

ROOFING

Issue 92 January 2021

TODAY



In this edition:

HOW MANY ACCREDITATIONS
DOES ONE INDUSTRY NEED?

BRINGING SAFETY AND CLARITY TO
GLASS ROOFLIGHT SPECIFICATION

MAINTAINING SUPPLIES OF BATTEN
DURING THE WORST TIMBER
SHORTAGES SINCE WWII

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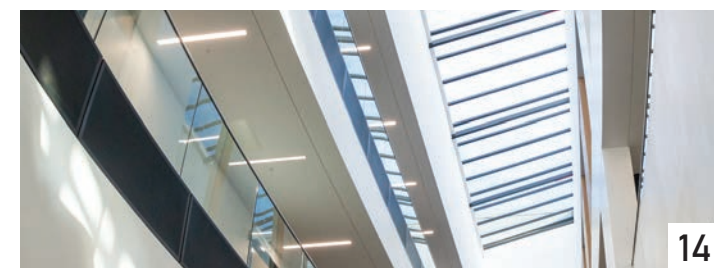
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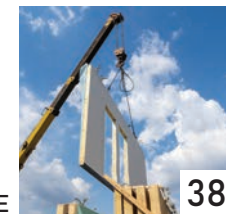
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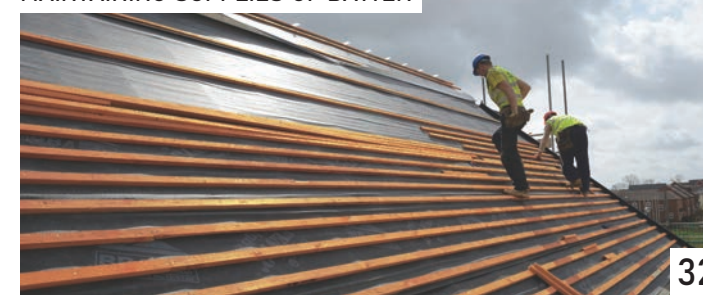
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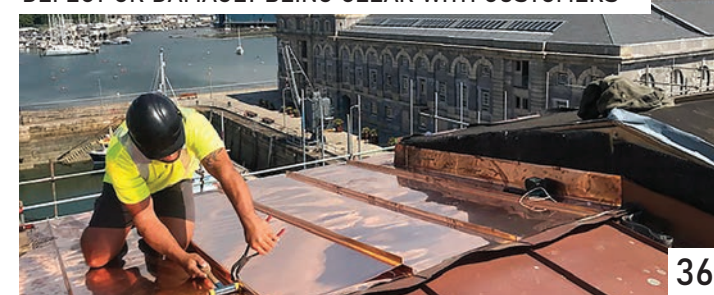
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Editor	Dr Claire Griffiths	editor@roofingtoday.co.uk
Senior Media Accounts	Brenda McNally	brenda@roofingtoday.co.uk
Media Accounts	Paul Fitzgerald	paul@roofingtoday.co.uk
Administration	Jemma Daly	administration@roofingtoday.co.uk
Circulation Manager	Helen Threllfall	circulation@roofingtoday.co.uk

Front Cover: Slate roof with integrated solar-PV Ecolek, courtesy Viridian Solar

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Materials Shortages Set to Intensify as Price Rises Expected in 2021

Long delays in deliveries of roofing materials continue as the new year starts. All roofing materials are affected to some extent but the longest lead times are for roof tiles, insulation and batten along with the cheaper end of the market in slate and membrane underlay.

Manufacturers are generally responding with increased production shifts, although availability of raw materials may restrict this. The effect of added bureaucracy on imported goods at borders following the end of the transition with the EU is expected to exacerbate availability for up to 12 weeks as new paperwork systems bed down.



However, manufacturer, Marley is reporting that it expects Brexit to have a minimal effect on its production as most of its raw materials come from the UK.

Meanwhile BMI, manufacturer of Redland and Icopal products, says it's increasing production to return to standard availability and service levels as soon as possible, but that the actual timeline will depend on the balance of supply and demand.

Paul Campbell, Marketing & Technical Director at BMI (Redland and Icopal), said: "We've been experiencing demand that exceeds our manufacturing capacity and are facing availability and lead time challenges as a result. This is an industry issue and we are doing everything we can to recover stock levels and return to normal lead times on our product ranges. Our lead times are being managed dynamically and reviewed regularly based on very high order volumes we are currently receiving."

Lead times continue to vary according to different tile formats and types. David Sherry, Associate Director at

Dreadnought Tiles reports lead times on plain clay tiles depend on the colour of tile and the quantity ordered. Delivery varies from 2-12 weeks.

Advice to contractors

Contractors are advised to continue putting in their orders as much in advance as possible. As with merchants and distributors, manufacturers appreciate having the earliest understanding of likely future orders so that they can gauge future demand and plan production schedules. Most suppliers don't ask for payment upfront, meaning ordering as much in advance as possible does not disadvantage contractors. Contractors are advised to maintain

regular contact with their suppliers and look out for the regular updates many of the manufacturers are issuing to customers.

Price rises

Meanwhile, high demand is fuelling price rises. Slate producers, SSQ report that they have full availability of 95% of the products they supply. However, on top of the expected annual price rises of between 3%-7% across the slate sector in April, there was an unprecedented second price increase introduced by many UK slate suppliers in September, 2020. As the new year gets underway, SSQ says it has already been advised by a number of suppliers that they might be increasing prices again as early as January.

Roof tiles manufacturers almost universally agree that contractors should expect price increases of 5% and 12% in coming months.

Insulation has already increased by as much as 20% and timber products, including battens, are likely to see the 20-30% rises in the market being passed down the supply chain in 2021.

CMA Fines Two Lead Firms £9.5m for Cartel



Two of the UK's largest suppliers of rolled lead have been fined more than £9 million after they broke competition law.

Following an investigation into a suspected lead cartel, the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) found that Hertfordshire-based firms, Associated Lead Mills Ltd (ALM) and H.J. Enthoven Ltd (trading as BLM British Lead), had broken the law by entering into anticompetitive arrangements.

Both firms admitted their guilt earlier in 2020 and now face fines to ALM: £1,510,228 and BLM: £8,076,504.

Previously, the CMA had provisionally found that a third company, Calder Industrial Materials Ltd, had become involved at a later stage in one of the arrangements. The CMA has now said that there are no grounds for action against Calder and has closed its investigation into the company.

The CMA's findings follow a review of the evidence, including the written and oral representations submitted by the businesses.

Important product

Rolled lead is an important product for the UK construction industry, used mainly for roofing. ALM and BLM are two of the largest lead suppliers in the sector. Associated Lead Mills Limited is owned by parent

company International Metal Industries Limited, which also owns Royston Sheet Lead Limited (previously Jamestown Metals Limited).

BLM British Lead is the trading name of H.J. Enthoven Limited, owned by parent company Eco-Bat Technologies Limited.

Anti-competitive arrangements

The four anticompetitive arrangements took place between October 2015 and April 2017. They included colluding on prices, sharing the rolled lead market by arranging not to target certain customers, and arranging not to supply a new business because it risked disrupting the firms' existing customer relationships. Each of the arrangements also included exchanges of commercially sensitive information.

Michael Grenfell, Executive Director of Enforcement at the CMA, said: "These companies knowingly entered into illegal arrangements restricting competition between them. Such anticompetitive arrangements tend to inflate prices and cheat customers out of a fair deal. The CMA does not tolerate such behaviour.

"Construction is a sector firmly under our spotlight and if businesses break the law by entering into anticompetitive arrangements, they run the risk of large fines."

NFRC Investigating Two Lead Cartel Supplier Members

The National Federation of Roofing Contractors (NFRC), has launched a formal investigation into two Supplier Members: Associated Lead Mills Ltd (ALM) and BLM British Lead.

The move followed the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) finding on 4 November 2020 that both firms had entered into a lead cartel by agreeing anti-competitive arrangements together.

A third NFRC Supplier Member, Calder Industrial Materials Ltd, had been previously implicated in the case at the start of the investigation in 2017. However, the CMA subsequently found that there were no grounds for action in respect of the firm.

