.

CITB e-COURSES

SITE SAFETY PLUS: COVID-19 - SETTING UP AND OPERATING A SAFE CONSTRUCTION SITE

Version 2: January 2021 update is now available online.

Learn at your own pace, anytime, anywhere

Click [here](#) for more details



BREXIT

Brexit update for FeRFA Members

Following the UK's exit from the EU and the end of the Brexit transition period, there are new rules for doing business with the EU. This dedicated Build UK [webpage](#) collates the latest information for businesses in the construction industry

TRAINING NEWS



FeRFA TRAINING Resin Groups 25 & 26 Modules 4 & 5

FeRFA's NVQ L2 In Situ Resin Flooring training continued in May with all twelve members of resin groups 25 & 26 attending virtual sessions delivered by FeRFA Trainer Jack Longden on 'Introduction to Resin Flooring' and 'Work Practice & Project Planning'.

In the last twelve months we have been proud to see no less than ten of our learners achieve their Level 2 NVQ Diploma in Specialist Concrete Occupations (Construction) - In Situ Flooring (Resin). We would like to thank their employers - Central Flooring Services, Euro Resin Solutions, IRL Group, Thortec, TPS 360 and Zircon Flooring and of course our assessors - Kevin Cook and Jack Longden.

We are currently inviting applications for our 27th Group which is due to start in September.

Spaces are limited so don't delay.

The course will lead to an NVQ Level 2 qualification and the blue CSCS Skilled Worker card.

Grant funding is available for eligible CITB levy payers.

The course runs for 18 months covering a mix of formal off-site instruction alongside supervised on-the-job training at employer level with a final assessment by a CITB approved assessor.

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

NEW MEMBER

FeRFA would like to welcome our new member:

Resin Floors Telford Ltd

Operating throughout the UK we are an experienced, highly trained, professional contractor able to provide quality resin systems for industrial, commercial and domestic projects. We are committed to minimizing the processes which have a negative impact on our environment by working with our partners to create sustainable growth. We believe in transparency when dealing with our customers. Our experts will give honest, practical advice on the type of flooring system most suited to your business needs.

From heavy-duty industrial coatings and screeds to tough decorative flooring for business properties, we offer a wide variety of flooring options.

Click [here](#) for more info

RESIN FLOORS
TELFORD



Stress Talking Toolkit launched for the construction sector

HSE has published a Work-related Stress Talking Toolkit for the construction sector.

Developed with the help of industry stakeholders, the [Work-related Stress Talking Toolkit](#) is primarily aimed at small and medium sized businesses with a regular workforce (employed and contracted) who wish to be proactive in addressing this issue. However, it is a flexible tool that can be used across the whole industry.

Starting the conversation is an important first step in preventing work-related stress, and the toolkit will help to do that.

[Download the construction Talking Toolkit \(PDF\)](#) and find out more about [work-related stress](#)



After UK Transition podcast from HSE: Listen to all episodes now

HSE's 'Working with Chemicals' podcast provides up-to-date guidance on how to keep your business moving now that the UK Brexit Transition period has ended.

The series provides information on the changes to how chemicals will be regulated now the UK has left the EU, and features experts from HSE's Chemicals Regulation Division, as well as a variety of industry voices.

You can [download and listen to all episodes](#) for free.

To access future episodes on release, [subscribe to the podcast series](#).

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.



For over 20 years, internationally recognised construction companies have been trusting Apollo



Dural (UK) Ltd is a German owned company established in the UK in 1992, offering high quality products and



For over 25 years, HTC has been the pioneer in developing more effective methods to grind, polish and

Construction Solutions to manufacture and supply high performance resins, adhesives, sealants and primers. During this time, we have worked with many decorative surfacing companies to ensure that they can offer beautiful hardwearing permeable solutions compliant with SUDs regulations. Apollo's focus is on innovation, relationship building and staying ahead of market requirements. This allows us to create quality products that solve real-end user issues, whilst providing added-value services, including compliance, technical, logistics and marketing support.

01827 54281

Click [here](#) for more info.

service levels, and marketing support such as catalogues and samples. Providers of accessories and profiles for increasing the longevity of resin installations, from various capping profiles to preformed Speckled Movement Joints which can be completely colour matched to your projects. Dural's catalogue is just the starting point providing bespoke profiles to solve the problem faced on site.

01924 360110

Click [here](#) for more info.

maintain concrete floors.

The range includes the newest generation of floor grinders, from the Duratig T5 to the Duratig 8, these machines have set an entirely new standard for reliability, precision and control. They have a unique combination of intelligence and raw power matching the requirement and expectation of professional users and specialists all over the world. HTC's machines and diamond tool combined with HTC Superfloor™ floor polishing system guarantee a beautiful and durable surface.

Click [here](#) for more info.



ARE NEW STARTER DROP OUTS WASTING YOUR TIME AND MONEY?

