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TODAY

ISSUE 102 SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2022

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In the roofing industry, we don't need telling that upskilling and training sufficient numbers of roofers to meet demand remains a huge challenge and this edition features several articles on the topic.

We are fortunate to have a well established and growing infrastructure of training delivery - whether FE colleges, in-house contractor centres, manufacturing training facilities, or, of course, our dedicated Roof Training Groups - and we have contributions from several of these!

In our opening article, we speak to Chris Messenger about his experience of delivering the first Roofer Apprentice Standard End Point Assessments, and the greater part employers need to play in the process.

Our next article develops what started as a LinkedIn post that attracted half a million views and 700+ comments. Here, Stewart Rowles does the sums, comparing what a roofing apprentice can earn in the same time it takes to complete a university degree - as well as replying to some of the comments the post provoked.

Of course, it's not just apprentices at the start of their roofing careers that need training. Experienced professionals across the industry are training to qualify as teachers so that they can deliver courses across the range of roofing disciplines - as Denise Cherry explains.

As this year's Skillbuild heats are set to climax in the finals to be held at Edinburgh College this November, NFRC's Simon Dixon shares his secrets to staging a successful event in this highlight of the industry calendar.

Mastermind of another annual roofing competition - BMI's Mat Woodyatt - gives us the lowdown on how this year's Apprentice of the Year competitors did, the role of the judges and how the contest helps develop the skills industry needs.

Which brings us on to Matt Ford, former BMI Apprentice of the Year winner, who started his own company last year and already employs a team of five. He shares how he's overcome business challenges and what he's already learned about leading a company.

In this edition, we also take a look at the work of supremely talented roofer and leadworker, Craig Marshall, founder of CM Leadworks and creator of stunning lead artworks.

Changing topic, as contractors look for clarity and confidence that the systems they are using can demonstrate compliance, SIG recounts what the company is doing to make product information readily accessible.

Regular columnist, John Mercer explains how pitched roofs should be regularly inspected and maintained to improve roof lifespans; and Roofing Today contributor, SPRA's Anthony Hogan, provides a clear account of fire classifications and what BROOF(t4) means.

Lastly, we have two stories on mastic asphalt projects which couldn't be more different. The first is a restoration of a beautiful Grade II listed school roof, while the second is the resurfacing of a Glasgow car park and the challenges faced during the project's delivery in the midst of the pandemic.

I hope you feel inspired to read on about all of the developments happening in our exciting industry!



Dr Claire Griffiths, Editor

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Contractor Dies in Morrisons Roof Collapse



A man working as a contractor at a Morrisons warehouse in Wakefield died when a roof collapsed on Monday 2 August 2022.

West Yorkshire Police said they were called to a Morrisons supermarket distribution warehouse at Wakefield 41 Business Park in Kenmore Road at 10.20am.

The contractor was part of a team which had been called in to inspect the warehouse roof. During the inspection, the roof collapsed falling on top of the contractor and crushing him to death. It is not clear what was wrong with the roof or what issues were being examined by the contractor team.

Paramedics were called and tried to save the worker but he was eventually pronounced dead at the scene. The police are treating the incident as an "industrial accident".

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is continuing investigations following the fatal incident and the coroner's office has been informed.

A spokesperson for Morrisons said: "This is a terrible and shocking tragedy and our thoughts are with his family. Police and other investigating authorities are on site."

A HSE spokesperson said the organisation will be "available to support if called upon to do so".

Fire Breaks Out at Northampton Roofing Merchant



A fierce blaze broke out on the evening of 22 July at the premises of Steadfast Roofing Merchants in Woolaston near Wellingborough.

Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service said they were called to a 'major fire' just after 9pm.

Crews from Northampton, Wellingborough, Earls Barton, Rushden, Burton Latimer, as well as specialist teams from Corby and Towcester were called to tackle the fire in Doddington Road.

Crews remained at the scene overnight to deal with 'hot spots' and urged people to avoid the area. People living nearby were warned to keep their doors and windows shut.

The company, which started in 1998, employs 18 people and has two other branches in Cambridge and Milton Keynes. Steadfast Roofing Ltd also operated out of the premises as a roofing contractor.

CITB Pilot Scheme to Improve Access to Training

CITB started an £800,000 'employer network' pilot project in August, aiming to simplify the funding for training process for small and micro construction businesses.

Around 3,800 levy-registered construction businesses will be eligible for the pilot, offered across five locations in England, Scotland and Wales.

In the new model, construction businesses will not need to access the grant scheme, as CITB is supporting the employer network to help organise and fund training directly.

Many of the current requirements around training being "in scope" will also be relaxed to ensure the pilots can

be as reflective of the employer's needs as possible. Training can be in anything that helps a business work better, whether that's a construction skill; a health and safety course; a business skill; or a future skill need, such as net zero.

Tim Balcon, CITB Chief Executive, said: "I'm really excited about this pilot – this is about putting employers in the driving seat to identify and address their local skills challenges and how best CITB can align our funding and resources to support their skills needs. I would encourage employers in the pilot areas to get involved and use their voice to shape and engage with the local training provision."



"The pilots are being funded by CITB and delivered by local organisations with a pedigree in finding and delivering training in their area."

The five pilot areas covered are:

- Inverness in Scotland, provided by Scottish Civils Training Group
- Norfolk in England, provided by Norfolk Construction Training Group
- Lincoln in England, provided by Lincoln Group Training Association
- South West Wales, provided by Cyfle Building Skills
- The final pilot is specifically for Civil Engineering firms in the Midlands, provided by CECA Midlands.

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LHBC Launches Funded Trainee Scheme

Local Authority Building Control (LABC), the membership organisation for 3,500 public service building surveyors in England and Wales, has launched a fully funded trainee scheme to attract new recruits into the profession.

Following the Building Safety Act 2022, LABC is boosting building control capacity in light of new responsibilities and support for the Building Safety Regulator.

The capacity building programme will see 150 people recruited into the building control profession with a 3-year fully funded learning and development plan.

LABC is looking for people who can demonstrate leadership skills, solve problems creatively and work under pressure. The programme is nationwide with a progression pathway. The funded scheme means learning and development will be fully subsidised, and recruits will be paid while they study and progress.

The programme allows trainees to gain the skills, knowledge and experience to be able to competently deal with the full range of building work and other statutory functions undertaken by building control. Trainees' development and learning will be supported while they undertake



studies for the Level 4 and Level 5 Diplomas in Building Control followed by funded Level 6 (degree level) learning once they are in permanent employment with a local authority.

The educational programme provided by LABC is combined

with experiential learning gained while being placed with a local authority building control team. Shadowing building control professionals gives recruits first hand opportunity to see how the knowledge they gain is applied practically to make sure buildings are safe.

After the three-year programme trainees will be able to apply for roles within local authority building control teams – this could be as an assistant building control surveyor or higher.

Details of the scheme can be found at: <https://www.labc.co.uk/new-entrants>.

Three New Board Appointments at NARM

The National Association of Rooflight Manufacturers (NARM) has appointed three new directors to its board.

Pictured left to right, Sioned Roberts, Marketing Director at Whitesales; Jon Shooter, Group Managing Director at Glazing Vision; and Conor Logan, Technical Director at Kingspan Light + Air, bring diverse experience to NARM, whose membership encompasses manufacturers and suppliers of all types of rooflight.

NARM Chairman, Ian Weakford, said, "These board appointments are a major boost to NARM's



resources and knowledge base. Sioned, Jon and Conor will each play an important role in helping us to fulfil our purpose: to support best practice in all aspects of rooflighting, from design and specification, to installation and



maintenance. I and my fellow directors are delighted to welcome them to the board and we look forward to working closely together."

"The construction industry currently faces many challenges,



with legislative changes, supply chain issues and the need to urgently address climate change. Trade associations like NARM can help to deliver positive change by developing effective responses to these challenges".

SIG Builds Compliance Team

Building products supplier SIG is investing in compliance and governance with the appointment of a Compliance Director and growing the specialist team which will manage compliance through the supply chain and help support the Code for Construction Product Information.

Providing specialist product solutions puts an onus on SIG



staff to support procurement and installation decisions with the accountability and governance to manage risk.

Steve Marr, formerly Procurement Director at SIG, has taken up the role of Compliance Director, managing an internal team of 11 compliance specialists. This function builds on work already carried out as part of SIG Assured which ensures that products supplied by SIG are legal and compliant to national UK standards, including Environmental Product Declarations.

Steve Marr said, "First, we must ensure the products we manufacture are compliant in every respect. Second, we must provide our customers with assurance that the vast range of products in our inventory are supported by correct and legal documentation. Third we must ensure that our staff have the level of training and expertise needed to support decision-making by the customer."

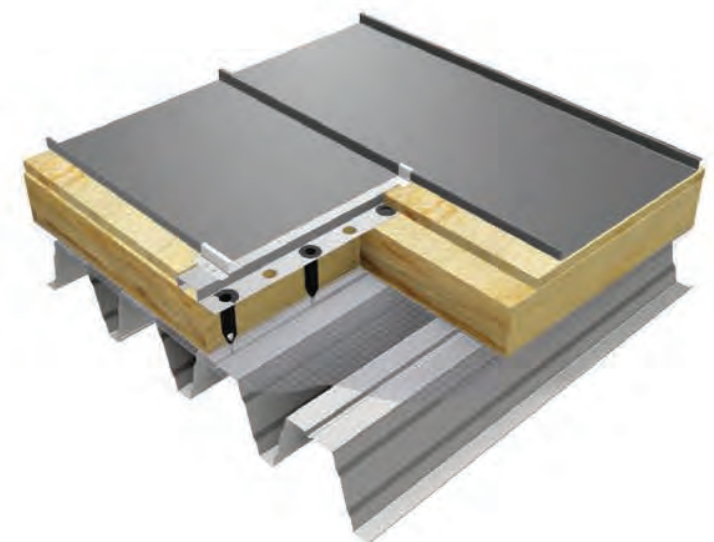
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Specialist Commercial Roofers Completes MBO



Specialist commercial roofing contractor Nautilus completed a management buyout (MBO) in August.

The MBO will fuel the South Wales based company's next stage of growth as a family run business, in a deal advised on by the GS Verde Group.

Since Nautilus Roofing and Exteriors was started 10 years ago by Stuart Jeffreys and Andrew Brush, Nautilus has worked with a range of commercial, industrial and third sector clients, employing a multi-disciplinary approach to roofing and cladding services.

The buyout sees Stuart Jeffreys take full ownership of the business. He said: "I am very proud of what Nautilus has achieved to date, and it sets an excellent precedent for what is to come. Our expert craftsmanship and professionalism, combined with an overarching goal of collaboration and innovation has seen us deliver the best possible projects for clients.

"With plans to invest in the existing highly trained and motivated team, new staff and expand its service offering, the sky really is the limit for Nautilus."

Apollo MD Ian Cornelius to Retire

The MD of Apollo, part of the global adhesive manufacturer H.B. Fuller, Ian Cornelius, is retiring after nearly three decades at the company.

Apollo's strategic approach and growth into today's £40m+ business.



The business in UK and Europe will now be led by Ralph Kussmann, H.B. Fuller MD for Construction Adhesives in EIMEA.

Ian joined Apollo in 1994 as a sales professional before becoming UK sales manager in 2000. While serving as sales and marketing director in 2011, Ian led company growth in the roofing sector and company as a whole. Appointed MD in 2015, Ian has since enhanced

Ian said, "It has been a truly incredible journey. I feel tremendously honoured and privileged to have had the opportunity to lead such a talented team and wonderful business. I would like to express my deep gratitude and appreciation to colleagues, customers, and suppliers, past and present, for their role in making Apollo what it is today."

'Transformational' Acquisition of Marley Boosts Marshalls Half Year

In its half year report to 30 June 2022, Marshalls plc, the construction product manufacturer, has attributed its trading performance increases to its 'transformational' acquisition of the Marley Group.

Reporting an adjusted operating profit for Marley of £8.6 million since its acquisition on 29 April 2022, the company adds Marley "traded positively in the post-acquisition period" and its integration is 'in line with its plan'.

Marshalls reports revenue growth of 17% reflecting 2 months contribution from Marley, and growth of 7% on a like for like basis.

Adjusted operating profit for Marshalls as a whole is up 15% on 2021 at £48m, and the company says this was largely driven by the benefit of Marley, together with a strong performance from Marshalls Building Products division. Adjusted profit before tax is £44.6m, up 13% on last year.

The company's net debt of £252.3m reflects the bank funding to partially pay for the acquisition of Marley and it quotes the Construction Product Association Summer Forecast of growth this year and next of 2.5% and 1.6% respectively, creating a positive outlook to pay off the debt.

Transformational Acquisition

The acquisition of the roof tile manufacturer further diversifies and extends Marshall's coverage of construction market sub-sectors, the company says. Marshalls says the Marley acquisition enhances the Group's exposure to the cyclically resilient UK roofing RMI market, which has a strong medium-term outlook, underpinned by attractive structural drivers such as the UK's ageing housing stock with a product range principally



focused on less discretionary products.

It adds that the Marshalls and Marley businesses employ a similar commercial strategy that focuses on generating pull demand from key specifiers and influencers. Marshalls says the integration process is 'progressing well' and there is a clear cultural alignment between the businesses.

Marley Positive Balance

Martyn Coffey, Marshalls Chief Executive, said: "Marshalls delivered a robust first half trading performance, demonstrating the strength of our business model and the benefits of greater diversification resulting from the transformational Marley deal completed in April 2022 and other acquisitions of recent years.

"Looking forward, the Board acknowledges that the macro outlook is becoming less certain due to geopolitical events driving up inflation and adversely impacting consumer confidence. Notwithstanding this, the Board's expectations for the Group as a whole remain in line with market expectations for the full year, with the more positive backdrop within Marshalls Building Products and Marley expected to balance the continuation of tougher trading conditions.

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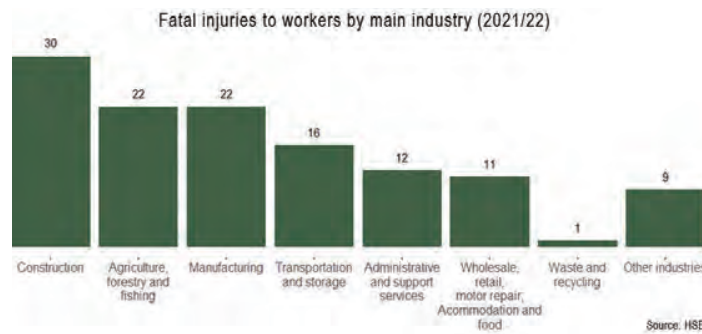
Work at Height in Construction Causes Most Deaths at Work

Work-related fatalities numbered 123 in the UK last year, with most occurring in the construction industry, according to Health and Safety Executive (HSE) figures.

The annual data release in August covers the period from April 2021 to March 2022. The industries with the highest deaths were construction (30), agriculture, forestry, and fishing (22), and manufacturing (22); though agriculture, forestry and fishing has the highest rate of fatal injury per 100,000 workers.

The three most common causes of fatal injuries continue to be falling from height (29), being struck by a moving vehicle (23), and being struck by a moving object (18).

The number of worker deaths in 2021/22 is lower than the previous year, though it is in line with pre-pandemic figures. There has been a long-term downward trend in the rate of fatal injuries to workers, though in the years prior to the coronavirus pandemic the rate was broadly flat.

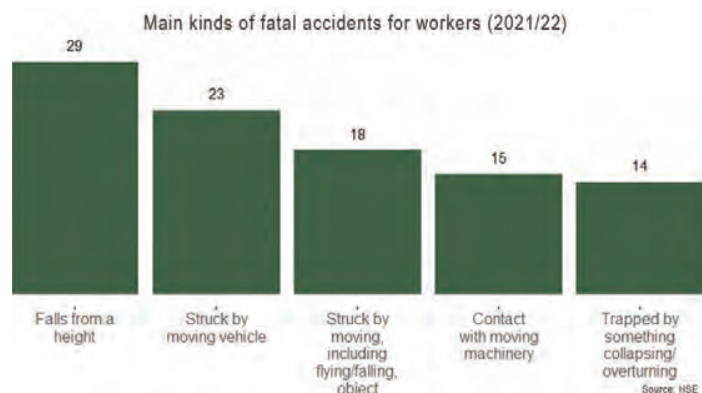


A further 80 members of the public were killed following a work-related accident in 2021/22. This is an increase on the previous year but below the pre-pandemic level. This is likely to reflect the various COVID-19 restrictions in place, HSE says.