NFRC Chief Executive, James Talman, said: "NFRC stands for roofing excellence and in no way tolerates anti-competitive practices amongst its



membership. Now the CMA has made its final judgement, and all the evidence is available to us, we will refer this case to our Risk Committee to consider the behaviour of the two members involved, in light of our Code of Practice."

"The CMA has given a clear message that construction is very much in the spotlight and any firms who are found to undertake anti-competitive arrangements run the risk of large fines. We hope to work with the CMA to ensure the roofing industry is fully aware of competition law and understands the consequences of non-compliance."

MCRMA Gains Two New Members

The Metal Cladding and Roofing Manufacturers Association (MCRMA) welcomed two new member companies in December 2020 to the Association in the independent inspector and system installer categories respectively.

Commercial Property Surveys Ltd based in Solihull in the West Midlands joins the independent inspectors' category. In addition to providing services to commercial property landlords and tenants, Commercial Property Surveys Ltd provides independent roof and industrial cladding inspections to system manufacturers for warranty audits, installation instruction compliance and more.

KR Cladding Systems, based in Newburgh, Aberdeenshire

becomes MCRMA's second system installer member. Established for 20 years, KR Cladding has an experienced project base in agricultural buildings, storage facilities, commercial buildings, industrial units, distilleries, and domestic and residential buildings. The company offers expert advice, assistance, and a full design, supply, and installation package to suit any challenge.

The MCRMA represents companies across all five categories of membership – systems manufacturers, components manufacturers, system installers, independent roofing and cladding inspectors and industry support services who provide products, systems and services within the non-domestic metal roof and wall market sector.

CITB Review to Decide Future of Roof Training Groups in 2021

In November 2020, the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) launched an industry consultation as part of a review into the funding that is provided to all construction training groups.

Responses were requested to three proposed options for future CITB funding of training groups. Briefly, option 1 would retain a reduced training groups network; option 2 is to provide virtual training hubs online; and option 3 is to reduce the number of training groups and run them in conjunction with online virtual training hubs.

More details about these options can be found on CITB's website: <https://www.citb.co.uk/standards-and-delivering-training/training-groups/industry-consultation/>

CITB has asked for responses to their options by completing its survey: <https://wh1.snapsurveys.com/?sasp?k=160493385668>

The deadline to give your responses is 5 pm on 15 January 2021.

Support your group

The Roof Training Groups are urging roofing contractors to support their Regional Roof Training Group by contacting their Group Training Officer who is listed on the Teams page of the National Roof Training Group website: <https://nationalrooftraining.co.uk>



The Groups are asking contractors to complete the CITB survey after speaking with their local roof training group officer, as without more understanding of the background, the seven-question survey isn't straightforward, as it's based on the CITB options.

Roofing Training Groups respond

CITB has held meetings with the representatives from the Chairs of the 88 UK construction training

groups it supports. Views were exchanged on the three options from CITB, and reference was made to alternative proposals from various regions and groups.

Alternative proposal

Eight of the regional Roof Training Groups have submitted an alternative proposal. This is because, according to the groups, it is clear that the proposal from CITB would not service the requirements of their members who represent 14% of all training group membership. Their proposal seeks to develop a solution to enable them to continue to offer a service based on a fair allocation of the available CITB funds, they say.

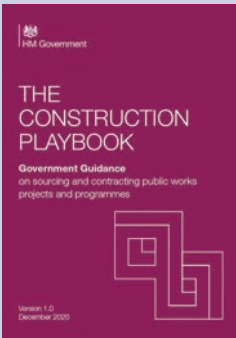


The Roof Training Groups point out they have a proven record of delivering training to their member companies and over the years, CITB has previously recognised the unique circumstances faced by their membership. Additionally, there are now training facilities in most roof training group areas, either totally managed by the groups, or available for use by groups to provide training as appropriate. These facilities are all at risk if the roof training groups do not continue operations.

Training sourced, arranged, and organised by the Groups over almost 20 years, has, together with the commitment from their membership, resulted in an exceptional improvement in quality of workmanship and health & safety in roofing, they say.

The Groups' work in other areas includes apprenticeships, OSAT, e-learning in support of RoofCERT, Assessor Training, careers and promotion of the roofing sector, and upskilling initiatives. These activities form part of the industry drive over the last decade to professionalise the sector.

New Construction Playbook



A new Construction Playbook was published on 8 December setting out what government expects from construction companies awarded public contracts for infrastructure and buildings.

Government is the construction industry's biggest customer. In 2018, public sector works contributed some £117 billion to the UK economy, and supported over 2 million jobs.

The Playbook aims to help achieve a reduction in carbon emissions by promoting carbon assessments of projects. The approach will be to focus on the output government wants a project to achieve, rather than micromanaging how it is done.

Government is hoping to help modernise construction by standardising designs and parts, as well as embedding digital technologies, including BIM, in procurement practices. There is also a greater focus on building relationships with robust contract management between project leads and industry, as well as investing more in training and apprenticeships.

Learning lessons from the Grenfell Tower tragedy, the Construction Playbook emphasises that the construction sector must put safety at the heart of everything it does.

New ACR Rooflight Safety Guidance Published

The Advisory Committee for Roofsafety (ACR) has published a new Information Sheet, entitled 'Glass Specification in Flat Rooflights'.

It has been created in response to concerns about inappropriate and potentially unsafe rooflight designs which, the organization says, have come to light recently.

The new document, referencing information published by the National Association of Rooflight Manufacturers, gives guidance on design and glass specification for flat rooflights.

It addresses the use of inner panes made of toughened (rather than laminated) glass which can shatter (including, on occasion, spontaneously), falling into the room beneath.

Concerns have also been raised about glass specifications which may be appropriate for use in vertical glazing, but are unsuitable for overhead glazing where glass can be almost horizontal, significantly increasing the stress on the pane.

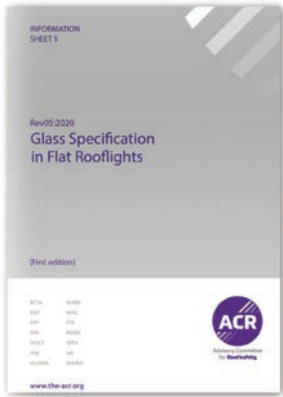
Other concerns relate to insufficient support for the inner glass pane, potentially allowing a whole glazed unit to fall into the room beneath if the outer pane is broken, jeopardizing both safety and security. Some recently reported designs consist of nothing more than a double-glazed unit stepped on all four sides with no perimeter frame, with the outer pane sealed/bonded to the top of an upstand and the inner pane hanging inside the upstand. Such designs are not recommended.

ACR is warning that poor designs or the use of incorrect materials in flat rooflights bring significant risks to building occupants and personnel accessing roof areas for maintenance or other purposes.

For building occupants, toughened glass inner panes present a clear hazard because it can shatter if there are impacts on the glass. Additionally, inclusions introduced in the manufacturing process can cause glass to break

if overstressed. Nickel sulphide in the glass, which although rare, can cause toughened glass to shatter spontaneously. All of these risks can be completely eliminated if a laminated glass inner pane is used, says ACR.

The organization is also concerned about safety for workers needing to access roof areas. It says as well as using a laminated inner pane to protect building users, rooflights can be specified and designed to be non-fragile in accordance with ACR/MJ001 *The Red Book - Test for Non-Fragility of Large Element Roofing Assemblies*, and CWCT TN66 *Safety and Fragility of Glazed Roofing: Guidance on Specification*. This is intended to ensure that anyone accidentally walking or falling onto a rooflight will not fall through it, even if it results in the glass being broken or the rooflight being damaged.



Mark Wilcox, ACR and NARM member, said, "There are many high quality flat glass rooflights available from reputable suppliers, all of which offer excellent aesthetics and performance. However, there have been a number of cases reported by individuals who have installed or commissioned what they believed to be high quality products, only to discover functional problems and more importantly, major safety concerns, following installation."

<https://www.the-acr.org/>

Band of Builders Launches Coronavirus Hardship Fund for Tradespeople



National charity, Band of Builders, has launched a hardship fund to help tradespeople affected by the coronavirus crisis.

The charity normally carries out projects and adaptations to help UK tradespeople and their families affected by illness or disability.

BoB, as the charity is affectionately known, has committed to match every £1 donated by the public, up to £10,000, creating an overall fund of £20,000. The cash will then be used to award grants of between £250 and £500 to tradespeople who have been left in financial difficulties due to COVID.