We have many workers that have had site experience and training – they're ready to start work today with no recruitment fees attached.

Supported by DfE and CITB funding, the Construction Skills Fund (CSF) operates regional hubs across England and has already supplied over 3,000 workers into jobs that have lasted over 3 months.

“CSF has been invaluable to us as a business and has enabled us to recruit ready trained employees.”

Pete Aikman, Director, Spires CS

CSF is a valuable recruitment partner if you:

- Need reliable, site-ready workers *today*
- Need to fill urgent skills gaps
- Want to build greater diversity into your workforce
- Struggle to find candidates that fill specific training needs
- Have unfilled apprenticeship places
- Would like to reduce your recruitment costs (CSF is entirely Government funded).

We can supply enthusiastic and experienced workers for immediate starts, with no fees required, for employers across England.

“CSF has developed an extremely successful solution to addressing the construction skills shortage with site-based work experience.”

Cath Jordan, Sanctuary Housing Association

Support for placing CSF trainees is in place until the end of June 2021. Visit our [website](#) to locate your nearest CSF Hub and make contact with an employment support officer to get participants placed immediately into your workforce.



Fire Safety Bill Becomes Law

The **Fire Safety Bill** has now received royal assent and passed into law on 29 April. A Lords amendment that would have prevented building owners passing on remediation costs to leaseholders was defeated during the process. The Fire Safety Act clarifies that the **Fire Safety Order** applies to the structure, external walls and any communal areas of buildings containing two or more domestic premises. It also clarifies that references to external walls include doors or windows in those walls, and anything attached to their exterior, including balconies.

The Act applies to England and Wales and together with the **Building Safety Bill** will form the Government's new building safety regime.

Product Testing Review

Former Chief Construction Adviser Paul Morrell OBE is chairing an **independent review of the system for testing construction products**. Build UK and its members will be contributing to the review, which will examine how to strengthen the current system for testing and certifying construction products to provide confidence they are safe and perform as marketed.

CITB Levy Proposals Published

CITB has published its [Levy Proposals for 2022-2025](#), which would see rates return to 0.35% for PAYE staff and 1.25% for CIS sub-contractors for the next three years. A number of temporary measures introduced in the 2021 Levy Order would be maintained, including the increase in the Levy Exemption Threshold to £120,000 and the 50% reduction in Levy rates for employers with wage bills between £120,000 and £400,000. In line with CITB's Consensus process, Build UK will be formally consulting Levy-paying members on the proposals from 14 June to 30 July.

All Levy-registered employers should have now received their [2021 Levy Return](#), and members are reminded to list all the trade bodies they are a member of when completing and returning it by the deadline of **Wednesday 30 June**.



Small Business
Commissioner

Changes to Prompt Payment Code

The Small Business Commissioner, Philip King, joined a meeting with Build UK members earlier this month to discuss the [changes to the Prompt Payment Code](#), including the new requirement to pay 95% of invoices from businesses with fewer than 50 employees within 30 days from 1 July 2021. We have produced a [summary](#) of the key points which answers the range of queries raised by members.

Build UK members can use the [Common Assessment Standard](#) to identify suppliers with fewer than 50 employees. Question 10 asks '*Are you a Micro, a Small or a Medium-Sized Enterprise?*' and any suppliers that state they are 'Micro' or 'Small' have fewer than 50 employees, in accordance with the EC definitions used within the standard, and this information is independently verified by a certification body on an annual basis.

Free EDI Training

Small and medium sized businesses can access [free online training resources](#) to help them meet the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) requirements of their clients - such as Highways England, Network Rail and Transport for London - and recruit and retain from the full pool of talent.

An Infrastructure Revolution

Build UK has now published more than a dozen [factsheets](#) covering a range of national and local major infrastructure projects, designed to help everyone in the industry explain

what each one is and why it is being built in Britain today.

PI Insurance Guide

Since the Grenfell Tower fire, businesses in construction have found it increasingly difficult to obtain Professional Indemnity (PI) insurance.

Build UK has published a comprehensive **guide** to PI insurance which provides an overview of what it is, why it is needed, and how it can be obtained in the current market.

People Survey Results Published

The results of the third cross-industry 'People Survey', carried out by Build UK on behalf of the CLC in April, have now been published. Providing an up-to-date snapshot of the ongoing impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the construction workforce, **Maintaining Employment in Construction** indicates that there will be a reduction of 1.2% in the size of the workforce by July. However, the number of apprentices employed is expected to increase by 2.7 % over the next three months, and the number of graduates taken on this September is expected to be 17% higher than last September.



Foreign Worker Flowchart

Build UK has produced an easy to follow **flowchart** on the process of employing a foreign worker, which covers the EU Settlement Scheme, the Points-Based Immigration System and the Skilled Worker Visa, with links to further guidance where required. All the latest Brexit information is available on our dedicated **Brexit webpage**.