HSE's Chief Executive Sarah Albon said: "Every loss of life is a tragedy, and we are committed to making workplaces safer and holding employers to account for their actions, as part of our mission to protect people and places."

The HSE's annual figures for Mesothelioma, the cancer caused by past exposure to asbestos show 2,544 people died from the disease in 2020. This is in line with the average of 2,523 deaths over the previous 8 years.

Current mesothelioma deaths reflect exposure to asbestos that mainly occurred before the 1980s and annual deaths are expected to decline during the next decade.



CPA Construction Industry Summer Forecast 2022

Construction output is set to rise by 2.5% in 2022 and 1.6% in 2023, according to the latest Construction Products Association (CPA) Summer Forecast. Strong growth in warehouses and infrastructure offsets a slowdown in private housing and a fall in private housing repair, maintenance and improvement (RM&I) from historic high levels.

The industrial sector, which covers warehouse and factory activity, is forecast to be the fastest growing sector in the next two years. Output in this sector is forecast to rise by 15% in 2022 and 9.8% in 2023, as activity continues to be boosted by the strength of online retailing, as well as manufacturers' need for increased stocks, given the persistence of supply chain issues over the past two years.

Infrastructure, the second largest construction sector, will also be a key driver of growth with output expected to rise by 8.5% this year and 3.8% in 2023. Long-term pipelines of work in regulated sectors such as roads, rail, water and electricity will drive growth.

This is boosted further by major projects such as HS2, Thames Tideway Tunnel, and Hinkley Point C despite ongoing delays and cost overruns. However, medium-term, local infrastructure is likely to suffer from councils being financially constrained. Central government projects will also be affected as there will be no further finance beyond November 2021's Spending Review. This is despite an ambitious infrastructure pipeline and strong cost inflation.

Private housing remains cautiously optimistic as annual house price growth continues at double-digit rates and major house builders continue to stress the strength of the market. However, with the UK economy expected to contract in 2022 Q4, there remains uncertainty.

The CPA anticipates that UK annual house price inflation will slow to 6% later this year and 2.5% in 2023 - as lower housing demand is partially offset by a lower supply of homes onto the market, unless unemployment rises significantly and increases the number of forced sellers onto the market.

Private housing output is forecast to rise by 1% in 2022 and remain flat in 2023. However, if house price inflation continues to go up and demand is enabled by high mortgage availability, risks may be skewed towards the positive.

Private housing RM&I - the third largest construction sector - is the sector most exposed to changes in consumer confidence and real incomes. It is also the sector that is most exposed to materials and products cost inflation, as small contractors are less able to plan and purchase in advance for projects. Output is expected to fall by 3% this year and a further 4% next year. However, given that activity in the sector reached historic highs in early 2022, it has the potential for falling more. This is dependent on the extent to which falling consumer confidence translates into households' reduced investment in their own homes and the risks are to the downside.

CPA Economics Director Noble Francis said: "Construction activity currently on site is robust, higher than pre-pandemic. It is likely to remain strong near-term due to projects already signed up to, especially in the buoyant infrastructure and warehouses sub-sectors. However, construction is not immune to the effects of the wider economy. Over the next 12 months, the rapidly rising cost of living, slowdown in economic growth, and falls in consumer confidence and spending will undoubtedly impact on private construction investment going forward."

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An Update on the North West Region



“There are positive trends for the roofing community in the region, as more than 50 roof slating/tiling apprentices are starting their training journey this month at training locations in Bolton and Preston Colleges”, reports North West Roof Training Group (NWR TG) Training Manager Sue Wharton. “Adding to this vibrant, regional scene will be the new intake later in the year at Simian.”

Meanwhile, NWR TG is delighted that Marley has agreed to supply Preston College with materials for their new centre, including tiles, battens, membranes and more.

Sue said, “This partnership is as timely as it is welcomed, and we would like to thank Marley for sharing our vision for the future”. Sue also expressed heartfelt thanks to Midland Lead, which has been quick to offer its support to roofing apprenticeship training providers, with their ongoing initiative of supplying much needed lead, which, once used, is collected and recycled.

Apprenticeship Mentors

Turning to apprenticeships, Sue says, “Behind every successful apprentice, lies a great mentor, someone that they can turn to for advice, information and support. This has a significant impact, not just on apprentices’ experiences, but also their long term career.

“Entering a new workplace, particularly if you are from an under-represented background, can be disconcerting, and a mentor can provide support and create a sense of inclusion.

“A good mentor requires a set of core mentoring skills that need developing and nurturing. Mentors play a vital role and time must be invested in their development.

“Through the mentoring experience, employees can gain greater job satisfaction, more career success, and possibly pay rises. Through the role, mentors also gain the opportunity to develop leadership skills in a relatively low-risk environment. However, this brings its own challenges, as mentors can believe that the role slows down their own efforts, which can have an effect on pay; so managing the process is crucial to its success.

Recruitment

Sue adds, “We ‘insiders’ see such a lot of good in our sector, so it’s time to emphasise and celebrate that to those outside. Working with City of Liverpool, we have an opportunity to target the unemployed initially, by demonstrating basic skills, arranging H&S courses, using technology with VR headsets to show what it’s like to work at height, and arranging interviews.

“Working together, and showing commitment to our sector, we are asking businesses in the Liverpool area (Liverpool, the Wirral, Sefton, Knowsley, Rainford, Halton), or those looking for labour in the area, to help by getting in touch with us (nwrooftraining@gmail /07801 278282) as our first hurdle is to demonstrate that we are all on the same side, share the same goals, and are prepared to consider every avenue in our search for new recruits.”

Span Roofing Demonstrates Dedication to Training with BMI Competitor Addison Myers



Span Roofing, in Weston Super Mare, is a family run business established in 2001. The company is a long standing NFRC member and provides a variety of roofing solutions from flat roofing, single ply, green roofing to pitched roofing, covering both domestic and commercial projects across the South West and Wales areas.

At the heart of the company are directors, Steve Middle, Neil Stamp, Andy Stamp and Paul Stamp, who all took over the business previously known as DE Stamp Roofing from their late father Derek. Each director’s career started on the tools, where they spent many years, learning all aspects of roofing and becoming specialists in their field. Their business values are very much focused on providing internal training for their employees and offering progression opportunities. Many of Span Roofing’s employees have been with the company for decades, working their way up through the ranks from labourers to highly skilled, qualified roofers.

Addison Myers aged 22, joined Span Roofing’s Tiling Division in November 2020 after deciding he wanted to pursue a career where he could learn a trade and progress; he had no previous roofing experience. During his time at the company, Addison has worked on a variety of exciting projects, mainly new build housing developments. Working alongside his colleague

Dan, a highly experienced roofer, Addison has learned first-hand all aspects of completing a pitched roof from start to finish. Working with Main Contractors and a wider site team he has been able to fully immerse himself in site working.

Positive Attitude

Addison’s positive attitude and ability to learn were quickly noticed and he was put forward for the Specialist Apprenticeship Programme. Here he was able to fine tune the skills he had gained on site and build his knowledge even further, learning about industry standards and specifications as well as gaining his basic H&S training and his Lead Welding and Bossing certificate. His confidence and knowledge grew, and Addison, with the support of his employers at Span Roofing and trainer Lesley Hughes from the Wales National Roof Training Group, entered this year’s BMI Apprentice of the Year competition.

The theme of the 2022 BMI Apprentice of the Year contest was ‘empowerment’. Addison said: “The BMI competition was an excellent experience that pushed me out of my comfort zone. I met some brilliant people who gave me lots of inspiration. It has also shown me where I want to take my career and my future career aspirations are to create my own roofing company and build a good reputation in the industry”.



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Evaluating the First Roofer Apprentice Standard End Point Assessments

In the biggest shake up of roofing training for many years, in 2020 roofing apprentices started their learning on the new Apprenticeship Standard curriculum.

The apprenticeship Standard was set by industry with the idea being that roofing employers had the opportunity to play a critically important part in specifying what they wanted their apprentices to know by the time they completed the two-year apprenticeship.

Now, the first cohort of roofing students in England has completed their Roofer Standard training and apprentices are currently being assessed to test the knowledge and skills they have gained.

Important Employer Role

The Roofer Standard End Point Assessment involves apprentices compiling a portfolio of evidence gained from tasks completed at work. Along with progressing in Maths and English and completing training, this takes the apprentice to the point of a 'Gateway Declaration'.

Employers have another critically important role at this stage: agreeing, along with the apprentice and training provider, that the apprentice is ready to undergo an End Point Assessment (EPA). The employer then makes a Gateway Declaration and the assessment is arranged with an EPA organisation.

Chris Messenger, Roofing Lecturer at Leeds College of Building (LCB) Roofing Department, is now working freelance for EPA organisation, the NOCN Group, and is currently conducting the first roofer apprentice assessments.

Chris explains the process, "The training provider gets the



apprentices to the Gateway and the lads prepare their portfolios. At this point it's over to the employer who has to decide if their apprentice is ready to start the assessment process. The employer is in control and notifies the end point assessment provider. There's a 12-week ticking clock then for the workplace observation and interview to take place."

EPA Workplace Observation and Interview

EPAs take place during a two-day on-site visit by the assessor who arranges with the employer a suitable time to come and observe and question the apprentice. The assessor evaluates the apprentice on a range of criteria, including technical skills, health and safety, communication with their team, and with customers. Apprentices also have a 45-minute technical knowledge interview with the assessor who will use the apprentice's portfolio as a point of reference.

In order to avoid any conflict of interest, Chris is travelling around

the country to visit candidates outside of any areas where he might encounter former LCB students. Visits to the workplace have to be arranged with employers beforehand, and the employer is expected to select suitable projects and sites on which apprentices will be able to demonstrate their skills.

The Employers Role in EPAs

Clearly, the change from NVQs to the Roofer Apprentice Standard means employers are expected to play a much more proactive role in their apprentice's training. Employers' willingness to engage in the process is critical to its success.

Chris says, "For years, with NVQs and Diplomas, everything was organised and delivered by the college or training provider and the apprentice left with a certificate in their hand. But now employers have got things they need to do, and that's a big ask at this time especially, as they are all so busy.

Employers have to play a bigger, more active part in selecting the work we observe apprentices doing as part of the EPA. The success of the EPA is greatly dependent on employers taking a proactive and positive approach to their apprentice's assessment.

"Employers have to play a bigger, more active part in selecting the work we observe apprentices doing as part of the EPA. The success of the EPA is greatly dependent on employers taking a proactive and positive approach to their apprentice's assessment."

Employers have to juggle the need for apprentices to be able to showcase their skills on a suitably challenging project, with the demands of their order book and their workforce's timetable.

A NOCN spokesperson adds, "Because the roofing industry is mobile, planning an End Point Assessment requires a certain amount of timing and certainty. We have collaborated with both employers and training providers to ensure that where an employer's workload is variable, we can plan for the short term. However, as with any other regulated exam, NOCN must plan ahead of time to ensure compliance with examination location."

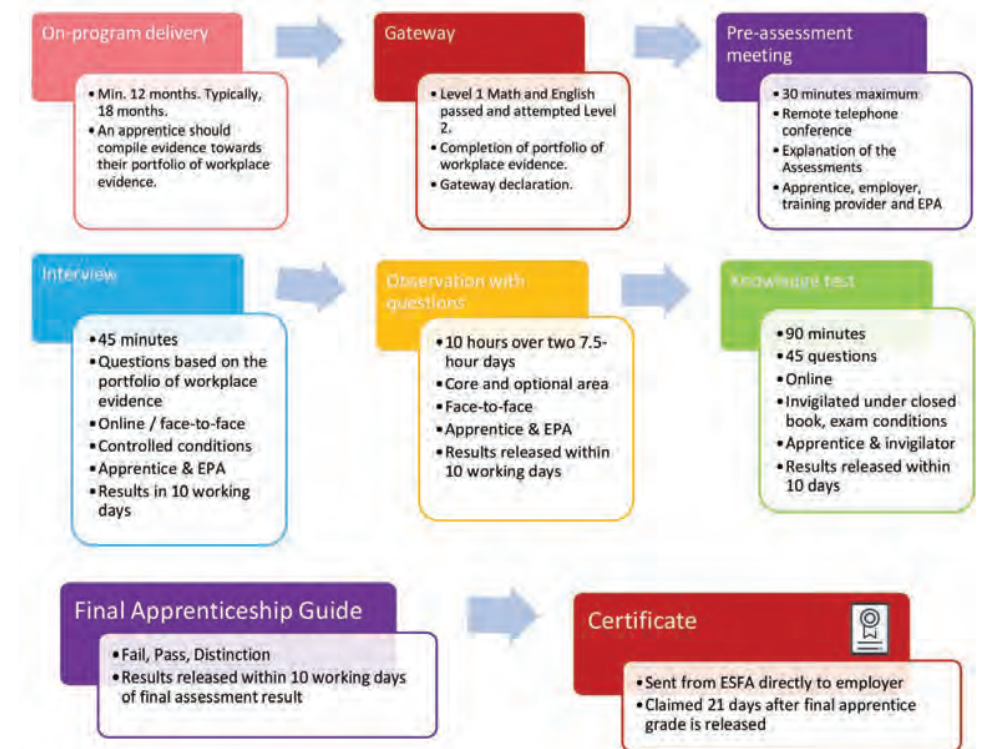
Selecting the Right Work

It's not just getting the timing right, selecting the right work for the assessor to observe can be a challenge for employers. While, in reality, apprentices might be set to felt and batten for two days, for example, such work would not be suitable for an EPA, as Chris explains: "It can't be a minor two-slate repair job – the job must be sufficiently detailed and prestigious for the apprentice to display what they know."

Roofing, of course, has a diverse range of disciplines, even within the Tiler and Slater Standard, apprentices must know about fibre cement, slate, single lap, interlocking tiles etc. Again, in practice, no roofing project would involve installing all types of roofing, so it has to be accepted that observations are focused and detailed, with the interview covering the range of technical knowledge.

Along with the workplace observation and interview, the apprentice is also required to sit a 90-minute, externally invigilated examination consisting of 46 questions and 5 scenarios.

If the apprentice successfully completes all parts of the EPA they then fail, pass, or pass with distinction, leading to a CSCS blue Skilled Worker card, and a certificate is issued by the EPA organisation.



Feedback

As these are the first EPAs, Chris is collecting feedback. So far, he has found apprentices are very knowledgeable, citing the relevant British Standards, discriminating between warm and cold roofs, as well speaking about accessories such as pre-formed flashings or rooflight installations.

Yet Chris has also found that, as apprentices are meeting the assessor for the first time, they can sometimes struggle to communicate what they are doing

even when they are clearly able to carry out their work well. They can also be discouraged by the pressure of being recorded. Chris's experience with students is key here, in quickly putting apprentices at ease and drawing out the apprentice's knowledge.

This brings us on to another point emerging as the EPAs get underway: the availability of suitably experienced and qualified end point assessors. Anyone in the roofing sector will be familiar with the ongoing skills shortage, and assessors have to be trade specific as technical knowledge is being evaluated.

Trade Specific End Point Assessors

The challenge to appoint sufficient end point assessors is serious, when you consider the number of roofing apprentices and roof training providers. For example, LCB alone had 45 roofing apprentices finish training this summer, each needing a two-day EPA, creating more than 90 working days of visits. Demand is outstripping assessor supply, as Chris can attest as he is booked up until January 2023. Meanwhile, NOCN has over 200 apprentices registered and there are several other assessment organisations.

Roofing tutors anticipated these assessment bottlenecks when the Standard was being discussed in its early stages more than five years ago. They suggested the solution was to bring the EPA into a college context, as other trades do. However, the Assessment Plan was agreed and validated by government in its present form, so assessors are making the best of it for the moment.

Chris adds, "I want to carry out these EPAs to a high professional standard that will assure employers and apprentices that the two years of training has been worthwhile. We've got to work with the EPAs as they are."