Band of Builders chairman, Gavin Crane, urged people to spare just £1, saying "We know this is an incredibly difficult time for everyone in the UK and further afield, so we appreciate this is a big ask. But for some UK tradespeople, that donation of just £1 could help make all the difference.

"We've heard countless tales of people in our industry who have been left struggling due to a

combination of restrictions making it hard to work, difficulties due to suffering with COVID themselves, and for some the issues that come with falling through the cracks when it comes to government support.

"We want this fund to provide small but vital grants to those who need it most at this difficult time. It may not seem like much, but for some people a grant of £250 could make all the difference and help them get through the month.

"We'd love to get support from some other key players in the construction industry so we can help even more people and turn any donations we have from the public into a bigger pot of money to help those in need."

The charity has just announced its next project to help father-of-four Robert Lamb, a surveyor left paralysed after a fall at home. BoB will be carrying out adaptations to Robert's home in Solihull, where he lives with his three sons, to make it safe and accessible when he returns home from hospital in the new year.

MEWP Loading Training Revamped After Accidents

Information from from accident reports and near-misses has prompted an update to training on loading and unloading MEWPs and other plant equipment safely from trucks or trailers.

The latest analysis of global data by the International Powered Access Federation (IPAF) shows most accidents, resulting in lost-time injuries and even fatalities, occurred during delivery of MEWPs while loading or unloading. As a result, IPAF is overhauling its Load/Unload course.

Last year IPAF invested in its worldwide accident reporting and analysis, giving a more comprehensive Global MEWP Safety Report. IPAF also updated its Incident Reporting Portal.

IPAF found that the data showed the most likely people to be involved in a MEWP-related incident are loading and unloading operatives who are key to the industry.

Peter Douglas, IPAF CEO & MD, said, "Analysing data has allowed the updated training course to directly address those issues that affect people loading or unloading, and provide knowledge and recommended protocols to help prevent accidents before they happen.

"It is highly recommended learning for anyone operating, hiring, maintaining, delivering or managing MEWPs; there is a great deal in the training course that is applicable to a range of plant machines, including dumpers, diggers, telehandlers, rollers or forklifts."



Call for Built Environment Day at COP26 in November

In a letter to COP26 President, Alok Sharma, a call for a Built Environment Day at the climate summit in November 2021 was made by the World Green Building Council and nine other international organisations.

The day at COP26 would be dedicated to discussing action to reduce carbon emissions from the built environment, and showing how business and governments are finding solutions to the climate crisis.



Cristina Gamboa, CEO, World Green Building Council said: "It is essential to have a full day to recognise the building and construction industry at COP26. The sector accounts for nearly 40% of global energy and process-related emissions, up to 10% of global employment and around 50% of

global wealth. Despite this, our sector often remains a blind spot in global climate negotiations.

The letter argues that a Built Environment Day at COP26 would help the sector to offer solutions to the climate and economic crisis caused by COVID-19 by driving a green recovery and support a climate-resilient future. It says it can deliver short-term jobs and growth by improving and retrofitting existing buildings, as well as ensuring new ones do not contribute high levels of greenhouse gasses.

CITB Sells National Construction College

The Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) has sold the National Construction College in King's Norton, Birmingham to Walsall College.

The sale completed on 30 November 2020 includes the land, buildings and business, with 17 staff members transferred as employees of Walsall College.

Walsall College will develop apprentice and work-based training in basic to advanced skills in sector specialisms including scaffolding and roofing.



The sale of the college by CITB is part of its Vision 2020 programme which includes transferring its direct training to alternative

providers. It is the first of CITB's four National Construction College to be sold.

Braden Connolly, CITB Director of Products and Services, said: "Walsall College is an excellent Further Education provider with a strong track record and links to employers all over the region. This landmark agreement will secure a bright future for high quality construction training provision for industry in the Midlands, with commitments to maintain and develop existing training and with no redundancies from the sale."

Jordan Wins Trade Apprentice of the Year



Hodgson Sayers apprentice, Jordan Condren, chief executive of Constructing Excellence in the North East, Catriona Lingwood with Steven Bell from Waters Construction who sponsored the Trade Apprentice of the Year Category.

Apprentice, Jordan Condren, was crowned trade apprentice of the year in the 2020 virtual Generation4Change Awards.

Generation4Change aims to drive improvement in the UK built environment industry and held the awards in association with Constructing Excellence North East.

Jordan beat stiff competition in his category with his track record of positive impact in the

industry and commitment to personal development.

As an apprentice at Stanley-based, Hodgson Sayers, Jordan is already a multi-award winner, taking gold at the 2019 WorldSkills UK two-day roof slating and tiling competition and being crowned Newcastle College Apprentice of the Year 2019.

As a winner of the WorldSkills UK competition, Jordan was set to travel to China to compete in

the Beijing International Young Roofer Championship. This will now take place in 2021.

Jordan Condren, said: "The award means a lot to me because I was nominated by Hodgson Sayers. The company really puts its support behind my learning and encourages all apprentices to pursue individual goals. To be recognised by my company and now by the wider industry with this award, is a real boost for morale."

John Sayers, Managing Director at Hodgson Sayers, said: "Jordan is ambitious and determined to keep progressing his skill set whilst remaining grounded and humble. He is a role model for our younger apprentices and someone who can offer solid advice when it comes to the day-to-day routine of work and, of course, he can now also give invaluable guidance to other apprentices who are looking to enter competitions."

"Jordan was nominated not just because of his great talent but because he has a long term vision for his career progression and has already expressed his desire to become a senior leader."

Kemper System Bolsters Technical Sales Team

Kemper System, the cold-applied liquid and built-up roofing system specialist, has appointed a new Technical Sales Manager.

Tom Wilson from Tamworth, Staffordshire, joins the team to help build client relationships and offer technical advice and guidance on and off site for projects in the south of England - from Stoke on Trent down to Cornwall.

With a decade of experience, Tom worked his way up at tapered insulation provider, Gradient, starting as a CAD Technician, and then moving to the firm's Sales and Commercial team.

As technical sales manager at Kemper System, Tom will be responsible for ensuring projects are running smoothly with the correct product specification, and guiding specifiers and contractors through any challenges during design stage, as well as on site during, and post installation.



Tom said: "Kemper System is such a well known and trusted liquid waterproofing manufacturer, it's a delight to join their team."

"I am looking forward to building stronger relationships with existing and new clients and adding value to their businesses by creating new opportunities thanks to the wide range of solutions within the Kemper System portfolio."

Neville Harris 1931-2020



Longstanding supporter and former president of NFRC, Neville Harris has died at the age of 89.

Born on 23rd March 1931, Neville joined roofing firm Broadbents & Stephens in 1947 straight after leaving school. He subsequently was called up for National Service in Malta and Egypt. Upon his return he rejoined Broadbents, eventually becoming a director and worked in that position until his retirement in 1996. He continued to work for Broadbents in various capacities until 2001.

For most of his working life, Neville volunteered his time and energy to support the roofing industry and NFRC in particular. He sat on the NFRC Midlands Committee for over 40 years, serving as both its Chairman and Treasurer at various times, eventually becoming NFRC president in 1996. He continued to remain very engaged with NFRC, sitting on various technical committees, as a trustee on the Charitable Trust, and internationally through the IFD.

His family expressed their appreciation for all the messages of support they have received and asked for any donations to be given to the Alzheimer's Society.

President of NFRC, Kevin M Taylor, who knew Neville well, said: "Neville was cherished by so many in the industry and will be sorely missed. He truly was the embodiment of everything the NFRC stands for. He was a man of integrity and was a true gentleman."

"The number of messages the NFRC Midlands Committee has received is a testament to the sheer amount of time and effort Neville committed to our sector and to NFRC in particular. Neville truly did devote his life to NFRC, giving over 40 years of service, active regionally, nationally and internationally - and he, along with a few others, helped shape the NFRC we know and love today."

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New National Roof Training Group



The brand-new Flat Roofing Upskilling project being run by Langley Waterproofing Systems taking place at the Yorkshire Roof Training Centre, Barnsley, soon to start for the Wales Roof Training Group in Caerphilly & for the North West Roof Training Group in Warrington in Spring 2021.