Help to Grow for SMEs

As part of the Government's **Help to Grow** scheme, a free 12-week programme for small businesses will be launched in June. 'Help to Grow: Management' is designed to be manageable alongside full-time work and covers key areas such as financial management, innovation and digital adoption, with one-on-one support from a business mentor.

Delivered by leading business schools across the country, the programme will help business leaders to develop a tailored growth plan, and businesses with between 5 and 249 employees can **register their interest** now.

Common Assessment Standard Rollout

There are now 10 major Contractors and Clients specifying the Common Assessment Standard after Kier, Sir Robert McAlpine and Derwent London became the latest organisations to confirm they have adopted it for their pre-qualification requirements. The full list is available on the [Build UK website](#) and members of the supply chain can obtain the Common Assessment Standard from any one of three Recognised Assessment Bodies - Achilles, CHAS or Constructionline.

The [Common Assessment Standard](#), which is endorsed by the CLC, has two levels of certification - desktop and site-based - and companies should apply for the appropriate level dependent upon their trade, size and requirements of their clients. Companies that are certified against the standard by a Recognised Assessment Body can use the appropriate version of the Common Assessment Standard logo.



Help us to retain great talent in the UK construction industry

CTRS remains free to use until 2022

The Construction Leadership Council (CLC) has confirmed its continued commitment to supporting the Construction Talent Retention Scheme.

The CTRS will remain completely free to use for all construction businesses and candidates until at least April 2022. In the meantime, the CLC is working with the CITB and others to support its on-going development, which includes developing a new 'Talentview Construction' early careers offering.

[Learn more about the future plans](#)

MEMBER BENEFITS



H&S Advice and Business Shield from Stallard Kane Associates

FeRFA are keen to provide additional benefits to our members and we work hard to secure partners who offer simple solutions that could help you and your business.

For a number of years, our partner **Stallard Kane Associates Ltd** have provided FeRFA Business Shield as part of the FeRFA membership package and as we approach the anniversary of this long term relationship we are delighted to confirm the expansion of the offering moving forward.

With immediate effect you will receive the following services for **FREE**:

- **Unlimited** HR & employment law telephone support via the FeRFA Business Shield helpline on 0345 076 6485
- **Unlimited** health & safety telephone support via the FeRFA Business Shield helpline on 0345 076 6485
- Access to the FeRFA Business Shield exclusive members area with many downloadable templates and guidance such as risk assessments.
- Complimentary gap analysis to review your current health & safety and/or HR & employment law management systems. This can be carried out at your premises or remotely subject to availability.
- Complimentary training needs analysis

The above are **ALL** included as part of your annual FeRFA membership and there is no charge to set up additional access.

Your dedicated Account Manager is **Barry Nicol** who will be more than happy to discuss the above in greater detail should you have any queries, wish to arrange a meeting, or if you indeed require additional consultancy support on top of the above complimentary benefits such as the creation of documentation including policies, contracts of employment or indeed workplace and site audits. Barry's contact details are:

Barry Nicol

Email: barry@skaltd.co.uk

Mobile: 07854 938693

In addition, should you be unable to find your login details, or if you wish to set up additional users from your company to the service at no extra charge, please email Barry (barry@skaltd.co.uk) and he will arrange accordingly.

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

PIB Insurance Brokers

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.



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.](#)

MEMBERS' CASE STUDIES

Healthcare Resin Flooring

Lindum BMS appointed **ACC Flooring Ltd** to carry out the works included in the resin flooring & walls package to the refurbished Seclusion Room at the Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services Unit at Ash Villa in Sleaford.

The installation took 5 days to complete & the client was delighted with the outcome.

[Read more.](#)



Industrial Resin Flooring

An incorrectly specified bitumen material was installed in this chemical bund. The material failed after being exposed to chemicals used in UPVC door manufacturing.

Koster Aquatecnic Ltd were asked to provide a solution.

[Read more.](#)



Industrial Resin Flooring

The Long Rock Depot, Penzance project formed part of the larger Great Western Railway enhancement scheme to improve the sleeper train service between Cornwall and London.

As part of the improvement scheme, GWR constructed a new £20million depot at Long Rock in addition to redeveloping the existing facility, and **TPS360** were fortunate to have

played an integral role in each phase. Assisting with the specification and planning of the works alongside many other trades on a very tight programme, we worked closely with the client, offering and providing guidance and advice every step of the way.

[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.



Surfex moved to June 2022

Following review of the major considerations, the Board of Surfex Ltd - unanimously supported by OCCA - has taken the decision to reschedule the dates in the interests of allowing Surfex to take place in a period that offers a high degree of confidence in a successful outcome.

Accordingly the dates of Surfex are 7 – 8 June 2022.



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.



FeRFA The Resin Flooring Association

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