There are plans to revise the Roofer Standard being overseen by the Institute of Apprenticeships and Technical Education. Valentina Moscu, from the Institute explains: "The trailblazer group is reviewing the apprenticeship with the view [to] revise the occupational standard, end point assessment plan and funding band. They will also consider whether there is any need to amend the footprint of the occupational standard in terms of competence, for example by adding new options. The work on this is likely to continue into 2023."

Roofer Apprenticeship Standard

The government Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education holds all the approved Standards for England and the skills, knowledge and behaviours an apprentice will need to have learned by the end of their roofing apprenticeship are listed on the Institute's website

<https://www.instituteofapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/roofer-v1-0>

The Standard includes core skills, core knowledge and core behaviours all roofers need to train for and then offers three more training options for the roofing disciplines of:

- Option 1: Roof Slater and Tiler
- Option 2: Waterproof Membranes Installer
- Option 3: Roof Sheeter and Cladder

Each option has its own skills and knowledge requirements. For example, a qualified roof slater and tiler who has successfully completed the Standard should know how to use key dimensions relating to batten gauges and minimum and maximum head lap. Whereas a Roof Sheeter and Cladder should be able to install built-up, standing seam, secret fix, composite and fibre-cement systems and rainwater goods.

Employers involved in creating the Roofer Standard include: Associated Roofing Maintenance, SPV Roofing, Swift Roofing, Bracknell Roofing, Avonside Group, Barclay Roofing, Jordan Heritage Roofing, Redwing Roofing, BRC Roofing, Advanced Roofing, Capital Roofing, Cladding Services, Lakesmere, Fildes Roofing, Oxford Asphalt, and Hodgson Sayers.



Would They Choose University if They Knew?

Stewart Rowles, Training Manager at NCTS/Master Roofers Academy



Recently, I posted my thoughts about apprenticeships in construction (and in general) on LinkedIn. The post struck a chord with the community and it was viewed half a million times with over 700 people commenting on it.

The vast majority of commentators were in agreement that not enough is being done to showcase apprenticeships to school leavers.

LinkedIn limits character counts on posts to 3000 characters, so to write a broad and fair article was

difficult, but here it is, reproduced below as it appeared on LinkedIn.

Comments and Rebuttals

Some of the comments the LinkedIn post attracted were rebuttals to a number of points in my post.

For instance, several people asserted opinions that money is not the only factor in life that we should pursue.

I actually completely agree with this point, but my post wasn't offering *one* path. I was highlighting an alternative to

university which may appeal to different people. A bias towards university progression in schools currently means apprenticeships are often not being talked about in any meaningful way.

Pursuit of Knowledge

Another point raised was that the pursuit of knowledge and expertise is only reserved for the university experience. I strongly disagree with this standpoint. Construction offers a wealth of knowledge exploration and there really is never an end to what you can learn about roofing.

A bias towards university progression in schools currently means apprenticeships are often not being talked about in any meaningful way.

I am now 42 years old and have been in the industry for 24 years and I am still learning all the time, even within my role as a roofing teacher.

And, perhaps what is most important here, is to note that exceptional children are being encouraged (very strenuously) to pursue the path of university education: "You are such a bright

student, it would be a terrible waste for you to not go to Uni".

But do we not need exceptional people in our industry? Could we not benefit from the brightest and best?

I think we absolutely should be looking to bring in outstanding talent as much as possible. You only have to look at the German and French roofing industries to

realise that the trade in those countries is viewed with high regard, like that of engineers.

If we want to improve the 'bad image' of the UK roofing sector, a good start would be to improve the overall competency of those in the trade and to encourage more sharp minds who could help to raise the bar of skills. That being said, we should not forget that there are a huge number of opportunities off the tools too, for instance in estimating, project management, technical roles and the many office based work roles which are available in our sector. ■■■

At 16 you can walk into a construction company and start an apprenticeship.

Most lads/lasses would start on, say, £60 per day. (The minimum wage for any apprentice in the UK is £4.81 per hour but very few construction companies pay such a low starting wage.)

£60 x 5 = £300 per week
x 52 = £15,600 per year

(The gov.uk website states that the average starter wage is £17,000 for a pitched roofer and £20,000 starting wage for a scaffolder annually, so I am being conservative here with my estimations.)

By the time that person is 3 years in and qualified, let's say they are now on £80 per day. So:

Years 1, 2 and 3 they earned £46,800 total earnings

Years 4 and 5 they earned £20,800 per year, £41,600 total earnings

So that's a total of £88,400 earned in the same timeframe that a student went to college and university.

That uni student comes out having earned no money and owes money. The national average student loan debt is £45,800

If you showed this to school kids at the stage when they were deciding what options to pick, I think it would drastically alter their perceptions of university or would at least give them another avenue to consider.

Also, by the time the tradesperson has been at it for more than 5 years, it would be safe to assume they would be earning quite a bit more money; let's say £120 a day for argument's sake.

That person is now earning £31,200 annually.

They are already £88k ahead of the uni student in overall wealth over the first 5 years and now heading for even more income and stability.

On the other hand, the average university graduate in their first role earns £20,940 annually.

That's the first £20k they have earned and they are now 22 years old.

By the end of that graduate's first year of earning £20,940, the tradesperson has now earned a total of £119,600.

In addition to this, the average 2 bed house in the UK is now £255,000. To buy such a house, you will need a deposit of 15% (approx £37,500)

You could save that amount of money over 6 years at a rate of £120 per week.

Meanwhile, the university graduate owes £10,000 more than that in student debts.

Compared with 1980, young people today are buying houses at a depleted rate of 50% from that year. But interestingly, university entrants have doubled since 1992, now standing at 2.66 million

students, aged between 18 and 24 years old annually.

That means that more than one in three young people of that age bracket are in further education with very limited income potential until they finish uni.

Young people are struggling to get onto the housing ladder, and it is no surprise given the fact that graduates are opting to have no financial mobility at all until they are 22 years old.

To add, I realise certain professions require university, for instance law and medicine but we can't all do a handful of jobs.

The apprenticeship route opens up over 900 career options to young people as an alternative to university.

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20

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Stepping Up to Improve skills

Denise Cherry, Yorkshire Independent Roof Training Group & Roofing Industry Alliance



The National Roof Training Group (NRTG) project providing Train the Trainer courses has had exceptional success this year and expects a total of 40 trainers to complete the Level 3 Award in Education and Training (AET).

The project has been running for around six months to bring groups of potential roof trainers together to train in education and develop skills and confidence in delivery. Individuals from across the industry have taken part in a series of blended learning sessions and completed a short teaching session to become qualified trainers.

This collaborative project has been funded by the Roofing Industry Alliance (RIA), managed by the NRTG, promoted by regional training groups, federations and training centres. Trainers attending the courses have been attracted from contractors, training centres, manufacturers and suppliers.

The lack of qualified trainers is undoubtedly one of the factors restricting the amount and level of roofing training being carried out, and this programme will have a significant effect across the industry. It will contribute to tackling the skills shortage in roofing by helping to ensure there is sufficient capacity to train and qualify roofers.



The lack of qualified trainers is undoubtedly ... restricting the amount and level of roofing training being carried out, and this programme will have a significant effect across the industry.

The AET courses are attracting those who are most experienced in the industry, coming from a variety of backgrounds to share their knowledge and skills as future trainers.

Learner Benefits

Maddie Harris LSTA (pictured left)

"I started working life as a lead roofer back in the early 90's by completing my Advance City & Guilds leadwork with the Lead Sheet Association (now LSTA). I went on to work at some prestigious locations, notably Westminster Abbey, until I decided to hang up the tools in a trade-off for nappies and motherhood.

"Some 20 years have passed, and I've recently decided to return to my passion for leadwork. I will now be promoting roofing careers alongside the LSTA partners.

"I will also be teaching roofers across the industry on the City & Guilds Accredited Basic, Intermediate & Advanced courses and, who knows, perhaps overseeing future female lead workers? I will shortly be enrolling on my assessor course where I hope to be going onsite to assess and mentor those operatives enrolled on the NVQ Level 2 & 3."

Ray McCarten

Ray McCarten (pictured left) ran Charlesworth Contracting, a

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|| profitable business, for many years before he moved on to carry out training for a leading manufacturer. He completed the L3AET in 2019, quickly followed by the Assessor Award and he now delivers the LRWA Specialist Apprenticeship Programme in the North East.

Federation View

Sarah Spink CEO of LRWA comments: "LRWA worked with the NRTG to encourage the upskilling of trainers within our specialist sector to complete the Level 3 AET qualification. It was clear to see that we have a huge amount of experience and talented individuals within manufacturers who are training contractors every day of the week, but relatively few had a formal teaching qualification."

"This is an important initiative, developed through industry collaboration, which ensures that the quality of roofing training remains high and trainers have confidence that their learner's needs are being met."

Manufacturer Support

Proteus Waterproofing, Head of Technical, Jamie Holden, has supported several members of staff to achieve the L3 AET as part of the company's expansion into the North of England and the opening of their second training centre in Yorkshire. He says, "Proteus Waterproofing takes training contractors very seriously and believes in our employees gaining more education and



knowledge in delivering training to the highest standards and to all levels of contractor learning skills. This programme came at the right time for Proteus, and the assistance from the NRTG was very welcome."

Training Provider Contribution

The NCTS/Master Roofer Academy generously hosted one of the in person micro-teach sessions, which was very well attended, with 8 learners completing training. Training centre manager, Stewart Rowles, made the learners welcome with facilities, lunch and a tour of the training centre.

Tutor Review

The recent L3 AET courses were delivered by Andrew Clumsky of ATC Training Ltd based in the North East. ATC provides a range of Train the Trainer courses, including the Level 3 AET qualification across the UK, with flexible delivery options to suit the employer or individual.

Proteus Waterproofing takes training contractors very seriously and believes in our employees gaining more education and knowledge in delivering training to the highest standards and to all levels of contractor learning skills. This programme came at the right time for Proteus, and the assistance from the NRTG was very welcome.

Andrew said that the combination of off-line and on-line material worked well for the courses delivered for roofing professionals, and the face-to-face engagement with learners for the microteach was very successful.

Andrew adds, "It was a pleasure delivering the course to candidates from various parts of the roofing industry. It is always great to see learners progress through the course and come together to deliver their micro-teach sessions at the end, and this was no exception. I am pleased we have been able to qualify trainers in the industry who will go on to pass their knowledge and skills to further develop other people."

Future Developments - Tutor Forum

Newly qualified roofing trainers are invited to join a private Tutor Forum [\[https://masterroofers.co.uk/forum/?p=tutors-forum-917152\]](https://masterroofers.co.uk/forum/?p=tutors-forum-917152) on the MasterRoofer website. Here, they can share

experiences and support from colleagues in confidence and further develop their career progression with professional reflection. The Forum is live now and roof trainers can start discussions on any matters they wish.

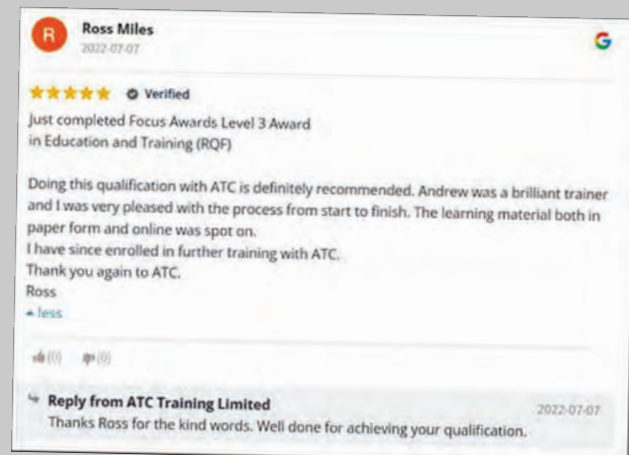
Further Courses

Additional courses are being arranged for the autumn, which will again be delivered through blended learning. Anyone wanting to find out more about the course or register, should attend the Eventbrite information Session [\[https://www.eventbrite.com/e/level-3-education-and-training-information-session-roofing-industry-tickets-408095082377\]](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/level-3-education-and-training-information-session-roofing-industry-tickets-408095082377) on Thursday 22 September at 12.00. (Scan the QR code to book). |||



The NCTS/Master Roofer Academy generously hosted one of the in person micro-teach sessions and training centre manager, Stewart Rowles, made the learners welcome.

Learner Review



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Secrets to a Successful SkillBuild 2022 and IFD 2022

Simon Dixon, NFRC Training and Technical Manager, has been successfully delivering the annual Skillbuild competition for the UK roofing industry for many years. The height of ambition for generations of young roofers, winning Skillbuild means not only a massive career boost but also securing the chance to represent Great Britain internationally. Here, Simon Dixon gives us an update on the competition and shares his secrets to a successful Skillbuild.



I'm pleased to say that the six regional heats for Roof Slating and Tiling, as part of SkillBuild 2022, were a huge success. Everything went to plan, from the organising and pre-delivery of materials to the competitors taking part doing their best and the Judges being prepped and ready for the 2022 competition.

But it didn't begin with the Regional Heats—there's so much work conducted prior to the heats commencing.

Ensuring Successful SkillBuild Heats

SkillBuild is actually part of the World Skills UK (WSUK) Competition. World Skills UK look to the CITB SkillBuild Team to deliver the construction trades competitions, and in turn the CITB SkillBuild Team look to NFRC to deliver the Roofing Competition. Skillbuild winners then have the opportunity to go forward to the IFD World Championship for Young Roofers.

We have years of experience conducting heats and finals, but it's never anything less than challenging. Experience and communication are the keys to success and are paramount for smooth progress. Working with a new SkillBuild team this year, we've been sharing our knowledge and expertise, so that they understand exactly what roofers need in order to show off their best work at the competition. It's especially important that only dedicated roofing colleges and training centres hold the heats, as they are prepared to host roofers



We have years of experience conducting heats and finals, but it's never anything less than challenging. Experience and communication are the keys to success.

and will have the necessary facilities.

The six-hour regional heat needs a drawing and specification, so we look to Bob Coutts, with his unrivalled experience, to come up with a task that is both testing and achievable within the given time slot. From the agreed task, I begin to talk with the manufacturers and suppliers to see if they are willing and able to contribute. Let's be clear about this, the network of manufacturers and



The NFRC Training Team: (l-r) Bob Coutts, Simon Dixon, Matt Timby, Andy Rowlands & Bob Richardson.

suppliers from the roofing industry are second to none! In fact, they are so keen to offer their support that I have to use a rota system to ensure each has their turn as a sponsor. They go to extreme lengths to ensure that the young roofing competitors have the best materials available to show their skills.

This year's heats were sponsored by BMI, SR Timber, The Proctor Group (Roofshield) and SIG Roofing. After calculating

quantities for each competitor and finding out from WSUK how many competitors will be competing at each heat, the materials have to be collated and delivered in good time. All of this is on top of everyone's already full days, but the manufacturers find the time because they fully buy into the success of the competition and how it promotes our industry. The deliveries are timed to arrive in advance of the heat so that the judges can get the

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area ready for the competitors. The staff at the heat venues are also keen to ensure that the heats are a success. They go all out to ensure the areas are clear and competition ready, for, as the hosts, they also want to make sure that there are no hiccups.

We, the judging team, are aware that these young roofers are putting themselves out there, in effect sticking their heads above the parapet, to have their work meticulously picked over by experienced tradesman with metal rulers measuring to the millimetre. Because of this, the aim is to put the competitors at ease, with a professional briefing, an explanation of expectations and to build their confidence to do their best in the allotted time.

During each of the morning and afternoon sessions, the judging team pause the stopwatch, to allow the competitors time to hydrate, and take a step back from their work so that they can evaluate their progress.

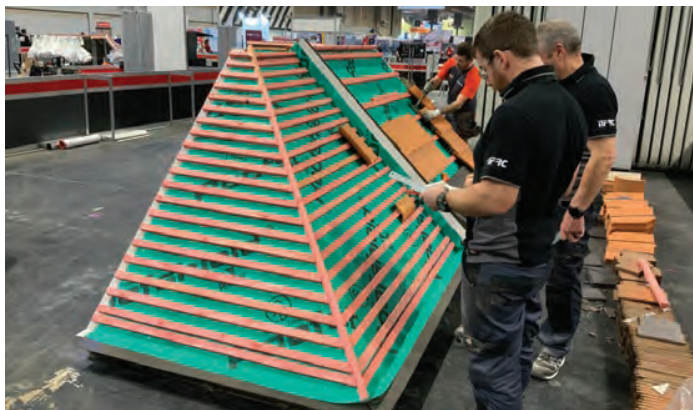
Future Gold Medallists

All consideration is given to the competitors to ensure they have an equal opportunity to do their level best and that no one is disadvantaged because, for all we know, this could be our first contact with a future gold medal winner for the UK Team. The winner of the SkillBuild competition is carefully considered and assessed to see if they have the stamina and aptitude for international competition.