The newly launched National Roof Training Group (NRTG) starts 2021 with a bang, as its member groups embark on their latest training initiatives to support contractor members.

Collaboration was key to the success of the recent national e-learning project. Almost 3,000 courses were completed, which, together with the Roofing Assessor project, were funded by the Roofing Industry Alliance.

Eight out of ten of the independent roof training groups across the UK accepted the invitation to join the NRTG, the representative body for the UK independent roof training groups. The national group will influence and advise on training arrangements and solutions, and

network with its employer base and key partners to implement strategies. It also promotes and stimulates collective initiatives such as those mentioned above and promotes the sector in careers initiatives, training courses, seminars, lectures, work visits and study tours. Plans include fundraising to support bursaries and other initiatives.

Some 650 roofing contractor companies throughout the UK, are currently enjoying the benefits of membership. Day-to-day activities are the responsibility of the 8 Training Officers, who have between them, some 150 years' experience of training in the roofing sector alone.

Check out the website for more information and news <https://nationalrooftraining.co.uk>

Roof Training – for Roofers - by Roofers



The team at IRT Scotland embraces all roofing disciplines and works from the principle that you go home in the same fit and healthy condition as you arrived on site. To achieve that, the training group is stressing contractors need to ensure that all personnel, whether operative, supervisor or management are up to date with all aspects of good working practice and current Health & Safety legislation and ensuring all certification is up to date.

IRT Scotland says, "The good name of your company, the professionalism of your staff and the effective, profitable completion of projects is attributable to many factors, but the key to all is grounded in one word: training."

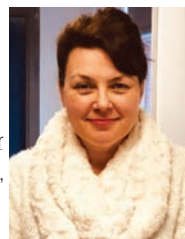
IRT Scotland offers training which includes On Site Assessment Training (OSAT), NVQ L2, Experienced Worker Practical Assessment

(EWPA), Harness & Working at Heights, Asbestos Awareness, Abrasive Wheels, and can also tailor training to contractor's specific training requirements with CITB funding available to CITB registered companies.

IRT Scotland says, "E-learning can accommodate remote learning at a pace that suits both the individual and the company. Our e-learning platform offers tailored packages and our courses are CPD accredited and recognised as part of the NFRC's RoofCERT accreditation programme. These include, Health & Safety courses, including the Level 1 in Health & Safety in a Construction Environment course (leading to CSCS Green Labourers Card) and Business Skills, among many."

New Year

"We kick start the new year by bringing the two-day Roof Estimating course (Slatting & Tiling) and the Five-day Basic Bossing & Lead Welding courses in February. Places are limited to six per course and offered on a first-come, first-served basis. To book, or for further details on training, contact Michelle@irtscotland.co.uk"



Apprentices Are Key

Apprentices are vital to the prosperity of the roofing sector. As far as the North West Roof Training Group (NWRWG) is concerned, 2020 will be known as a record-breaking year for the numbers recruited, despite the pandemic.



Harry Nibloe, Roofing apprentice Longworth Building Services

NWRWG starts 2021 in the same vein, as the new Langley Flat Roofing Trailblazer starts on 18 January with a fully subscribed first cohort. Taking place at Simian, Warrington, this pilot project is a first for any area outside the Capital and augurs well for the future.

Looking back at the old year, 50 first-year apprentices started their NVQ2 at Bolton College, and a further 14 at Skills Construction Centre, Kirkham. Longworth Building Services, one of NWRWG's active members located in Haydock has taken five new apprentices since September 2020. Their formal training to date has included a week-long training course on Hard Metals at the new NCTS/Master Roofers Centre, Salford together with basic health & safety training and spells in Longworth's fabrication facility. Each has a designated mentor and longer term, it's hoped they will move on to the Hard Metal Specialist Applied-Skills Programme

Paul Smith, MD of Longworth is a firm believer in training and sees it as a top priority. He said, "After all, today's apprentices are tomorrow's craftspeople, so I am very proud of the young guys who have recently joined Team Longworth. I know that with our guidance and mentorship we will facilitate a fantastic career for each individual, and feed our confidence in delivering quality, time and again for our clients."

Another NWRWG member, MAC Roofing & Contracting based in Birkenhead made news recently with their involvement with CITB's Pathways into

Construction scheme. This initiative is aimed at connecting employers with people who don't traditionally enter the construction sector. With Laing O'Rourke and 'Everton in the Community', they helped to deliver an online education session for Year 10 students at Birkenhead Park School which helped pupils learn about construction as a career.



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How Many Accreditations Does One Industry Need?

In the midst of such demanding business conditions, contractors are paying attention to margins and the bottom line like never before. Here, Mike Wharton, Chief Executive of Complete Roofing Systems puts the spotlight on accreditations and asks if the industry is missing an opportunity to improve its supply chain efficiency.

“Our Achilles subscription needs to be renewed in three weeks; shall I just get on with it?” asked our office manager recently. The question triggered a review of all our accreditations and how we use them.

The list is a long one: Constructionline Gold, CHAS, Safe Contractor, Achilles, plus various memberships of trade federations, institutes, procurement portals and client-specific portals. On top of these are the bids which we're involved in, all asking very similar questions to the ones we answer for the accreditations. We estimated that along with the subscriptions themselves, adding in the time cost and the bids, we easily reach an annual cost of £60k.

Where are we going as an industry with accreditation and what do the various bodies give us? It's all too

easy to simply hit the renew button, send the updated insurance certs and hey presto, another year, another logo update, another invoice, another newsletter etc. Wouldn't it be wonderful if there was a single standard which clients and contractors could rely on for Preliminary Questionnaires (PQ), negating the requirement for multiple questionnaires, endless renewals and client-specific PQ documents which can run into the hundreds of pages.

But wait, there is a standard, it's PAS91. Originally developed by BSI and what was the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS, now BEIS), the aim was to standardise procurement for government bodies. Constructionline adopted the question set in 2013, which means if a company has Constructionline as an accreditation, it is



We recently priced works for a new client and part of that requirement was to have ALL the main accreditations despite them being essentially the same. Add in Safety Schemes in Procurement (SSIP), plus nearly a 300-page questionnaire of the client's own and, wow, what a time cost! This needs to stop.

automatically PAS91 compliant. Shouldn't this be enough for PQ? Why are so many main contractors (of all tiers) choosing not only to

insist on the usual suspects of the accreditation world, but also their own PQ document, as do the procurement portals?

We recently priced works for a new client and part of that requirement was to have ALL the main accreditations despite them being essentially the same. Add in Safety Schemes in Procurement (SSIP), plus nearly a 300-page questionnaire of the client's own and, wow, what a time cost! This needs to stop. It's a huge drain on

as a lip-service-tick-box exercise, simply being filed away never to again see the light of day. How many main contractors for example realise that having ISO9001 and 14001 exempts a firm from a number of parts of PAS91? Yet still we see the insistence of “you must have x, y and z accreditations, and and and...”

Of course, the roofing industry has itself evolved an infrastructure to raise standards and ensure quality through training in the shape of the UK-wide network of regional Roof Training Groups.

resource and achieves almost nothing in terms of quality assurance and compliance with relevant standards in installation.

Build UK and the Civil Engineers Contractors Association have made great strides with the Common Assessment Standard (CAS), which to date Achilles, CHAS and Constructionline have signed up to, whereby one common question set (PAS91 compliant) will suffice. Awareness of CAS needs to come to the fore in 2021, but more than that, with main contractor margins still paper thin, any efficiencies should be grasped with both hands.

The key to unlocking the CAS will be data sharing. It has been designed so that contractors and clients will be able to access key PQ data for their supply chains with their preferred assessment body (singular) and will not need to set up an arrangement with many/every recognised assessment body.

This is great for the Tier Ones who have a seat at the Build UK table, but what of smaller, more regional-based main contractors? It is understanding why are we asking these questions which is critical here. For quality? Health and safety? What is it FOR? In many cases these documents are treated

Individual accreditations

All the above are, of course, accreditations for the firm. What of the operative or the manager? The director? PAS91 is neither a measure of individual nor company competency in installation or quality - another key issue in accreditation. We're all familiar with how much the industry spends on defects at the main contractor end - billions per year. It is quality in installation, British Standards and types (quality) of guarantees which should be the focus.

RoofCert could be the answer for the operative, but for it to become the de facto individual accreditation for roofers, we must see demand come from the top down. Customers must insist on it for it to gain any real traction in the industry. The bottom up 'keen contractor' approach will only go so far. There surely remains a place for Onsite Assessment (OSAT) for those operatives without NVQ2, but assessors must be paid appropriately, and not by the giving of the award itself, but by the act of the assessment, be it pass or fail.

Of course, the roofing industry has itself evolved an infrastructure to raise standards and ensure quality through training in the shape of the

UK-wide network of regional Roof Training Groups. Evolved over decades from the ground up by contractors, the 10 groups run on minimal public funds, to the tune of less than £5million annually. On this shoestring they provide advice, information, funding applications, training provision and crucially, career and sector promotion not available elsewhere. The sector must not allow the Construction Industry Training Board to starve the groups. Nor must we allow any potential 'land grabs' from any party which could be detrimental to the way the groups operate wholly independently of other bodies, or somehow change their focus via a quid pro quo in return for financial help.

The recently launched Green Homes Grant (GHG) scheme is a

simply do not need to go ahead with GHG or do not have the time or the inclination to go for more accreditations to get there. Despite the extension, GHG is still suffering from poor publicity and with the advent of the Covid-19 vaccine, in 2021 the public's renewed interest in RMI during lockdown and furlough could fall significantly in favour of holidays etc.

In a nutshell, we need to end the practice of multiple accreditations, portals and questionnaires. The industry needs one standard for PQ backed by appropriate, nationally recognised qualifications for operatives and for that key data to sit in once place, to be accessed by the buyers.

Could our trade bodies create a PAS91 compliant, industry-specific accreditation for the firm, matched



relevant case here. In addition to the various PQ accreditations, for firms who wish to take part, Competent Person Scheme membership, Trustmark membership and PAS2030 are all required. Quality in installation is vital, be it commercial or domestic, but contractors with PAS91 compliant accreditations and appropriately qualified operatives (NVQ etc) are already there in terms of that competence. Sadly, the current high workload in the industry may mean that firms

with the appropriate quals for the operative? That single unit to dovetail into the Common Assessment Standard and therefore meeting Constructionline, CHAS, Achilles etc? The key is then the data share, and of course the lobbying in the first instance to the bodies themselves to gain their agreement. This should not be difficult, and the industry could move it forward at pace. This is no time for navel gazing, it needs positive and pragmatic outreach. ■

Bringing Safety and Clarity to Glass Rooflight Specification

With margins low and budgets tight in a COVID-affected construction sector, it's important to recognise the value of UK quality standards for glass rooflights, says Paul Smith, Design and Development Manager, Brett Martin Daylight Systems. Here, he provides insight for specifiers and installers into the specification of glass rooflights and how to differentiate products in the marketplace.



Whether on new build or refurbished buildings, rooflights have become the go-to solution for designers wanting to create spaces filled with the life-enhancing and productivity benefits of natural light. Their specification, however, should not simply be based on how great they look and their thermal benefits. It is also critical that the specified rooflight has been manufactured to exacting standards in order to

When considering the safety of glass rooflights, there are two priorities – the building occupants below and anyone who accesses the roof above.

meet specific industry requirements and benchmarks in terms of safety. Failure to do this may result in under-specification and a rooflight that has functional problems, and in the worst case scenario, forms a major safety risk.

Safety first

When considering the safety of glass rooflights, there are two priorities – the building occupants below and anyone who accesses the roof above.

Consideration should be given to anyone beneath the rooflight to ensure they cannot be injured by falling glass if the glass pane should break, and to anyone above the rooflight to ensure they can't be injured by falling through a rooflight if they step or fall onto it accidentally.

Look for laminate

To protect anyone beneath the rooflight, industry recommendations are that rooflights should always be specified to have a laminated inner pane. This ensures that if the glass pane should break for any reason it remains intact and can't fall. It stops individual broken shards from falling, preventing risk of injury to those immediately below the rooflight.

The National Association of Rooflight Manufacturers (NARM) and the Advisory Committee for Roofsafety (ACR) both recommend that the inner pane should always be laminated glass as the safest rooflight option. Both organisations issue literature which illustrates the risks of using rooflights with only toughened glass inner panes.

A 'toughened' inner pane implies safety, but this is misleading as toughened glass can shatter due to impact when overstressed (including from contact with fixing screws, or installation on uneven upstands), or on very rare occasions spontaneously. Building occupants would therefore be at risk from falling glass fragments, which is why it is so important to ensure a

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-II laminated glass inner pane is part of the rooflight specification.

The first choice for the inner pane of a rooflight should therefore usually be a laminated glass. British Standard BS5516 states that toughened glass should only be used if a stringent risk assessment has been undertaken which shows that use of a toughened glass inner pane does not give any additional risk to those below rooflights - which is unlikely.

Fragile versus non-fragile

In order to protect anyone accidentally walking or falling onto



All rooflights which use toughened glass inner panes must be classified as 'Fragile'. However, not all laminated glass combinations will achieve a 'Non-Fragile' classification.



a rooflight and ensure they will not fall through it even if the glass breaks, rooflights should also be specified to be non-fragile.

CDM Regulations require that a risk assessment should be carried out for every construction project, and appropriate action taken to minimise all risks, with a hierarchy of preventative measures. Fragile rooflights clearly present a risk of falling through, if anyone is able to access the rooflight from above. They should only be specified if the risk assessment shows that satisfactory measures to prevent injury can be taken (in accordance with the hierarchy of preferred measures), otherwise non-fragile rooflights should be specified.

It's important to note that all non-fragile rooflights incorporate a laminated glass inner pane of a suitable thickness determined via test or 'deemed to satisfy' criteria



set out in the relevant test standard. This is to ensure the glass can retain the weight of a fallen person even if the glass pane has broken. All rooflights which use toughened glass inner panes must be classified as 'Fragile'.

However, not all laminated glass combinations will achieve a 'Non-Fragile' classification, and many rooflights with laminated inner panes may still be fragile.

Non-fragility for roofing products is generally defined by the ACR[M]001 standard, but in order for glass rooflights to be classified 'non-fragile', they must also meet the requirements of CWCT-TN92 (for a Class 2 roofs) or CWCT TN66/67.

As an example, Brett Martin's flat glass rooflights have a laminated glass inner pane that has been proven via test to be non-fragile to CWCT TN-92 (for class 2 roofs) and

Class B non-fragile to ACR[M]001. These rooflights therefore ensure personal safety, both of anyone in the area beneath or above the rooflight.

Safety campaign

As a rooflight manufacturer, Brett Martin strongly supports the latest campaign launched by NARM which highlights a number of potentially dangerous incidents involving poorly designed or installed rooflights. A new 'safety tick' symbol highlights the need for a laminated inner pane as the only safe choice for overhead glazing.



Moving forward, this symbol will raise awareness and highlight products that ensure the safety of those below rooflights.

The importance of choosing a rooflight that not only incorporates a laminated inner pane but is also non-fragile should not be understated. Choosing the right rooflight manufacturer will ultimately give you peace of mind. They can offer great quality, long lasting and compliant products that are quick and easy to install and backed up by superb technical support.

Only through a shared understanding and synergy between rooflight manufacturers, merchants, specifiers and installers working together, can the safety of individuals both below and above glass rooflights be ensured. III

To find out more about Brett Martin visit: www.brettmartin.com.

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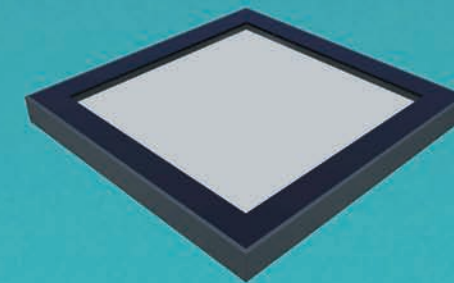
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The Elephant in the Roof

As a bespoke rooflight manufacturer we often see grand plans with expansive areas of roof glazing, as architects continue to seek innovative ways in which to exploit natural daylight. As much as bespoke rooflights can certainly help bring these designs to life, there are some important factors that need to be considered when the glazing is turned from drawing to reality. Paul Trace from Stella Rooflight discusses the practicalities involved in specifying large rooflights.