And that's exactly what happened 12 years ago for one of our judges, Matt Timby. He initially competed back in 2009 and went on to represent the UK Team and win Gold at IFD in 2010.

I was lucky enough to be one of the mentors that year under the keen eye and tutelage of Bob Coutts. More recently Matt has been steadily gaining the skills and knowledge required to take the reins from Bob for when he decides to put down his hammer. Matt is an award-winning roofer and his day-to-day work is normally on prestigious buildings.

We, the judging team, are aware that these young roofers are putting themselves out there, in effect sticking their heads above the parapet, to have their work meticulously picked over by experienced tradesman with metal rulers measuring to the millimetre.



Andy Rowlands and Matt Timby hard at work judging the Skillbuild 2018 competition.



It's been a long thought-out plan of continuity, to give our international team the very best chance of success on the world stage in the future.

We also have Andy Rowlands as one of the regional and national judges. Andy is an award-winning roofer, a tutor and assessor who brings his 40 plus years of experience in top quality roofing and training to the team. Andy also kindly gives his time to guide and support the IFD Team as a mentor too.

The NFRC judging team and mentors are guided and supervised by Bob Richardson, Head of Technical and Training.



The National Final 2022

Normally, the WSUK national final would be held at the NEC in Birmingham, but this year the national final for Roof Slating and Tiling will be held at Edinburgh College's Granton Campus. The team will arrive on campus on Saturday 12 November to begin setting up and preparing the area and the rigs in readiness for the big event.

The 19-hour competition held over 3 days, starts on Tuesday 15 to Thursday 17 November. Judges' briefing will be on the afternoon of Monday 14, then rigs will be allocated by draw and the top 8 finalists will battle for the coveted first place.

The sponsors for the National Final for Roof Slating and Tiling are BMI, SR Timber, CUPA Slate, Proctor (Roofshield), Midland Lead and SIG Roofing.

The competitor's practice drawings will go out to the tutors in good time, but any information disclosed to the competitors are subject to a 30 per cent change in line with WSUK rules and regulations.

IFD 2022

Preparation is in full swing to get the two-person UK Team ready for the IFD's 28th World Championship of Young Roofers which is taking place in the Swiss city of St. Gallen between 9 – 11 November. This is the week prior to the UK National Final, so our team is made up of previous SkillBuild Winners—Will Emerton (formerly a student at Leeds College of Building), and Philip Houghton (formerly a student at The Eastern Region Roof Training Group). Both are excellent tradesmen and have the skills and temperament to compete on the world stage.

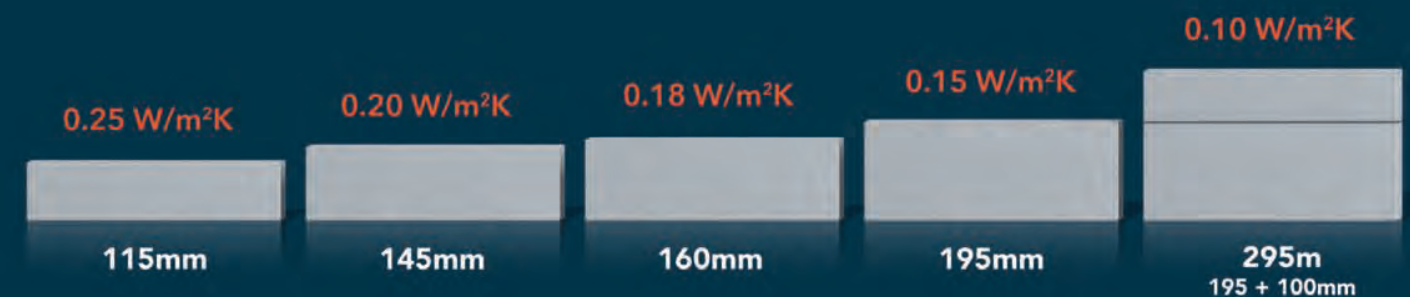
A purpose-made competition rig, a direct replica of what they will be working on in Switzerland, is being built for the practice sessions. The team will practice against the clock over various sessions in the lead up to the international competition, under the watchful eye and guidance of the mentors.

Materials have to be sourced from various suppliers so that the team have the best opportunity to practice with the correct products. A Swiss mountain roof design is part of the competition and the UK team has to learn and become adept with new skills in an attempt to level the field—the Swiss, Austrian and German teams are already well versed in these skills.

It's been a busy time, but the excitement is building, as the finals draw closer. It is always great to see such enthusiasm from the roofing industry in supporting these events and helping young roofers refine their skills. ■■■



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“It All Starts with Being Brilliant at the Basics”

A Q&A with Mat Woodyatt, Technical Training Manager at BMI

July 2022 saw the much-anticipated return of BMI's annual Apprentice of the Year competition. Mat Woodyatt, Technical Training Manager at the BMI Academy, talks to Roofing Today about BMI's commitment to talent development, the future of UK roofing, and the inspiring career journey of this year's Apprentice of the Year finalists.

Roofing Today: Mat, can you share with us your impressions of this year's Apprentice of the Year competition?

Mat Woodyatt: It's amazing how year on year our Apprentice of the Year competition seems to step up in terms of the reception we get from the industry and the engagement from the finalists. I'm not sure how they do it, but every year they come in more confident. It was such a pleasure to see, and with a great bunch of finalists and a really good selection of judges, new and old, the whole competition was very well received by everyone involved, from the contractors to the colleges and training providers.

Roofing Today: How do the finalists experience Apprentice of the Year, and how did they perceive this year's theme of Empower?

Mat Woodyatt: The finalists experience Apprentice of the Year as a transformative event for them in their career. Year on year, they really engage with the spirit of what we are trying to do, especially in the connection between practical competence and personal confidence. We try to raise aspirations of what is possible in a career in roofing, and our finalists are an embodiment of that vision.

This year's winners - Steel Sweatland, our winner in the pitched competition, who trains at South West Roofing Training Group, and Malachi Wilkes, our winner in flat roofing, who trains at Juniper Training - both commented on the fierce



Mat Woodyatt

All finalists are very competent, technical people – the real value for them comes from this engagement with the wider industry. Learning how to best present themselves and articulate what they do in an engaging way, and in a different way depending on their audience, is crucial for career progression.

competition they had, with Steel saying that everyone would have been a deserving winner. This goes to show that there is real recognition of each other's skills, and Malachi noted further that winning Apprentice of the Year has given him a real sense of

being able to inspire others in the industry, which is why we are holding this competition in the first place.

The theme of 'Empower' was really well embraced, not just by our finalists, but by all applicants,



Steel Sweatland, winner of the 2022 BMI Apprentice of the Year, pitched roofing.

who were once again of an extremely high calibre this year. Our finalists carried the theme through the event and the judges very much bought into that in terms of what they were communicating with them. The judges empowered our finalists to grow during the event, always emphasising the importance of developing good communication and presentation skills to best equip them for their professional lives and career progression in the roofing sector.

Roofing Today: Can you tell us more about the role of the judges in the Apprentice of the Year competition?

Mat Woodyatt: The judges are an integral part of the whole experience for our finalists. We always invite impartial judges from the wider roofing and construction industry, as we want to ensure that the winners are chosen by industry experts without any bias or preconception. Our judges are not just there to choose the winner, they engage with the finalists throughout the event, offering guidance and sharing their knowledge, but most importantly, empowering them to achieve more. All finalists are very competent, technical people – the real value for them comes from this engagement with the wider industry. Learning how to best present themselves and articulate what they do in an engaging way, and in a different way depending on their audience, is crucial for career progression. And our judges help the finalists discover all they can do.

||-



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Roofing Skills & Training continued

Roofing Today: What role do manufacturers and the wider industry play in future-proofing UK roofing?

Mat Woodyatt: As a Technical Training Manager who has been with BMI for over 10 years this year, I believe that everyone with a stake in the industry has a shared responsibility to ensure we have the skills we need to secure the future of UK roofing. At BMI, I'm proud of our commitment to this. We have gone from 'training is nice to have' to 'training is a must' as a core part of our training and development strategy. That recognition is key for our customers as well, who put their trust in us to deliver roofing materials that will help them build roofs to withstand the challenging British weather as well as being compliant.

But there is so much more that the wider industry can do. We have identified a huge discrepancy between colleges and employers taking on pitched apprentices as compared to flat. What we need is to lobby for better funding for flat roofing training places at colleges, and more places on Level 3 courses, which will give roofers the skills and knowledge to tackle the challenges the industry is facing. The flat roofing space is in very high demand, and with constant changes to building regulations, as well as continuous product innovation from manufacturers, roofers need to be able to have easier access to flat roofing training and qualifications.

I believe that everyone with a stake in the industry has a shared responsibility to ensure we have the skills we need to secure the future of UK roofing. At BMI, I'm proud of our commitment to this.

Roofing Today: Looking at the challenges the industry is facing when it comes to talent development, what are the main skills that we need in roofing in the UK? And what role do apprentices play in that equation?

Mat Woodyatt: At BMI, we like to say that it all starts with being brilliant at the basics. When it comes to a roof, you will always consider two main things, in simple terms: keeping water out and keeping the roofing materials

on. Roofers then need to learn all the measurements, tools, and building regulations to ensure that those two main criteria are met and delivered with longevity in mind.

So, what we need for a brilliant workforce in the UK, are roofers who are competent to deliver all of this, while thinking ahead and adapting what they learned to overcome all new and unforeseen challenges.

It's vital that they are confident to ask 'why'. Most can tile and torch, but roofers need to know whether they have sealed properly, and if there is water ingress, identify where the problems occur and how to fix them. It's the roofers that can see past the job and see the roof as a whole - it's that big picture mentality that will shape the future of UK roofing.

Apprentices are vital in that respect, as they will be equipped with a systematic and structured approach to learning all about roofing, both from their employers as well as their training providers. Taking part in career progression incentives, such as Apprentice of the Year, will further help them to develop the skills and confidence to ask those all-important 'why' questions. ■■

To find out more about continued learning and skills development across roofing, visit www.bmigroup.com/uk/bmi-academy/.



The 2022 BMI Apprentice of the Year contest gets underway at the BMI Training Centre near Cirencester.



It's not just technical skills that are assessed, 'soft' business skills are also important.



Apprentices making notes as they are coached in delivering a presentation.

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Running Your Own Roofing Business

Matthew Ford, owner-director of The Purple Roofing Company had one of those rare opportunities in life this summer when he attended the BMI Apprentice of the Year competition - to stand back and assess just how far he has come since 2019 when he competed in the pitched roofing competition.

Back then, Matt was an apprentice roofer with a Bradford housing association. Learning everything he could and striving to be the best, Matt dreamt of one day owning his own roofing business.

Returning to BMI's Training Centre this year, 29-year-old Matt has the satisfaction of not only recalling winning the Apprentice of the Year, but also of having realised his business ambitions.

So, how has he fulfilled the dream shared by so many young roofing professionals of starting his own business?

"I had a very clear picture of what I wanted to do," says Matt. "I hesitated because, like most people, I've got a mortgage, but my dad said to me 'don't be a wishing man'. And then Gavin Crane (the new CEO of Band of Builders) also said something that struck home: 'if it was easy, everybody would do it'."

Using his time as an employee to prepare, meant that Matt developed a detailed plan: "I had a year to come up with ideas before I set up the company, because I knew that once I started, you don't get five minutes!"

The Purple Roofing Company was started in January 2021 and in the past 18 months has grown at an exponential rate, buoyed up by the unprecedented demand of last year. That meant Matt had to learn business skills fast: "One of the things I advised the apprentices this year at the BMI event is that you need to become a bit of a 'social chameleon'."



Matt started The Purple Roofing Company Ltd last year and already employs a team of five.

You need to become a bit of a 'social chameleon'. Learning to talk to customers professionally and convincing them you can be trusted to deliver thousands of pounds of roofing work is a business-critical skill.

Learning to talk to customers professionally and convincing them you can be trusted to deliver thousands of pounds of roofing work is a business-critical skill you need whether you're an employee or director."

Mentoring

For the BMI contestants, hearing this from the 'horse's mouth' of a previous apprentice-winner-turned-business-owner has real impact. But Matt says he also values the conversations he had himself with other roofing professionals who attend the competition.

Chatting with BMI judge and RoofCert director, Andy King of AL King Roofing, has given Matt

a new perspective on the stresses that come with business challenges. "He pointed out that if they're not life and death then they'll wait and I'm so much more chilled now than when I first started, I'd go home in a right tizz! I think if you are going to start a business you have to be in the mindset that things will go wrong."

Matt's more phlegmatic attitude has been hard won. He relates how he used to never switch off, taking his work phone everywhere, including on holiday, in case of problems. "Now though I handle things a bit differently," he says, "I'm more able to assess how important these problems are."

Customer Service Ethic

Dealing with problems now is an opportunity for Matt to put his customer service ethic to the test. He recounts how an unforeseen issue cropped up recently stopping work on a flat roofing job, while Matt was away doing the Band of Builders Hadrian Wall Challenge.

He explains, "It was the worse job for this to happen as the house owner had already had a bad experience with bathroom fitters who walked away with her money. Bidding for the job, I was told I wasn't the cheapest but was chosen because I presented myself well and she trusted us to do a good job. I'd said, 'you won't have any problems with us, check our Google reviews, everything will run smoothly!'"

The next day Matt rushed back, assured the anxious homeowner everything would be put right and even got her a bouquet of flowers. The homeowner was so delighted with the way the problem had

been handled she provided a glowing review. "You realise that it's not the end of the world and it's just a problem to be solved," Matt adds.

Putting the Customer First

It's this level of putting the customer first that Matt believes is setting The Purple Roofing Company head and shoulders above its competition. Integral to this is the communications software the business utilises.

"Everything is about presenting our image to customers," Matt says. "Our automated software makes sure that customers are kept up to speed at every stage. They really appreciate being kept informed and I think that adds value."

Quotes are all electronic and Matt's already looking at extending and developing the system to include roofing factsheets and a checklist of everything that is needed for a compliant, quality roofing job, so customers can compare quotes. "It's our job to make customers understand how and why we're the better choice," he says.

Matt embraces the online model in other ways too, such as using SMS text message to thank customers once the work is complete and ask for feedback, resulting in an abundance of positive online reviews. Another idea (becoming an online norm), is to offer finance to spread the cost of roofing work: "I think being able to offer a loan there and then for roofing work, makes the decision easy for them. People are already used to spreading the cost of purchases online," says Matt.

Customer care also extends to sending the company's larger clients a 'thank you/feedback' gift package. This includes wine, chocolates, branded items, and, importantly business cards.

"It makes an impression on customers. They don't always understand the significance of a re-roof to BS 5534, but they do appreciate a gift, thanking them for their business and being asked

You always need to keep your eye on your workbook, especially when you take people on and you've got their wages. I'm still learning what the ideal is to be booked up for.



Surveying is important work to keep the flow of jobs coming in.



Purple Roofing's apprentice, Morgan Wood after competing in this year's Skillbuild heats at Leeds College of Building.



Most of Purple Roofing's work is domestic but they also do some public sector projects, including schools.



Matt's commitment to training means he's continually upskilling his team's technical knowledge. Here, apprentice Ethan Sugden sharpens his skills in installing the Resitrix system at the Master Roofers Academy, Salford.

for feedback, as well providing cards to give friends or family when they ask 'who did your roof?', says Matt.

"We also post a card through neighbours' doors, apologising for the inconvenience of having construction work happening

nearby with a number to call if they experience any problems - and that then also provides our number for any work they may need doing.

"All these ideas take a lot of time to develop but the way I look at it is that it's an investment, which,

as the business grows, is a drop in the ocean and only needs one job to see it pay off."