In recent years we have noticed a trend towards larger rooflights, with sizes regularly exceeding 2500mm in width, height or both. While Stella can certainly accommodate these, one has to appreciate the practicalities of weight, transportation and cost.

It stands to reason that the larger the rooflight, the thicker the glass will need to be, therefore as rooflight sizes get bigger their weight can increase exponentially. In context, our double glazed units comprising of 4mm thick glass weigh 20kgs per square metre and those using 6mm are 30kgs per square metre. Triple glazed units are 30kgs and 45kgs respectively. Add the stainless steel frames and hardwood liners into the equation and you can start to see how even a modest sized rooflight can weigh something akin to a small elephant! Indeed it's not uncommon for us to produce rooflights weighing in excess of 200kg.

The reality is that when you scale things up even the simplest plans can start to become complex - a truth that should be all too familiar

to architects. But before drawing that large rectangle on a roof plan, it is important to consider how the rooflight is going to be lifted from the ground to roof level and what the weight implications might be for the structure. Stella can weld stainless eyelets to the rooflight frame to aid the lifting process and we would suggest doing this on frames which weigh in excess of 100kg, which is the point where we expect a crane might be required. However, does the site have suitable access for any specialist lifting equipment, and has this additional cost been budgeted for?

The weight of an opening rooflight will also determine whether it is manually operated or requires electric actuation. We would suggest that our largest manually operated rooflight be around 1000mm wide or 1400mm high. Anything over this size will generally require electric actuation to lift the weight and in the case of wider casements, to provide a tight seal. Manual operating casements are less expensive than electric so there is a cost element that also

Even a modest sized rooflight can weigh something akin to a small elephant! Indeed it's not uncommon for us to produce rooflights weighing in excess of 200kg.

needs to be considered when specifying larger opening rooflights. There is no maximum size in terms of what is possible to manufacture, although it is worth keeping in mind that a single piece of glass with an area over 5m² becomes significantly more expensive.

Fortunately, there are alternatives to using large expensive single panes of glazing, such as introducing glazing bars to reduce the unit sizes, linking frames, and having more than one casement.

This not only makes the rooflights easier to transport, lift and install, but can also reduce the price.

If a large, single rooflight is the only option for your project then you must also make sure that it is safe to install. While rooflight manufacturers will be able to provide advice on a suitable specification for the job in terms of materials, glazing thickness, functionality and installation, it is ultimately the responsibility of a structural engineer to ensure that the product being specified is fit (and safe) for the building that it is fitted into.

To avoid any ambiguity, it is essential that the architect, structural engineer and rooflight manufacturer discuss large rooflight installations, likely weights, load bearings, site access, and lifting capacity at an early stage to avoid any problems down the line. It is not advisable to leave this for the builder to deal with at the last minute.

Another area for consideration should be the safety of large areas II-

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■ of glazing situated high up in a roof structure. Again, much like an elephant, there is a lot of grey area here!

Regardless of size, your rooflight should meet the BS 5516-2: 2004 patent glazing and sloping glazing for buildings standard. This code of

No glass is impervious to breakage so it is important to remember that roof glazing can and often does sit high above common areas in a home or office, so there will always be an element of concern if a unit were to break.

As laminated glass is more expensive, the industry perhaps sees this as a way of combatting the cohort of cheap, flat rooflight products that have flooded the market with potentially dangerous products.

However, laminating rooflight glass creates its own unique set of problems, as annealed laminate is prone to thermal fracture and heat stress. This risk can be reduced by polishing edges, however the low-e coating is not practical for polished edges as there is a risk of damaging the coating. Swapping the low-e coating for a laminated glass with treated edges is likely to have a negative impact on the thermal performance of the unit. Using products such as SGG Cool-Lite on the outer pane can help as this has both solar reflective and thermal coatings, but these do not have a self-clean coating which is an important consideration for pitched rooflights as they are usually positioned out of reach.

Thermal stress is created when one area of a glass pane gets hotter than an adjacent area. If the stress is too great, then the glass will crack. The stress level at which the glass will break is governed by several factors. Toughened glass is very resilient and not prone to failing due to thermal stress. Laminated glass and annealed glass behave in a similar way and the thicker the glass the less tolerant it becomes, which is an important factor for larger rooflights.

The temperature difference for a location can be calculated and the risk of breakage due to thermal reasons reduced. However, to assess the thermal risk you will need to take the following factors into consideration:

- ❑ Type of glass being specified for the insulating glass units
- ❑ Where the building is located
- ❑ Orientation of the rooflight
- ❑ Size of any glazing bars (if required)
- ❑ Details of any internal shading such as blinds or louvres
- ❑ The framing material and powder coat colour

- ❑ The window size and if it opens as this will change the angle to the sun
- ❑ Whether any radiators are located directly below the rooflight
- ❑ Any other details like other buildings or trees casting a shadow onto the glass.

The risk of thermal cracking and heat stress changes throughout the year with the highest risk seasons being spring and autumn due to the low angle of the sun and the lower evening temperatures.

Solar control glass either reflects energy or absorbs it to reradiate the heat outwards. By its nature it gets hotter than clear glass and glass that is designed for thermal efficiency alone. Whilst the majority of installations are within the operating tolerance, in some cases fluctuation in heat can put the stress beyond the limits.

Laminated glass is also heavier which needs to be remembered when planning lifting schedules and structural requirements.

Another issue experienced with laminated glass is a phenomenon called lensing, where images become distorted. This doesn't necessarily cause a problem with flat rooflight glazing where the view is a simple sky backdrop, but on pitched rooflights with a view of a landscape, this distortion will be an issue.

In summary, while there is a growing trend for projects to include more and larger rooflights, it is not as straightforward as just adding them to the plans. Clearly there is so much more to specifying large rooflights than meets the eye and while your rooflight manufacturer will be able to provide recommendations, ultimately having a better understanding of what glazing is required and involving a qualified structural engineer in the early phases will resolve any issues you may have further down the line. ■

For further information contact the Stella Rooflight team on 01794 745445 or email info@stellarooflight.co.uk. www.stellarooflight.co.uk



practice for sloping glazing defines that inner panes must always be laminated wherever rooflights are more than 5m above floor level (increased to 13m for panes less than 3m²) or are located over water (e.g. swimming pools). The Standard permits the use of toughened inner panes in other applications (for example where rooflights are less than 5m from floor level), but only where a stringent risk assessment for the particular application has been completed and has concluded that the use of toughened glass does not give any additional risk to those below the rooflight.

Certain industry bodies are calling for all rooflight glazing to include a laminated inner pane to provide greater security in the event that the glass breaks. This is in much the same way as car windscreens are required by law to be laminated to protect passengers from shattered glass in the event of an accident. There can be no dispute that laminated glass is safer because it forms a net when broken, which remains in one piece, whereas toughened glass breaks into little cubes and will fall down onto whatever is below.



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Joined-up Performance from a Single Manufacturer

Roland Jackson, Commercial Director of Waterproofing specialist, Soprema, discusses the importance of a joined-up approach to specification for roof refurbishment projects.



With its torrential downpours and freeze-thaw potential, this is the season when any integrity issues with a roof become painfully obvious. It's also the season when repairs to address such issues become most challenging. In an ideal world, such integrity issues can be avoided with skilled installation, but joined-up specification also has a role to play in ensuring the right combination of products is selected for every area of the roof.

installation, could not only result in reduced performance, but could also jeopardise the warranty, which can be costly for both the client and the contractor. To ensure that the specification responds to the requirements of the individual roof, it pays to work with a roofing systems manufacturer that offers a full portfolio of waterproofing technologies, backed by technical support throughout the project, from the

many cases, particularly if the building is being refurbished for a new occupier or a specific point in the calendar – such as the start of term for a school – speed and ease of installation are also primary considerations.

The physical characteristics of the building are also critical factors. In addition to understanding what repairs need to be carried out to the existing roof, the specification must consider compatibility of the

an opportunity to upgrade the roof to a more appropriate system. Roofing system technologies are improving all the time, so, even if the same technology is used, there may be an opportunity to upgrade to improve performance and ease of installation.

A joined-up approach

Whether a roof refurbishment is a straight forward single system project, or it requires multiple systems on different roof areas and added complexities such as inverted build-ups, insulation upgrades or green roofs, working with a single supplier for all elements can bring huge benefits to the client, contractor, architect and the project in general. When the specification is written, the manufacturer can take a joined-up approach to consider all the factors outlined above. Manufacturers can provide expert advice on the best approach for the building and the performance criteria within the budget.

Where the roof refurbishment is more complex, requiring the use of more than one technology, this single source supply approach not only rationalises procurement but also ensures that technical support is consistent and focused on maximising the performance for each system and for the project as a whole. A single manufacturer for all roofing systems can provide technical support on details for the interface between different systems, helping to avoid the risk factors associated with the most vulnerable areas of multi-system roofs. Ultimately, when all materials are brought together from a single manufacturer, both the specification and warranty are co-ordinated to help the project achieve this goal. ■

Budget should not always be the first priority, and price must be weighed against performance and buildability criteria to develop a best-fit specification for the project parameters.



Even on straightforward projects where a flat, single level roof has a consistent, even surface and no complex detailing, choosing a roof build-up that achieves the right balance of performance, price and service life requires expertise. But often there are more technical challenges than that. Alongside design factors, roof build-up and location, vital specification considerations in the refurbishment sector also include the condition of the roof and the building structure and any planned modifications to the building.

It's a complex and demanding picture and any inconsistencies, in either the specification or the

condition survey through to issuing the warranty.

Complex considerations

The first consideration for any roof refurbishment project is the most suitable waterproofing system for each area of the roof. While buildability and installation considerations are factors here, there is much more to assess on a technical, practical and commercial level. Budget should not always be the first priority, and price must be weighed against performance and buildability criteria to develop a best-fit specification for the project parameters. In

new waterproofing system with the existing surface and the load capacity of both the roof build-up and the structure of the building. Calculating the best fit solution in terms of buildability and performance, along with the most attractive full build-up cost, can be a technically complex process, particularly if there are different roof areas with existing coverings that vary in technology, age and condition.

For many refurbishment projects, there is also a tendency to prioritise a 'like for like' specification. While this may aid compatibility for an overlay installation, it may also overlook

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Crest Nelskamp is Bucking the Trend in Supplying the UK with Roofing Tiles

With Crest's factories having available stock and excellent lead times, merchants and distributors are turning to the company to help them through the current roofing materials crisis.

It's been well documented over the past few months that the UK is facing a roofing materials shortage. Many contractors are calling it a major crisis as they face long delays in obtaining roofing materials. The situation is desperate and with winter now upon us the pressure is mounting.

Concrete roofing tiles seem to be one of the most affected materials, with lead times from order to delivery being at least 12 weeks and, in many cases, up to 22. It's the last thing roofers need at this moment, as they are still making up for lost time due to a busy summer, lockdown and tier restrictions.

Crest Nelskamp is one of the UK's leading suppliers of high-quality roofing tiles and has been actively increasing its supply to merchants, distributors and housebuilders to help remove the tremendous pressure they all face. They have ample production capacity and the ability to manufacture more roof tiles to further help the supply chain.

During the first lockdown in March, Crest's European manufacturing partners Nelskamp maintained their production with Covid guidelines in place and official guidance from the German government, unlike many manufacturers in the UK who were unable to produce and build up stocks at this time.

Crest's range of roof tiles is specially crafted and engineered by Nelskamp, with six modern production facilities strategically positioned across the country. Crest Nelskamp roof tiles are recognised for their use of high-quality robust materials and proven manufacturing techniques.

Stuart King, Crest's Deputy Managing Director, said: "With stock on the ground waiting to be despatched from our factories and the increase to our transport and logistics operation to cope with the extra demand we are working hard to keep delivery times as short as possible."



Crest Nelskamp helping to keep the roofing supply chain moving.

"With available stock we continue to push the boundaries in terms of supplying innovative, high quality engineered roofing tiles that have excellent technical properties, all of which are guaranteed for a minimum of 30 years. Most of our tiles have been carefully designed to reduce both labour and material costs as well as completion times,

without sacrificing the quality and overall aesthetics and appearance of the roof which is obviously important to planning and environmental needs."

With the rapid rise in infections attributed to the swift spread of a new variant of COVID-19, and tougher restrictions being introduced for most parts of the UK, the likelihood of material shortages improving is remote. UK based raw materials are under severe pressure, and this will have a knock-on result across the whole of the supply chain with most issues appearing in the spring/summer next year.



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Mastic Asphalt Screed: Creating a Sound Substrate

Simon Downey, Area Business Manager at IKO Plc, explains the advantages of using mastic asphalt in comparison to cementitious screed to create a solid substrate.

When installing a flat roofing system on either a new build or refurbishment project, contractors must ensure a sound, solid substrate is created prior to applying the chosen waterproofing system.

In many new build and refurbishment projects, mastic asphalt is often a preferred option to traditional cementitious screeds, as it offers advantages both at design stage and during installation, and creates a solid foundation for any subsequent roof build-up.

Mastic asphalt considerations

There are a number of key considerations to make prior to applying the chosen waterproofing system on the roof, and although it may seem like a small detail within the overall project, the correct specification of mastic asphalt screed can be vital to the success and durability of the roof.

Traditional cement screeds have been used for many years, yet, mastic asphalt alternatives have many advantages which are becoming increasingly appealing to specifiers and contractors alike.

Alongside its quick and easy application, mastic asphalt is a flame free application, which is advantageous in many settings, particularly on occupied refurbishment projects.

The versatile qualities of mastic asphalt means it can be used in both refurbishment and new build projects, and can create the perfect substrate for warm roofs, cold or inverted roof build-ups.

Almost any waterproofing solution can be laid on top of mastic asphalt, which can be used to provide drainage falls or level out an uneven deck before the next element of the roof is installed.

Mastic asphalt is seamless and quick curing. Only a handful of manufacturers' products, including IKO Permascreed, can be trafficked within hours after application - meaning contractors can continue the roof build-up the same or next day, limiting any delays on site.

Green construction

The growing need to create zero carbon buildings combined with BREEAM requirements, a preference for local and responsible sourcing of labour and materials, and the Considerate Constructors Scheme, mean it is increasingly important to establish greener approaches to construction.

This is why mastic asphalt is often the preferred choice for specifiers and building owners because the UK mastic asphalt is the first industry in the world to achieve the CarbonZero™ standard. IKO, for example, has been offsetting

the carbon footprint of mastic asphalt projects for more than a decade, using internationally approved carbon credits.

Substrate preparation

Prior to applying mastic asphalt screeds, very little preparation is required, the roof just needs to be swept clean and surface dried.

Mastic asphalt screeds can provide a temporary waterproofing solution for the roof prior to applying the specified waterproofing system, meaning that the building can be in the dry without undue delays. Consideration just needs to be given to detailing items such as rainwater outlets, abutments and penetrations.

Winter working

Working during the winter months can present its own challenges, and can potentially affect application and drying times of cementitious screeds.



Prior to applying mastic asphalt screeds, very little preparation is required, the roof just needs to be swept clean and surface dried.

Project Spotlight: Barking Riverside



Situated between the A13 and the river Thames within the Borough of Barking and Dagenham, Barking Riverside is one of the largest, new, mixed-use, urban developments in the country.

A joint venture agreement between Bellway Homes and the Homes and Communities Agency, the 443-acre development has created 10,800 new, mixed tenure homes, together with community facilities, new schools, and access to two kilometres of the Thames river frontage.

Bellway Homes was looking for a solution to help smooth out the

undulations in the structural roof decks on a number of three- and four-bed houses with flat roofs, where precast concrete planks had been specified.

Although the planks were installed within the manufacturers' tolerances, the step level between individual units was deemed unsuitable to receive the specified hot melt waterproofing system.

It was critical that the developer did not fall behind on the construction schedule and so a fast track solution to the problem was essential. A traditional concrete screed layer wasn't suitable for this

project, as the weight of it would impact the foundation design, and would take too long to cure.

Therefore, IKO Permascreed mastic asphalt solution was specified because of its quick application and drying qualities, meaning delays on site were kept to a minimum. Once cured, the IKO Permascreed layer was robust enough to accept the traffic and concentrated loads associated with the installation of a flat roof waterproofing system.