The company's exceptional success and growth means that Matt now has a team of five on the payroll - and that comes with more demands: "You always need to keep your eye on your workbook, especially when you take people on and you've got their wages. I'm still learning what the ideal is to be booked up for, but I've found the best way is to book enough work for my roofers and keep myself free for the last-minute jobs."

Leadership

Spearheading his business has meant Matt has had to develop leadership, not just with his own workforce, but with customers too. "You really have to take hold of the relationship," he says.

"At the beginning I was a yes man, but I've learnt people appreciate the word 'no' too, they value you and it creates authority. We were always taking on work that we knew would be a problem, or we would get people asking us to do a botch job. Now, we say this is how we will do it and if you don't want that then we can't help you."

For the future, Matt is keen to explore additional avenues of work. He already has some public sector school clients and has established contact with management companies. "We've also just priced a small development of 15 new builds," says Matt, "and if we get it that, it means stepping up another level. Someone also suggested that I join the NFRC regional committee which I hope might help."

"I don't sit still, I'm always pushing, always looking for the next thing. When you think you've got it mastered, there's always something more you can do. People don't understand roofing isn't just about being on the tools, particularly running your own business, there's so much more to it." ■

The Wee House Company Completes its First TapcoSlate-Roofed, Modular 3 Bedroom Bespoke Home Build on Islay

The latest Wee House has just been completed, a bespoke 3-bedroom home measuring 94m².

The owners of this gorgeous new property decided to relocate to the Hebridean Isle of Islay for their retirement after falling in love with the island following a trip there many years ago and tasked the Wee House Company to build an off-site, bespoke modular home that fitted all of their unique requirements.

The efficiencies gained through running site preparation and module construction concurrently meant that the build was completed within 16 weeks. The style of the house complements its very picturesque setting and is in-tune with the island's surrounding architecture. The house has the proportions of a traditional cottage, clad in vertical larch with a TapcoSlate Classic composite slate roof and coloured front doors sit comfortably in the stunning, rural landscape with its background rolling hills and outlook to the sea; quiet, tranquil and calm. In terms of design, a lot of consideration was given to the owners' island living, with larger-than-normal larder cupboards installed in the kitchen to store bulk supplies during winter months as well as generous storage for outdoor apparel in the porch area.

Although this Wee House looks traditional in appearance, as mentioned previously, it was actually produced as a modular unit under controlled factory conditions, thus enabling precision in all aspects of the build as well as allowing strict quality control throughout the process. Strict environmental performance criteria had to be met, this was achieved through a combination of high-quality insulation and better air tightness on the house build, as well as solar photovoltaic panels included as a renewable energy source.

By building 95% of the home in-factory, customers benefit from the economies of scale normally reserved for larger housing developments – which is no small cost-saving!

Launched in 2013, The Wee House Company has been blazing a trail in modular house building for almost a decade. With a desire to make custom-build properties accessible anywhere in the UK, father and daughter Ian Hope and Jennifer Higgins joined forces to design, build and deliver homes quickly and cost effectively, all with a depth of construction experience that places them at the forefront of modular build innovations. Ian and Jennifer realised some time ago that modular construction has a number of benefits and is an ultra-efficient method of creating a custom home for a plot of land. By building 95% of the home in-factory, customers benefit from the economies of scale normally reserved for larger housing developments – which is no small cost-saving!



Modular build allows a home to be built much quicker than with traditional building methods. Wee Houses are completed to ceiling height, with kitchens, bathrooms, plumbing and electrics already fitted before they leave the factory – fully complete and ready to move in within three weeks of being delivered to site. As the single contractor responsible for all works from design through to completion, The Wee House Company is in a unique position to provide accurate, upfront costs for the entire project, from start to finish.

Tapco Roofing Products is proud to provide the choice of its

flagship TapcoSlate Classic roofing product to customers and partner with such a unique and innovative company in the UK modular marketplace; and urge you to go check out The Wee House Company's website for more images and completed bespoke modular housing projects:

www.theweehousecompany.co.uk

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Breaking the Mould in Leadwork

As a construction material that has been around for centuries, lead is one of the oldest materials used by roofers. Favoured for its immense longevity, eco credentials and its attractive aesthetics, lead is a common sight upon rooftops across Britain and throughout the world.

However, lead isn't just a material of practicality. It has also become a staple in the modern art world due to its remarkable malleability. Lead art's esteem is on the rise, especially within the roofing world, as many lead artists like Craig Marshall, founder of CM Leadworks, are in fact roofers by trade.

A roofer of 17 years, Craig's exploration of lead art began in 2018, when, bored with the monotony of welding straight lines, he tried his hand at something new and welded a pyramid which sparked his creative side.

Taking inspiration from other lead artists he had come across, Craig began this new vocation by welding intricate sculptures of flowers, and found an enthusiastic market for them online. Not long after, Craig's work was discovered by the Tony Huggins-Haig Gallery in Scotland, which commissioned several pieces for display.



The beautiful lead cast stag sculpture.

Craig began his new vocation by welding intricate sculptures of flowers, and found an enthusiastic market for them online. Not long after, Craig's work was discovered by the Tony Huggins-Haig Gallery in Scotland, which commissioned several pieces for display.

Along with beautifully crafted heart and flower sculptures, the commission prompted Craig to challenge his creative capabilities and, testing his welding skills beyond normal limits, he also

made a unique spiderweb wall hanging for the gallery.

It was as the commissions started to roll in that Craig took on the challenge of adding lead casting to

his repertoire. Involving the practice of making wood moulds, which he then turns into sand moulds ready for their molten lead filling, Craig describes the process as "like building sandcastles". But that's not to downplay the technicality of the work; as Craig says, "In theory it's quite simple, but it's about getting it right."

Craig credits fellow roofer and popular lead artist, Geo Gargan, as one of his main inspirations for delving into this art form, increasingly favoured by roofers. "I saw his plaques and took some inspiration from them and made my own," says Craig. He also acknowledges initial help from Stewart Rowles, Master Roofers MD, and Lewis Dix, Director of Jackson and Dix Roofing.

"I couldn't have done it without them to be honest, they're definitely my go-to boys," Craig acknowledges. Nowadays, Craig says, his creative inspiration mainly comes from his customers whose commissions vary from ornamental pet sculptures, to custom trophies, and even the occasional restoration project.

Valued for its recyclability, more lead is now produced by recycling than is mined, making it the perfect on-hand material for roofers with artistic flair. Craig's

artworks in particular give new life to scrap lead which he acquires from his roofing jobs. However, not all of Craig's art begins from a melting pot. A unique recent commission in need of restoration was a garden ornament which had been damaged by a bullet. Craig recounts, "A customer who buys and sells for gardens approached me with a lead garden ornament. Her plan was to mount it above an outside bath, so I was tasked to fix a bullet hole which was there when she bought it." Craig also revamped the ornament by incorporating a copper pipe attachment on the back so that the bath's water would flow out of the mouth.

In the four years since CM Leadworks was first established, Craig has displayed his work in multiple galleries. Most notably, to the same gallery in which he displayed his first commissions,



The wounded soldier sculpture for the Tony Huggins-Haig Gallery 2018 Armistice Day commemorative exhibition.

Craig donated a lead cast bust of a WWI soldier, which he designed for auction in an exhibition in memory of Armistice Day. The commemorative sculpture sold for £500 and the funds raised were divided between the British Legion, SAFFA and the Scottish Poppy Appeal. Craig recalls, "It was only my third time casting, and casting an eight stone head was very hard on my own. The eye socket actually broke in the sand but I managed to save it, by turning it into a wounded soldier by giving it a lead bandage."

Such ingenuity has fuelled Craig's art as he has developed new technological skills to create even more advanced lead artworks, all excitedly anticipated by his devoted and ever-growing audience of eager admirers. ■■

[Search for CM Leadworks on Instagram and Facebook.](#)



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A custom made trophy for the 2022 Bolton College Apprentice of the Year.



The unique ornamental water feature head showing a bullet hole.



... and after - the fountain spout now restored to last for many more years.

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Navigating the Complexities of Compliance

The increasing importance of product compliance has resulted in more contractors looking for clarity and confidence in the systems they're working with. Steve Marr, Compliance Director at SIG UK highlights how distributors can help provide product information in an easily accessible way.



In the wake of legislative changes and shifts in the industry post-Grenfell, contractors are obliged to focus on compliance and do their part in the supply chain to maintain safety standards. There are also more stringent requirements for tenders, demanding that products meet and exceed compliance standards.

accessible and unambiguous product information. As more manufacturers sign up to the eleven clauses set out in the code, the existence of misinformation should be reduced. No longer will claims exist without being supported by evidence of proper testing or certification. Previously dubious

Distributors such as SIG have a duty of care to provide support for contractors to ensure their time doesn't need to be taken up by working out if what they're purchasing is compliant or not.

If you've always worked with a particular product, chances are you've invested time into understanding that product significantly – either via a merchant or the manufacturer themselves. You might know whether the timber beams you've always specified conform to the European Timber Regulation for example.

But what if your regular choice is out of stock? How much time, realistically, will you have to make sure the replacement product is appropriately certified?

Certification has always been an industry challenge. Tackling this began with the introduction of CE Marking to the Construction Product Regulations, and the requirement for all products sold in the UK to be UKCA marked from 2023.

Distributors such as SIG have a duty of care to provide support for contractors to ensure their time doesn't need to be taken up by working out if what they're purchasing is compliant or not. For SIG, the creation of the SIG Assured programme was an investment into a customer-first solution to tackle this headache.

The remit of the team is to make sure the products available via SIG have the correct certification provided by recognised testing houses, with documentation authenticated by approved bodies. Our role is to collect all this information and house it in a single database and assess it for legal compliance before making it available for customers.

It takes the form of a one-stop-shop website which allows customers to search by product name to find and download the relevant certification to prove compliance.

Contractors can rely on this system to easily find solutions based on their customers' needs. Obviously, contractors still need to select and install the correct solutions – but SIG Assured provides an additional element of product oversight and centralised information.

The responsibility of a distributor here isn't to advise on the technical appropriateness or correct specification of products. Instead, it highlights products with certified performance criteria backed by readily available evidence.

Regulation and compliance is sometimes seen as a huge hassle. Through SIG Assured, we're making a commitment to contractors to support them and make finding the answers easier.

We've all got our part to play as the industry moves towards a more safety regulated future. I'm enthusiastic about the positive change this brings and am keen for contractors to know they're not going on this journey alone. ■■■

For more information on SIG Assured or to search for documentation, see sigassured.co.uk



This change has been across the supply chain, from product manufacturers all the way through to end insurers and building owners. Contractors must now check that the systems they use are compliant and product information is correct, ensure what they're specifying is fit for purpose, and have the knowledge to install it correctly.

It is a lot to consider. The good news is, manufacturers are stepping up to the challenge and organisations are forming with the purpose of providing clarity to help contractors make informed decisions.

The Code for Construction Product Information (CCPI) published last year sets a bar of construction product information for manufacturers to maintain clear, accurate, up-to-date,

claims, such as 'leading provider of frost-resistant waterproofing', will be scrutinised, and if insufficiently proven, eliminated.

It's no secret SIG is supportive of the code and we are encouraging all of our suppliers to sign up. Feedback from suppliers, as a whole has been positive, with many agreeing on the benefits the code provides.

Fundamentally, the code ensures clarity and accuracy of marketing and product information. Therefore, the challenge is checking the products proposed are compliant with the right standards. The code doesn't change how manufacturers communicate and for many contractors, it can be difficult to locate this product information in the first instance.

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⋮

Tackling the Challenges of Roof Space Ventilation

Manthorpe Building Products is a company that understands the importance of ventilation in buildings, having been developing and manufacturing quality ventilation solutions for the UK construction industry for over 35 years.

In 2021 the British Standards Institute published a major revision to BS 5250: *Code of practice for Management of moisture in buildings*. So, it is an opportune time to revisit the topic of ventilation, and specifically the challenge of ventilating the roof space.

Although the approach to roof space ventilation and control of condensation has not changed markedly in the latest revision, it does contain new guidance on moisture risks other than condensation; a whole building approach to moisture-safe design, the coherence of design and detailing interactions, as well as capacity and in-service conditions. It also covers the management of moisture risks in buildings undergoing energy saving measures.

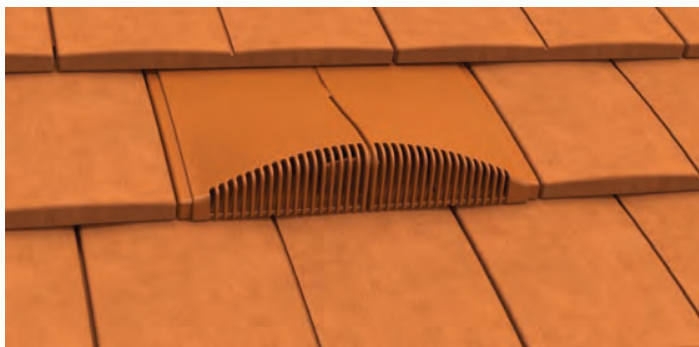
The revision acknowledges changes in modern building design, such as reduced air permeability of the building fabric and higher thermal insulation, both having the potential to increase the risk of condensation. It also considers changes in lifestyle and the greater use of moisture-generating appliances such as showers and internal clothes drying.

BS 5250 gives prescriptive guidance based on the evidence of many years of successful use. This particularly applies to roof construction, where there is plenty of data and evidence to provide practical recommendations for the use of ventilation to prevent moisture risk.

Whilst continuous eaves and dry ridge systems can generally be relied upon to provide the



Where ridge, or high-level ventilation is required, but the ridge length is very short on a hipped roof, tile ventilators positioned in the hip end roof slopes are an ideal way to supplement the high-level ventilation of the roof space.



required ventilation into loft spaces for straightforward gabled roofs, sometimes the roof design means that extra ventilation is necessary. Where ridge, or high-level ventilation is required, but the ridge length is very short on a hipped roof, tile ventilators positioned in the hip end roof slopes are an ideal way to supplement the high-level ventilation of the roof space.

Manthorpe is one of the UK's leading experts on roof space

ventilation, providing market leading ventilation solutions for the ridge, eaves and through the roof covering itself, along with offering some unique and innovative products to ensure compliance with BS 5250 and maintain a condensation-free roof structure.

One such innovation in the Manthorpe range is the interlocking plain tile ventilator, designed specifically for use with small format single lap plain tiles.

This product incorporates a unique patented feature: a sliding mechanism to adjust its width to suit the different sizes of tiles available. This makes it ideal for merchants and contractors, who only need to stock one interlocking plain tile vent product.

The curved, in-line profile of the vent helps to maintain an unbroken appearance to the roofline at high or low level with a range of colours available to suit varying roof styles. The vent is suitable for roof pitches down to 22.5° and is fully wind driven rain tested. The intricate path through the internal weathering geometry is designed to maintain a constant airflow gap whilst safely channelling any water out of the vent and on to the roof covering below.

All Manthorpe products are independently tested when required via independent testing organisations, such as Building Research Establishment (BRE) and WarringtonFire, to meet British Standards and to achieve relevant accreditations, with roofline products vigorously wind tunnel tested to ensure they are up to the task at hand.

A key advantage of using products from a manufacturer such as Manthorpe, who is independent of the roof tile manufacturers, is that they develop products that are compatible with the roof tiles of several manufacturers, reducing the need to stock many different ventilation systems. ■■■

For more information, please email mbp.care@manthorpebp.co.uk or, alternatively please visit www.manthorpebp.co.uk/roofing.



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Pitched Roof Inspection and Maintenance

John Mercer, Roofing Consultant and expert witness explains how regular inspection and maintenance can help to extend the lifespan of pitched roofs.

There is a tendency for many of us to take our roof for granted. It sits there on our house, year after year, silently doing what it is supposed to do, protecting us and the building from the elements.

Concrete and clay roof tiles and slates are non-combustible and provide protection against rain, snow, and wind. The heavy thermal mass of roof tiles, combined with the natural air ventilation under the tiles creates a heat transfer barrier that can

roof tiles, roofs require regular maintenance. Replacing cracked, broken, or missing tiles, removing heavy lichen and moss growth, and repairing damaged flashings are all vital in maintaining the roof at its optimum performance.

Inspection

For many roofs, regular, visual inspections can be carried out from ground level, perhaps twice a year, in the spring and autumn. Where maintenance is required, this should be carried out by a roofing professional using safe

with suitable packing material underneath to protect the tiles.

Roof slopes

Moss and lichen growth on roof tiles may be considered to add a certain 'rustic charm' and certainly some minor growth does not seem to harm roof tiles or hinder their primary function of shedding water and keeping the weather out. But too much moss and lichen can be damaging.

Moss growth can impede the flow of water from the roof and so

manufacturers will normally recommend the regular removal of heavy growth on their roof tiles as part of their conditions of guarantee.

Heavy moss growth may block clay and concrete roof tile interlocks, and channels and side joints in slates, ultimately causing water leakage into the roof structure, particularly on low pitched roof slopes. Wind-blown debris such as pine needles and leaves can similarly block roof tile water channels and overlaps,

Even considering the long-term durability of clay and concrete roof tiles, roofs require regular maintenance. Replacing cracked, broken, or missing tiles, removing heavy lichen and moss growth, and repairing damaged flashings are all vital in maintaining the roof at its optimum performance.



help cool a house in summer and keep it warmer in winter, lowering energy costs. However, a little regular TLC doesn't come amiss and is essential if we want to get the best out of the roof for as long as possible. Even considering the long-term durability of clay and concrete

and secure access equipment. Ladders should be used for inspection only or for access to scaffold or working platforms. Where access across the roof slope is required, roof tiles should be treated as fragile and roof ladders or crawling boards used

hold the roof tiles in damp conditions for much longer than would otherwise be the case. In normal circumstances, moss growth is unlikely to damage concrete products, though in the long term, it may lead to the premature delamination of clay roof tiles. Clay roof tile

eventually causing water to penetrate through the tiling or slating.

Tiles and slates that are cracked or have pieces missing will likely cause water to seep into the batten cavity. In the short term, the underlay should prevent a



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leak into the building, but any damaged tiles or slates must be replaced as soon as possible to prevent rot and other damage to the roof substructure.

Ridge and Hip Tiles

Ridge and hip tiles installed on roofs after 2014 should be mechanically fixed, either using a dry fix system or with nails, screws, or clips supplementing mortar bedding. Even so, it is worth inspecting to check if the dry fix system is intact and secure, or in the case of mortar, checking the integrity of the mortar bedding for cracks or displaced segments.

Valleys

Roof valleys are prone to the collection of debris as it is washed down the adjoining roofs with wind and rainfall. With time, debris can build up, damming the valley and causing water to back up and penetrate the tiling.

Verges

Inspect verges for signs of mortar cracking or displacement. Dry verge systems are generally secure and maintenance-free but check to make sure all the verge components are present and have not suffered any wind damage or displacement through sliding snow or debris.



Back gutters, including those behind chimneys and some roof windows, are prone to blockage from surrounding trees. By their nature, they have an open channel to collect water and so must be inspected regularly and cleaned out where necessary.

Side Abutments and Back Gutters

Side abutment with cover flashings will generally not collect too much debris, though it is still worth carrying out regular inspections.

Back gutters, including those behind chimneys and some roof windows, are prone to blockage from surrounding trees. By their nature, they have an open channel to collect water and so must be inspected regularly and cleaned out where necessary.

Eaves and Gutters

Much of the debris that lands on a pitched roof will inevitably find its way into the gutters. Generally, bi-annual inspections and cleaning will be necessary to keep the gutter clean of excessive debris. One option is to fit gutter guards in the gutters to keep them clear of leaves. However, there are pros and cons to fitting gutter guards; the pros are guards are easy to install, they cannot be seen from the ground, and they keep leaves out of the gutters and downpipes. The cons are they do not keep out fine debris, they may become clogged by fine debris such as silt, and they make cleaning out the gutters more difficult.

Lead Flashings

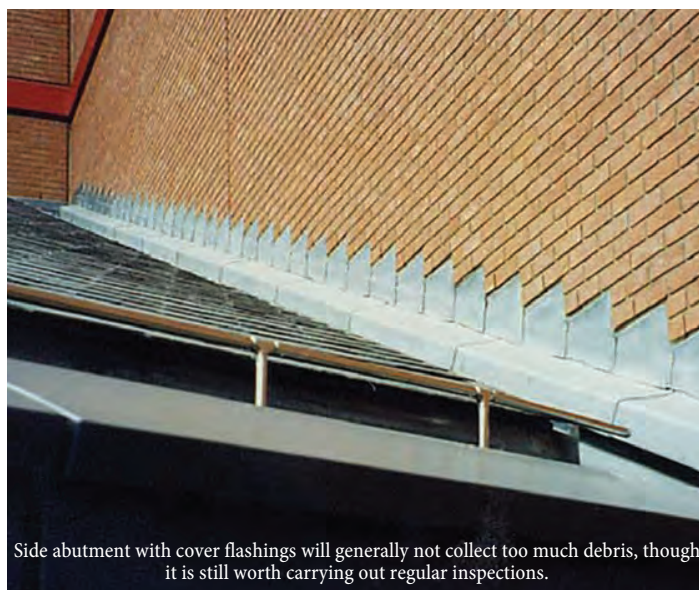
Lead is an extremely durable material and is unlikely to degrade when installed correctly. But regular inspections should be carried out to check for any cracks or displacement.

In summary

Carry out regular visual inspections to check for cracked, broken or dislodged roof tiles and other components. Arrange to have regular professional maintenance carried out, particularly in areas that are prone to the growth of moss and lichen. Remove debris from vulnerable areas such as roof valleys and gutters. ■■



Gutters must be inspected regularly and cleaned out where necessary.



Side abutment with cover flashings will generally not collect too much debris, though it is still worth carrying out regular inspections.

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Installers, it's Time to Tap into the Replacement Roof Market

The increasing homeowner trend of replacing conservatory roofs with better insulated systems for year-round usability is one that installers shouldn't miss out on, according to SupaLite. Here the manufacturer shares its insights into conservatory roof replacements and the systems it offers to make life easy for installers to meet this growing demand.

With climate change having a big impact on the world, the UK is dealing with more extreme and unprecedented temperatures throughout the year.

Studies predict that more radical weather is expected for the years ahead and so more homeowners are looking to future-proof their homes. In fact, some have already started to explore long-term solutions to make sure their property is protected, particularly from extreme heat, according to Met Office research.

In recent months, the industry has seen a huge increase in demand from consumers who wish to transform their existing conservatories into a more usable living space they can enjoy all year round.

With a thermal efficient, hard-wearing design, solid tiled conservatory roof replacements help to create a more temperature-controlled space.

Cassie Watters, Sales and Marketing Manager at SupaLite, said: "Consumers are turning their attention to replacement conservatory roofs so that they can make this extra space usable, and at SupaLite we have developed ready-made solutions to provide them with exactly what they want.

"If they're not already, installers need to be tapping into the replacement roof market and our easy-to-install products do just the job to keep their customers happy."

High Performance Tiled Roof Systems

Originally introduced to the retrofit and new conservatory market 10 years ago, SupaLite's tiled roof system has evolved into a well-crafted design featuring aluminium frames, humidity-proof insulation and high performance ExtraLight roof tiles.

Tens of thousands of the SupaLite systems have been sold in the last decade providing installers with a lightweight, easy-to-install solid roof solution.

"Since we began in 2012, we've continuously updated and tweaked our full product range," adds Cassie. "Our tiled roof system has been achieving a U-value of 0.15 since day one. The product is incredibly popular with installers and that's why we're still going strong ten years later."

Increasing Natural Light

Over the years, the conservatory roof manufacturer has developed a range of new products, including a high-performance glass panel feature called SkyVista. With excellent U-value



properties and effective solar control, SkyVista still allows consumers to have the same thermal performance of a SupaLite roof system combined with more natural light.

"As a team, we're always working hard to ensure all SupaLite products are high-performance systems that are incredibly desirable and easy to manufacture and install," explains Cassie.

"The SkyVista is a great example of where we have updated and innovated our original design to create a glazing cassette so that the glass units can simply be lifted and dropped into place, making it as straightforward as possible for installers."

Innovation

The most recent innovation SupaLite has added to its portfolio of products is I Lite, a flat roof orangery system. Unlike anything on the market, the company says, I Lite achieves high strength and durability with quick installation times.

"I Lite is a pod-based flat roof orangery system which is lightweight but incredibly strong and dimensionally stable and

therefore doesn't distort or shrink," adds Cassie.

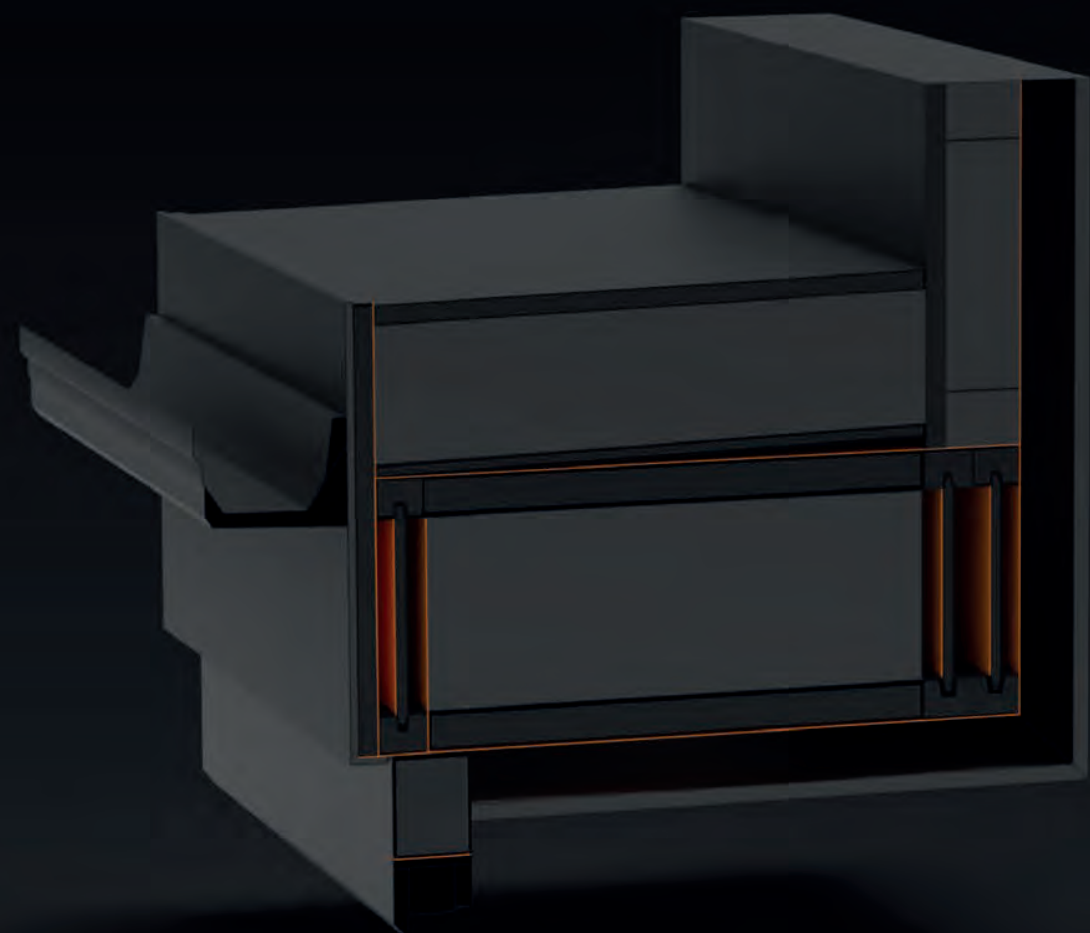
"Made from timber I-Beams which not only reach spans of approximately five meters but are also lighter than conventional large timber trusses and steel, means less pressure is placed on the supporting walls and frames."

Like all SupaLite products, I Lite has been designed by experts and rigorously tested. As a result, the product exceeds Building Regulations requirements by offering an impressive u-value of 0.13W/m²K, outperforming most competitor roof systems and traditional orangery constructions.

"Our experience in the industry empowers us to develop and manufacture products which are a step ahead of others in the market," said Cassie.

"We've accomplished so much with our products and as a business in the last ten years and we're extremely driven to continue pushing forward and driving the company to new heights in the years to come," Cassie ends.

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What is B_{ROOF}(t4)?

Anthony Hogan, Technical Manager, Single Ply Roofing Association (SPRA)

The term 'B_{ROOF}(t4)' is used widely within the flat roofing industry, though recent conversations with a roofing contractor and an architectural designer revealed that it is not always understood.

The roofing contractor's enquiry read:

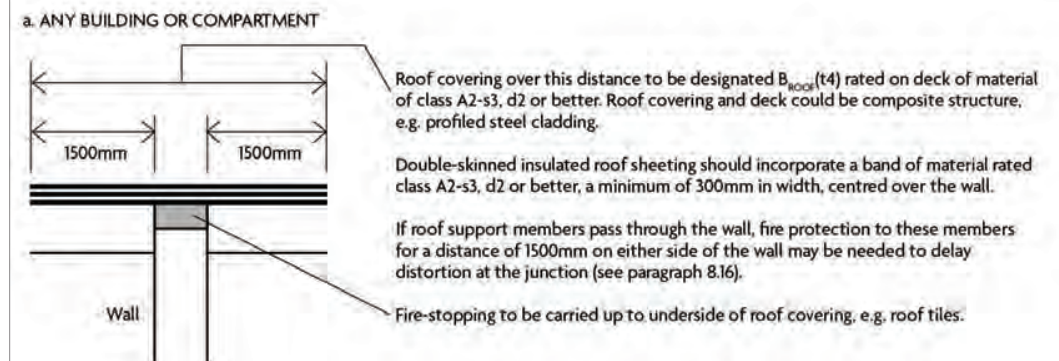
I am just looking for some guidance on the B_{ROOF}(t4) rating to see if you have some simple guidelines to follow. We work for many self-builders and small building companies who quite often have not heard of this and do not have it mentioned in any specification. We use a number of systems, but not always complete systems as it proves too costly for our customers.

So, what does 'B_{ROOF}(t4)' mean? And how does it affect roofing contractors and architectural designers?

Let's start with reaction to fire. Reaction to fire relates to the degree to which a product will contribute, by its own decomposition, to a fire under specified conditions.

Products, other than floorings, are classified as A1, A2, B, C, D, E or F (with class A1 being the highest performance and F being the lowest) in accordance with EN 13501-1 *Fire classification of construction products and building elements. Classification using data from reaction to fire tests.*

Untested products cannot be classified in accordance with EN



13501-1. The classes of reaction to fire performance of A2, B, C, D and E are accompanied by additional classifications related to the production of smoke (s1, s2, s3 – with s1 indicating the lowest production) and/or flaming droplets/particles (d0, d1, d2 – with d0 indicating the lowest production). When a classification includes 's3, d2', this means that there is no limit set for smoke production and/or flaming droplets/particles.

Roof Classifications

A typical roof waterproofing membrane may have a reaction to fire classification of E or F. In addition to their individual components' reaction to fire classifications, however, roofs are tested as constructions. The performance of the resistance of roofs to external fire exposure is measured in terms of penetration through the roof construction and the spread of flame over its surface.

Roof constructions are classified in accordance with EN 13501-5 *Fire classification of construction products and building elements.*

Classification using data from external fire exposure to roofs tests. EN 13501-5 refers to four separate roof tests as detailed in CEN/TS 1187 *Test methods for external fire exposure to roofs*, with Test 4 (t4) applicable in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Roof constructions are classified as B_{ROOF}(t4), C_{ROOF}(t4), D_{ROOF}(t4), E_{ROOF}(t4) or F_{ROOF}(t4). The highest performance is indicated by B_{ROOF}(t4) and the lowest by F_{ROOF}(t4). It is important to note that test results relate only to the items tested and should be approved by a third party, such as the British Board of Agrément. Individual components should not be substituted by contractors or designers to avoid as-built roof constructions being deemed non-compliant.

B_{ROOF}(t4)

Manufacturers and suppliers aim to achieve a B_{ROOF}(t4) classification when testing their roof systems, as it indicates the highest performance, though it is a requirement only in certain scenarios.

The Building Regulations 2010 Approved Document B June 2022 edition (for use in England) states that at the junction of a compartment wall with a roof,

'to reduce the risk of fire spreading over the roof from one compartment to another, a 1500mm wide zone of the roof, either side of the wall,

should have a covering classified as B_{ROOF}(t4).'

For buildings taller than 15m, this zone of the roof should be, 'on a substrate or deck of a material rated class A2-s3, d2 or better.'

Additionally, where the minimum distance from a roof, or part of a roof, to the relevant boundary is less than 6m, the roof covering, or part of the roof covering, should be classified as B_{ROOF}(t4).

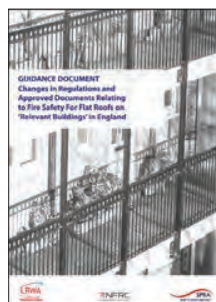
A roof, or part of a roof, with a covering classified as C_{ROOF}(t4), D_{ROOF}(t4), or E_{ROOF}(t4) must be at least 6m from any point on the relevant boundary, though caveats apply.

A roof, or part of a roof, with a covering classified as F_{ROOF}(t4) must be at least 20m from any point on the relevant boundary. Again, caveats apply.

In summary, the highest performance classification achievable by a roof construction when subjected to external fire exposure is B_{ROOF}(t4). It is a requirement when a roof spans a compartment wall and/or when the minimum distance from a roof, or part of a roof, to the relevant boundary is less than 6m.

Lower performance classifications are acceptable when a roof does not span a compartment wall and is at least 6m from any point on the relevant boundary. III

Further guidance about external fire exposure, fire safety and how they relate to flat roofing is available to download from www.spra.co.uk.



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Historic School Roof Restored to its Former Glory

Authentic materials for the conservation of heritage buildings and structures must not only retain their character, but also prove long-lasting and highly effective. Mastic asphalt, whilst a traditional waterproofing material that was first patented in 1837, offers durability and wear resistance far beyond modern alternatives, which is why it is so frequently specified for refurbishment projects by the National Trust and English Heritage, as well as other prestigious buildings owners.

Traditionally consisting of graded limestone aggregate bound together with bitumen, today's mastic asphalt systems are manufactured using advanced polymer modified formulations to combine all the performance characteristics of traditional asphalt systems with the added benefits of increased flexibility, enhanced handling and sustainability. The incorporation of modern polymers into mastic asphalt systems has helped lead to its resurgence in the construction industry.

Mastic Asphalt Council (MAC) contractor member, Sussex Asphalte, has been involved in an impressive mastic asphalt project at Christ's Hospital independent school in Horsham, West Sussex. Carried out in September 2021, the refurbishment project at this heritage-rich site was so impressive that it was shortlisted for the 'Best Heritage Project' at the recent MAC Awards 2022.

The project involved stripping the 250m² of existing defective coverings down to the flat concrete slab, and laying new mastic asphalt in two coats, finished with two coats of solar reflective paint. The stripping of the existing mastic asphalt coverings posed various challenges. Most notably, the stripping itself was made



The Grade II listed Christ's Hospital independent school.



Mastic Asphalt Council (MAC) contractor member, Sussex Asphalte restored the rooftops at Christ's Hospital independent school.



Sussex Asphalte removed numerous layers of mastic asphalt, felt and liquid roofing before renewing the roof.

extremely difficult due to the multiple layers of varying materials used to coat and overlay the area over the years.

Upon removal, Sussex Asphalte's operatives uncovered multiple layers of mastic asphalt, felt and liquid roof coverings. In addition, the removal of the existing waterproofing exposed electrical cabling feeding the lighting below, needing extra care had to be taken when breaking out the rest of the build up. Operatives also had to be cautious when laying the new asphalt, ensuring the conduits were suitably protected to avoid them melting from the residual heat of the fresh mastic asphalt.

Though the life expectancy of mastic asphalt has been estimated at 50-60 years by the Building Research Establishment (BRE), there are many cases of asphalt roofs providing effective waterproof protection for up to 80-100 years. In terms of quality of workmanship, mastic asphalt is one of the few construction activities still regarded as a 'craft trade'.

The skilled work involves ensuring that asphalt is at the correct temperature, and then spreading it using traditional techniques to coat the surface. A thermoplastic material that changes shape when heated, mastic asphalt cures to form a hard, durable, finished product to suit a wide range of applications.

To maintain the industry's reputation and ensure high quality applications for every project, only trained applicators are permitted to install mastic asphalt under the MAC's strict rules. Being a MAC member enhances the reputation of a contractor and gives a badge of quality and assurance that they meet the very highest of standards of workmanship and also confirming factors such as trading and credit history, and insurance. ■■■



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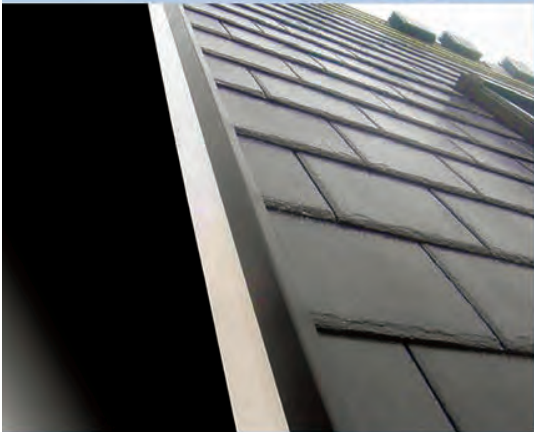


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Beating the Winter Blues: BriggsAmasco Mastic Asphalt Challenge

Waterproofing applications in commercial settings can incur a number of challenges, with differing heights and finishes across a large surface area amounting to a complex task for even the most experienced installer. This feature looks at how roofing contractor BriggsAmasco devised an innovative mastic asphalt system to meet the requirements of a technically demanding application at Scotland's 'best business park'.

Based in Glasgow's iconic West End and home to 3,000 occupants and nearly 50 businesses, Skypark is a landmark hive of commercial activity. It is the self-styled best business park in Scotland with an eye-catching main building offering all-round views of the country's most populous city.

In order to uphold its grand reputation, the Skypark site underwent a refurbishment in 2019, including waterproofing path and road surfaces in and around a car park, which was located on the building's fourth-storey, and a garden area.

Experienced at delivering high-profile waterproofing projects that vary in size and complexity, BriggsAmasco was selected to deliver the Skypark programme. The company more than met the challenge,



The Skypark site underwent a refurbishment in 2019, including waterproofing path and road surfaces in and around a car park, which was located on the building's fourth-storey, and a garden area.



overcoming a number of stern challenges to supply the building with a durable, watertight surface in line with the client's strict budget and deadline requirements.

The project was also exceptional for BriggsAmasco on account of its Glasgow branch becoming the first company in the Scottish region for 12 years to put an apprentice through a mastic asphalt apprenticeship.

The Installation

The waterproofing element of the Skypark refurbishment, which BriggsAmasco completed on behalf of contractor Clark Contracts, began in November 2019. It included installing IKO Permascreed, a super-strong, II-

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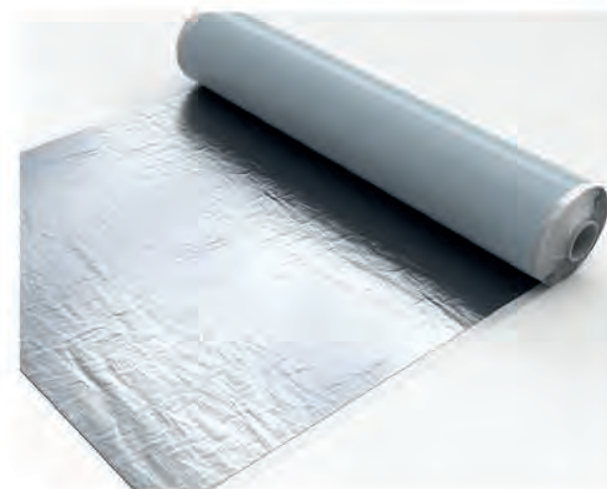
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■ rapid-setting mastic asphalt waterproofing solution to a surface area totalling 2,200m² to eliminate the potential for standing water and improve driver and pedestrian safety throughout the car park site. It was the first time IKO Permascreed was used for a waterproofing project in Scotland of such size.

IKO Permascreed

IKO Permascreed's fast-curing time allows decks to be trafficked a lot sooner than traditional cement screeds, which in the case of the Skypark programme, provided a rapid, waterproof seal for the car park's surface and allowed refurbishment works to proceed in the office building below. The product's reduced curing time also limited working hours spent on site and machinery use, with the resulting reduction in emissions leading to a more sustainable works programme.

With the original mastic asphalt system having been removed, BriggsAmasco's teams worked quickly and efficiently to temporary waterproof the exposed concrete surfaces. This was achieved by installing a temporary felt sacrificial waterproof layer (IKO Glass Torch on underlay), which provided the foundation for the IKO Permascreed. The system was installed across the 2,200m² surface to falls between 240mm and 10mm in height in order to eliminate the risk of standing water on the car park deck. IKO Permapark, a polymer-modified mastic asphalt paving system, provided the deck's final, watertight layer complete with a crimped finish.

Project Challenges

Installing 2,200m² of IKO Permascreed to create falls at different heights and requirements was a technically and physically challenging operation for BriggsAmasco's spreaders in terms of ensuring gauges were set correctly.

The challenge was exacerbated due to much of the work taking



For the apprentices, this high-profile project provided a fantastic opportunity to gain invaluable 'real world' working experience.

place in winter months. Time was of the essence to prepare surfaces in order to receive paving and paviour and ensure a safe, watertight finish for walkways on approach to the building's main entrance. To speed up the process, BriggsAmasco installed an IKO PermaTec Anti-Root Hot Melt system. This eliminates the need for a separate anti-root membrane, resulting in a simpler, time and cost-effective installation. The same system was used to waterproof a garden area and an on-site nursery.

Covid restrictions were also a hinderance to BriggsAmasco completing this huge waterproofing project to the agreed time. Post-lockdown, new working policies restricted the number of workers allowed on site. The measures also affected

material deliveries, which were significantly limited. To overcome these constraints and keep the works programme on track, BriggsAmasco teams worked out-of-hours and weekends.

The presence of a children's nursery on the building's groundfloor also led to waterproofing work being intermittently interrupted to reduce noise levels during term time. Public health and safety is as much a matter for BriggsAmasco as the wellbeing of its site teams. Such was their dedication to this issue during the Skypark project, the company's on-site teams were awarded the main contractor's monthly health and safety award.

Apprentices

BriggsAmasco employed two apprentices for the Skypark

project. As stated, one trainee was specifically tasked to support the installation of mastic asphalt to the deck's surface, thus becoming the first apprentice in 12 years to be put through a mastic asphalt apprenticeship in Scotland. The other trainee was responsible for operating the mechanical plant which transferred the mastic asphalt to and from the car park site which was 500 metres from the material distribution area. A mobile asphalt lugger was therefore required to transport the mastic asphalt and keep the material hot, with the apprentice carrying out this challenging manoeuvre whilst supervised at all times by a senior member of BriggsAmasco's site team. For the apprentices, this high-profile project provided a fantastic opportunity to gain invaluable 'real world' working experience. They rose to the challenge and it's anticipated that both trainees will progress to enjoy long and successful careers in roofing.

Speaking of the benefits of recruiting apprentices for 'live' projects, A. Tufano, Lecturer at National Construction College, London, said: "As an industry we mustn't be inward looking. We must look to the future. Starting more apprentices, or upskilling the present workforce, will prevent a skills shortage from occurring. BriggsAmasco's continuing development of mastic asphalt apprenticeships will help you to obtain, as an employer, a certificated workforce, and employees with the skills you need."

Despite the challenges involved with the huge, complex Skypark project, BriggsAmasco teams completed the site's waterproofing in January 2021 in line with the agreed timeframe. Such was the company's superb performance on this demanding programme, BriggsAmasco has been invited to tender for further waterproofing works at Skypark, as part of a second phase of refurbishment for which Adam Consultants has been appointed main contractor. ■



WEATHER OUT

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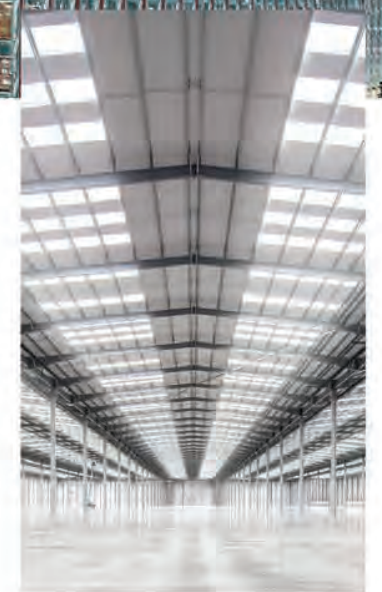


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To find out more visit brettmartin.com or call 024 7660 2022 or email daylight@brettmartin.com



Brett Martin

EPD Insulation Group New Marketing Director

EPD Insulation Group continue to invest in their future growth with the recruitment of Neil Farrow as Marketing Director. Steve Boon, EPD Insulation Group MD commented, "As a distributor of insulation and building materials to Builders Merchants and the screeding, drylining and general construction industry, we are constantly looking for improvement and our senior management needed hands-on marketing skills to help with future growth plans. Having worked with Neil 30 years ago, I knew he would be a great fit." Neil Farrow joins the company with a wide marketing knowledge base. Having worked in a broad range of industries, Neil has covered everything from TV product placement to setting up an industry awards night in three months.



Neil Farrow commented, "It would have been churlish to pass up the opportunity of working with Steve again after all this time. My marketing know-how covers strategy, creative, communications, journalism, video and events. The experience of sitting down with Steve Jobs at Apple HQ on one hand and loading a van and driving to Russia to set up an exhibition on the other, means my broad marketing knowledge will pay dividends at EPD and assist them with their projected expansion."

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Suit Up for Changeable Weather with the Snickers Workwear System for Autumn

Snickers Workwear's body-mapping jackets, tops, trousers and accessories work together for sustainable working comfort and protection wherever and whenever it's needed. Designed for professional craftsmen and women who want maximum functionality and mobility on site, they incorporate the very latest in high-tech fabric technology for top-class performance. The new clothing in the Snickers Autumn Workwear System includes windproof, waterproof and Hi-Vis garments for both men and women to keep them warm, dry and visible all day, every day.



So, when the weather takes a turn for the worse, make Snickers Workwear your first choice for tackling the toughest of jobs and the worst of weather. Visit www.snickersworkwear.co.uk, email sales@hultaforsgroup.co.uk or call 01484 854788.

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Cut-to-Falls Multiboard Helps Drain Top Floor Balcony

Building and roofing contractor Lightwood Construction has made use of some 300 Marmox Multiboards to complete a top floor apartment balcony refurbishment in North London. Lightwood Construction has previously used Marmox Multiboards for both interior and exterior applications. In this instance, long term exposure to the weather and ponding had caused the original waterproofing system to deteriorate and leaks to occur. Having stripped off the rotten felt and boarding, operatives installed 90 sheets of 20mm thick 1250mm x 600mm standard Multiboards and 200 of the 1200mm x 1200mm cut-to-falls variant which taper from 33mm down to 10mm. Managing Director Niaz Choudhury commented: "The old deck had to be completely removed for us to stop the leaks and install new tiles. We started by laying new marine grade plywood over the concrete and then up to four thicknesses of the Multiboard in order to get the falls to four separate drain points. Normal cut-to-falls insulation boards tend to compress, but Marmox is higher density, so much more stable."



Equally suitable for wet room applications, Marmox's Sloping Boards are made from the same waterproofing products as Multiboard - thermally insulating XPS sandwiched between two layers of Marmox's patented polymer-concrete. The boards have undergone testing to ensure they are suitable for external use and can be used on the most exposed balconies, as well as inside a wet room. Visit: www.marmox.co.uk, call 01634 835290, or email: sales@marmox.co.uk.

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Maximise Your Project's Fabric First Eco Credentials with Soprema

Soprema has developed a range of high-performance insulation systems designed to help specifiers deliver building envelopes that reduce heat loss and solar gain, and enhance project sustainability credentials. Using renewable, natural, recycled and recyclable materials, and reducing embedded carbon with innovative manufacturing, Soprema offers a choice of insulation technologies that enhance building performance and environmental best practice: **Pavatex**: a range of woodfibre insulation, a vapour permeable material made from sustainable timber that provides carbon lock-up and completely recyclable **Pavatextil P**: insulation made from recycled denim and cotton, which provides thermal performance and leverages the hydrophilic and hygroscopic qualities of natural cotton, also with anti-bacterial, anti-fungal and fire-retardant properties **Soprema XPS**: a range that prevents moisture absorption thanks to its closed cell structure, offers thermal performance, 100% recyclable, and is manufactured using recycled materials and climate-friendly CO₂ technology. SOPRA XPS SL and XPS 500 are BRE approved with a Green Guide Rating A. A fabric first approach to building envelope specification remains the most effective way to reduce energy use in properties. Soprema can advise you on the best solution to meet your project's environmental goals, combining the materials you use with performance throughout the building's lifecycle. Call 0330 0580668 or email.info@soprema.co.uk.



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Sika Launch Groundbreaking Plasticiser Free Sarnafil Advanced Technology Roofing Membrane in the UK

Sarnafil Advanced Technology is the first and only UK roofing membrane to be Silver Certified in Cradle to Cradle. Roofing manufacturer Sika have made a revolutionary move in the roofing industry by putting sustainability at the forefront of their product development. Producing a single ply membrane without plasticisers, oils, chlorine or heavy metals was a worthy challenge for the Sika team, as they pushed to make a sustainable product that doesn't compromise on quality. Utilising the best properties of both elastomer and FPO membranes, this hybrid technology combines flexibility and durability with ease of use, ensuring application is quick, straightforward and effective. The membrane is hot air weldable and features self-adhesive upstands that eliminate the need for any primers.



The introduction of Sarnafil AT is an exciting development for contractors, specifiers and the whole of the UK roofing sector. The sustainability credentials of the product, which are substantiated by the Cradle to Cradle Silver Certification, only add to what is a complete package backed up by Sika's market-leading roofing guarantee of up to 25 years. Visit www.sika.co.uk/roofing, call 01707 394444, or email enquiries@uk.sika.com.

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Glidevale Protect Launches Fulmetal UniRoll Ventilated Ridge and Hip System with Unions

Building materials manufacturer Glidevale Protect has launched Fulmetal UniRoll, a new universal, dry fix ventilated ridge and hip system with unions. Fulmetal UniRoll protects and ventilates a roof ridge or hip with no need for ongoing maintenance and comes complete with unions for use between tiles. As well as offering mortar-free, easy installation, it provides long term weather resistance thanks to the ventilated roll's robust, aluminium construction. The system's long-term durability overcomes potential issues with traditional fabric based roll ridge systems. The hooded ventilation delivers uninterrupted airflow, allowing the roof to breathe and ensure condensation control, in full adherence to BS 5250 and requirements for a dwelling sized pitched roof, achieving a continuous 5,000mm²/m area of ventilation. It is also fully compliant with BS 8612 for dry fixed ridge and hip systems and BS 5534 for slating and tiling – suitable for unrestricted use in UK and Ireland wind zones 1-5.



Working with Glidevale Protect vapour permeable pitched roofing underlays, Fulmetal UniRoll offers a complete cold roof ventilation solution. Compatible with most tiles, installation is quick with the aluminium easy to form over different tile profiles, creating a natural ventilation path without raising the ridge. Visit www.glidevaleprotect.com/uniroll, email info@glidevaleprotect.com or call +44 (0)161 905 5700.

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Kemper System Prescribed for Multi-Million-Pound Hospital Building

Kemper System's cold-applied liquid waterproofing solution has been specified for a multi-million-pound extension at St John and St Elizabeth Hospital in London. The £35m new build development has created 6 hi-tech theatres and a day case suite. The extension includes a new admissions lounge, imaging department, consultant rooms and Urgent Care Clinic. A total of 9,060m² of Kemper System's Kemperol 2K-PUR solvent-free and odourless waterproofing membrane was applied beneath the building's green roof, onto a pedestrian trafficked walkway, the lower roof, and plant roof area. The cold-applied solution was installed by Ridgewell Flat Roofing Ltd. The solvent-free and odourless qualities of the Kemperol system meant minimum disruption throughout the application process. No hot works were required, reducing potential health and safety risks and eliminating wait times between resin applications. Once cured, the system forms a seamless, elastomeric waterproof membrane that cannot delaminate, is UV stable, and creates a sturdy bond directly to the substrate.



The new building, opening in planned stages throughout 2022, follows a recent £3.5 million ward refurbishment.

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Brett Martin to Cut Buildings' Carbon Footprint with Products Based on Used Cooking Oil

Brett Martin is set to reduce the carbon footprint of buildings around the world with a new Polycarbonate glazing product based on bio-circular attributed material such as used cooking oil, produced in a ISCC Plus certified mass balanced approach. Called Marlon BioPlus, the new sheet offers a major carbon footprint reduction by cutting the use of fossil-based material by 70%.



This raw material delivers an 84% decrease in carbon emissions and in addition, Brett Martin achieves further reductions in carbon by producing the sheet using 100% renewable energy, generated at its own site. Marlon BioPlus has already achieved International Sustainability & Carbon accreditation from ISCC Plus, a globally recognised sustainability certification program for bio-based and bio-circular (recycled) raw materials with a focus on the traceability of raw materials within the supply chain. The combination of this certification and Brett Martin's 100% onsite renewable energy together represents a huge step towards a zero-carbon polycarbonate sheet.

This new low carbon alternative retains all the physical and performance properties of the company's other Polycarbonate ranges and will be available to be specified in any Brett Martin Marlon polycarbonate multiwall, corrugated or flat sheets for use in roofs and walls. Visit: www.brettmartin.com.

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Cupa Heavy 3 Slate Provides the Key to Scottish Bothy's Grand Renovation

CUPA PIZARRAS' Heavy 3 slate has been specified as part of a self-build residential home in Scotland. Showcased on Channel 4's Grand Designs, Heavy 3 was selected to renovate the roof of a Grade II listed bothy that had to be incorporated into the overall design in order to maintain the architectural heritage of the property. Architect Iain Shillady, Director at Staran Architects, carried out the bothy conversion, turning it into a family home.



Iain approached Allan Liddell, CUPA PIZARRAS Technical Sales Manager for Scotland, to work with the project team and find a slate solution that would maintain the bothy's original aesthetic. Allan recommended Heavy 3, a durable building material with a similar aesthetic to traditional Ballachulish Scottish slate. Supplied from Burton Roofing, approximately 6,000 Heavy 3 slates were nail fixed to the bothy's roof. The extra thickness and weight of the 7-8mm variant provides the strength to withstand the high wind speeds and driving rain that is common throughout Scotland. Heavy 3 size 300 x 200mm slate is widely used on conservation projects and comes with a 100-year warranty. Visit: <https://www.cupapizaras.com/uk/>.

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Design Considerations when Specifying Rooflights

In the early stages of building design, it is important in a fabric first design strategy to assess key materials and determine what it is that those materials need to deliver. Often rooflights are overlooked despite offering a wide variety of proven benefits. Correctly specified, Hambleside Danelaw's Zenon GRP rooflights can not only satisfy regulatory requirements, but also capture the essential essence of natural daylighting. Some key attributes of GRP rooflights that must be considered prior to the specification stage are:



- Non-Fragility
- Fire Performance
- Thermal performance
- G-Value
- Light Transmission
- Building Use
- Embodied Carbon

Hambleside Danelaw offer a variety of CPD seminars which help increase knowledge levels surrounding GRP rooflights and their specification in industrial, commercial, and agricultural buildings.

To arrange a CPD presentation, fill in a contact form at www.hambleside-danelaw.co.uk/zenon-rooflights/rooflights-cpd/

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Get the Perfect Result with Self-Drilling Fasteners

Knowing how to correctly install roofing and facades using self-drilling fasteners is the key to delivering lasting quality in the building envelope - and ensuring your client's investment is protected. It is important to consider how individual fixing points have the potential to undermine the overall performance of a building envelope. Adopting EJOT's best practice for using self-drilling fasteners is extremely important – as is the need to establish a frequency and process for checking the quality of the seal between the washer and component being installed, at individual fixing points.



1 – Use the Right Driver
EJOT recommends a screw gun that can be carefully set and controlled, i.e., a driver with a clutch mechanism. The ideal driver operating speed for self-drilling fasteners is between 1500 and 2000 rpm.

2 – Use a Nosepiece for the Driver
Using a correctly set nosepiece will help you get the ideal insertion. Simple, but effective, this gives installers a big helping hand to achieve a consistent result.

3 – Test the Seal -
With so many variables affecting the quality of individual installations, it is difficult for the industry's leading trade bodies to arrive at 'one size fits all' recommendation for seal testing. EJOT is soon to launch a new 'how to' video providing a framework of recommendations that underline the value of regular and correct seal testing. Call 01977 687040, email info@ejot.co.uk or visit www.ejot.co.uk

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Self-Builders Can Now Protect Their Assets Through Personal Guarantee Insurance

Following the launch of the Help to Build scheme, self-builders who have secured a personal guarantee backed loan for their self-build project, whether through the scheme or funded independently, can now protect their personal assets from risk. Purbeck Personal Guarantee Insurance (PGI) now offers Property PGI for self-builders. Purbeck PGI is the UK's only provider of personal guarantee insurance and has protected 1,300 directors on over £200million of Personal Guarantee commitments. Property PGI is available for Development Loans and Bridging Loans as well as Commercial Property Mortgages. PGI can be used in cases where the self-builder has created a limited company structure for their self-build project.



As a condition of raising finance secured against property, self-builders as well as property developers are often required to provide additional security to the lender by signing a Personal Guarantee. This means that if the development fails the lender can seek recoveries from the Guarantors personally. Todd Davison, MD of Purbeck Personal Guarantee Insurance said: "We have developed a solution for self-builders as well as property developers to protect their assets should their building project fail. Personal Guarantee Insurance will settle up to 80% of the debt, rather than the individual's current home, savings, or other assets." Visit: <https://www.purbeckinsurance.co.uk/>

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News, Projects, Products & People

UK Manufacturer Sharmans Helps Contractors with the Best Solution for Leaking Industrial and Commercial Gutters

Industrial and commercial gutters are harsh and challenging environments. When a gutter leaks, there are several solutions available to contractors to refurbish, including short-term liquid systems. However, some refurbishment systems are simply not suitable for industrial gutters, as they are either difficult to install or will quickly fail, causing the gutter to leak once again. Sharmans, a UK manufacturer of market-leading high-performance industrial & commercial roof refurbishment solutions, makes Plygene® Gutterline, a system specifically engineered for the gutter to prevent leaks, whilst optimising drainage performance. As a seamless "gutter within a gutter" system, Plygene® Gutterline restores gutter performance. This makes it the gutter lining system of choice for leak prevention, providing complete peace of mind for contractors, and their end clients.

- The UK's most specified and installed system.
- A solution that extends the life of the gutter and optimises drainage performance.
- Easier to install and more effective than anything else on the market.
- 3-4 times more sustainable than a typical fold out system.
- 25-year BBA certified guarantee.

All guarantees are not equal, Plygene's 25-year guarantee to prevent leaks is proven by actual use. When Sharmans say it's going to last 25 years, they know for a fact that it's true, there is nothing comparable. In addition to product guarantees Sharmans provides contractors with unrivalled support:

- Providing comprehensive free training at their purpose built UK training centre.
- A team of experts on hand providing technical and on-site support.
- Access to live tender opportunities.
- Peace of mind, from a long-established, financially stable business with a proven track record.

In order to benefit from the guarantee, contractors must complete training carried out by Sharmans, to attain Expert Contractor status, which ensures that they understand how to correctly install Plygene® Gutterline and permanently prevent leaks. To contact Sharmans or book a training course, visit: www.hdsharman.co.uk.



EJOT UK to Survey Contractors about their Approach to Testing the Quality of Fastener Seals

EJOT UK is to survey roofing and cladding contractors in a bid to gauge to what extent regular seal testing is taking place as part of building envelope contracts where self-drilling screws are used, and assess how EJOT's new best practice resources could be helpful to installers. The vast majority of inspections the team is asked to conduct relate to incorrect screw gun setting or even inappropriate hardware. Seal testing is a simple way to check that screws have been driven into place using the right tools and are correctly set. Brian Mack, Technical Business Development Manager at EJOT UK said: "It is important to get into the routine of doing seal testing by planning it into the installation schedule. Using a testing kit like the EJOT VACUtest is far safer than using feeler gauges."

The EJOT VACUtest is an air pressure testing kit that works by creating a vacuum around the fastener head using a suction cup, which is attached to a hose and connected to a pump. Squeezing the pump trigger removes the air from the suction cup until a pressure reading of 20 inHg is achieved for 5-10 seconds, making it easy to identify if the fastener installation is a pass or fail. For more information, contact EJOT UK on 01977 687040 or email info@ejot.co.uk.



Roofshield Protection for Listed Building in Paisley

A grade-B listed building in Paisley town centre is in the process of being restored with the help of Renfrewshire Council's Townscape Heritage Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme. The scheme aims to improve the built environment in Paisley town centre and is funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund, Historic Environment Scotland and Renfrewshire Council. The restoration project, led by architect John Martin, consists of converting the upper floors into four dwellings and external repairs including new windows, stonework and roof works.

The incorporation of Roofshield into a project can lead to savings in both labour and material costs due to no additional VCL being required. The sensitive nature of heritage projects demands careful consideration of moisture management and condensation control. Many vapour permeable underlays use an airtight VP film layer to achieve their performance. However, Roofshield's patented SMS structure allows high levels of airflow in addition to the transport of moisture vapour, making the formation of condensation in the roof space virtually impossible. It has an extremely high degree of vapour permeability and air permeability, so it will still perform in conditions in which airtight alternatives will not. The high performance of Roofshield, backed by two BBA Certificates, has been used in preserving and protecting the fabric of a wide range of listed buildings for 25 years. Visit: www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/thcars2.



Coping with a Sea Breeze

A selection of Marley Alutec aluminium guttering, fascia and coping products have been specified for use on a 1930s bay-fronted property refurbishment in Cornwall. The Marley Alutec solutions were specified by Andy Carr, MD of specialist refurbishment contractors, The Renovation Men. The specification was made following the architect ARCO2's request for the use of aluminium for the guttering and fascias. Made from marine grade aluminium, Marley Alutec's rainwater systems have a functional life expectancy of 50+ years. This is ideal for exposed coastal locations as it requires very little maintenance and will not corrode over time. Products are available in a variety of profiles and aluminium systems can mimic PVC and cast iron in both shape and appearance. This means its rainwater systems are ideal for refurbishment projects where maintaining the right aesthetic is key – with the added bonus that they are 65% lighter than cast iron.

Andy specified the company's Evolve Deepflow Gutters with 76mm Flushfit Circular Downpipes and Type A Fascias, all in RAL 7016, Anthracite Grey. Alutec's Evolve aluminium gutter range comes with a patented Jurajoint system for simple and secure jointing. In addition, bespoke aluminium composite panel fascias were also produced by Marley Alutec. For more information visit: www.marleyalutec.co.uk/.



New Packaging Line for Ruukki Sandwich Panels

Ruukki has installed a new packaging line at the Alajärvi plant in Finland for the packaging of up to 13.5m long sandwich panels. The packaging line is an important part of the production, so an investigation was done before Ruukki decided to replace their previous orbital stretch wrapper with a RoRo StretchPack solution from Tentoma.

The new RoRo StretchPack packaging solution has increased the capacity by 40% while the packaging watertightness has been improved. Instead of using multiple layers of 60cm wide wrap film to cover the panels, the new RoRo StretchPack solution uses one long tubular stretch hood film to cover the whole panel package. It provides a full waterproof single-layer packaging with a strong short waterproof sealing on each end. Installing the new packaging machine was also an opportunity for Ruukki to optimize all processes around the line to reach the most efficient packaging flow. The time being used to change film rolls has also been reduced significantly and film now only needs to be changed once a week. Esa Lehtimäki who has been running the project is happy about the process: "From Ruukki's side we are satisfied with the new packaging line. From when we contacted Tentoma, until the final installation of the new packaging line, it took only a year." Read more about RoRo StretchPack® on www.tentoma.com.



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