A total of 8,000 sq. m of IKO Permascreed was laid on the Barking Riverside project at a

thickness of 40mm, a reduction of 33 per cent when compared with traditional screeds as the overall weight of the finished roof needed to be considered.

This fast curing solution provided the developer with a level surface, and enabled them to keep the construction programme on schedule. The finished roof, including the IKO Permasec solution also provided a 20-year guarantee.

Why we can't overlook the screed layer

Mastic asphalt solutions, like the IKO Permascreed offered by IKO Plc, is sometimes referred to as 'just a screed' which enables work to continue on a roof.

There is truth in this, yet, choosing the right screed is paramount to the overall success of the project's waterproofing, and needs to form a sound foundation for subsequent materials.

Specifying mastic asphalt is an opportunity for the roofing contractor to control the destiny of that roof and how quickly they can continue to waterproof it for the benefit of the end client, and themselves. ■

Because mastic asphalt screed is hot applied and simply just needs to cool before it can be trafficked, in most circumstances, it will be cool and ready to use within an hour of application, compared to days if not weeks with traditional cementitious screeds – especially during winter months when drying out times will be extended because of the inclement weather.

Mastic asphalt screed solutions are sometimes referred to as a 'fit and forget' solution, as it is quick cooling and can be covered almost straight away. Because cementitious screeds are more porous than

mastic asphalt, it can cause issues during the drying period if wet weather is predicted. On some occasions, contractors have erected tarpaulins on site to try and keep the cementitious screed as dry as possible, which as a result, creates further costs and project extensions.

The minimum thickness of a mastic asphalt solution is also less than a cementitious screed, typically 10 mm compared to 60 or 70 mm meaning weight savings and less product to get to site. Mastic asphalt can arrive on site hot, in purpose built, hot charge tankers capable of holding up to 18 tonnes

Mastic asphalt screed solutions are sometimes referred to as a 'fit and forget' solution, as it is quick cooling and can be covered almost straight away.

of material, or contractors can prefer to re-melt blocks on site.

With cementitious screeds, best practice would also require a site visit to ensure there is five per cent or less moisture content within the screed prior to the waterproofing layer being applied, especially during wetter, winter months. This causes time delays and extra cost, which is eradicated with mastic asphalt as once it has cooled sufficiently, contractors will be safe in the knowledge it will provide an excellent bond. ■■



Looking to a Brighter, Greener Year

If 2021 were to be represented on a colour chart, it would most certainly include different shades of green. The 'Green Recovery' sees an extension to the government's Green Homes Grant scheme, a growing demand for sustainable construction methods, and a drive for global carbon reduction. Here, George King, Divisional Managing Director for SIG Roofing, looks at the ecologically friendly direction of travel in this new year.



Now running until the end of March 2022 (an additional 12 months) and with a total of £2 billion to be awarded, the Green Homes Grant initiative should give 2021 a welcome boost and provide roofing contractors with opportunities throughout the year.

It can be difficult to tell how much insulation is in a flat roof just by looking at it. But if it was built before the year 2000 then it probably doesn't have enough to meet today's standards, which is something roofing contractors can discuss with potential customers.

The Prime Minister has made 'Greener Buildings' a key objective in his Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution and put it at the heart of a 'green economic recovery' that it is hoped will support 50,000 jobs.

Green impetus

The focus on the environment, and reducing the carbon footprint in particular, has been given added impetus with Prime Minister Boris Johnson's announcement of new plans for a minimum 68% cut in greenhouse gas emissions by the end of the decade, compared to 1990 levels.

The Prime Minister has made 'Greener Buildings' a key objective in his Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution and put it at the heart of a 'green economic recovery' that it is hoped will support 50,000 jobs.

Along with other major investment announcements, on large infrastructure projects such as HS2 and the delivery of up to 45,000 new homes, this promises good things for the construction industry, which will of course include roofing contractors.

It's stating the obvious, but the past ten months or so since the first national lockdown in response to the Coronavirus pandemic have been a rollercoaster.

But as the new year begins to unfold, there are tangible reasons for increasing confidence levels, with the vaccination programme under way and a growing sense that we are riding out the storm.

Shortly before the pandemic, and to some extent during it, we made significant investment into our

business. This saw new distribution hubs, enhanced hi-tech logistics and delivery services, and branch refurbishments, along with increasing stock levels to ensure the products were available when our customers needed them.

Strong position

This put us in a strong position not only to weather the storm but to come out of it with genuine feelings of optimism for the future.

There will still be challenges in 2021. As we have said in previous columns, the construction sector continues to battle with a skills shortage, although industry and government training and apprenticeship initiatives will, hopefully, make inroads into the issue this year.

Also, any impacts on the economy from Brexit, good as well as bad, have yet to unfold.

So, there is still no room for complacency, it's simply too early. That is why we will continue to follow government guidance on managing the pandemic within our own operations. We continue maintaining social distancing and hygiene protocols to protect staff in our nationwide branch network and, equally as important, help safeguard the well-being and livelihoods of our roofing contractor customers. III

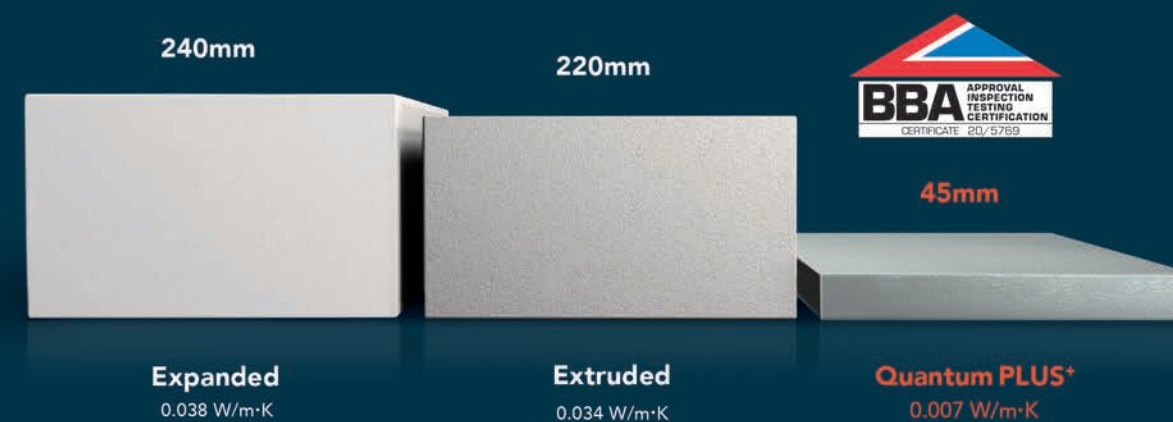
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As much as 25% of heat can be lost through an inadequately insulated roof. Eligible householders and landlords will have plenty of food for thought as they consider how best to spend the up to £5,000 grant on energy efficiency and low carbon home improvements (up to £10,000 for qualifying low income families).

The grants are awarded in vouchers and must be spent on at least one of the 'primary measures' listed under the scheme, which includes insulation for a flat roof.

Job for a professional

Insulation is, of course, a key consideration when installing or renewing a flat roof and should be done by a professional tradesman. After all, as the government endorsed Simple Energy Advice website says, 'it is never a DIY job'.

As with other roofing products, insulation materials for flat roofs have become more advanced over time.

Our own FIX-R flat roof insulation is a range of torch-on, mechanically fixed and fully bonded PIR (polyisocyanurate) insulation board solutions that meet the required thermal regulations for new-build and refurbishment projects.

PIR is one of the most efficient insulation materials used in construction, and is an improvement on previously used PUR (polyurethane) boards.

In keeping with today's 'green agenda', FIX-R flat roof insulation has zero ODP (Ozone Depletion Potential) and low GWP (Global Warming Potential).

Fantastic Four: Mannok Sweep the Board at NBG Awards 2020

Mannok has swept the board at this year's NBG Awards picking up four awards at the 2020 virtual ceremony, recognising their products and their service to the merchant industry.

The four awards are:

- ❑ Product of the Year: Mannok Master Grade Cement
- ❑ General Building Supplier of the Year
- ❑ Heavyside Brand of the Year
- ❑ Lockdown Hero of the Year

The NBG Supplier Awards are an annual event, usually held alongside their annual conference, which honour the building industry's major brands, recognising their contribution to the business success of NBG's merchants. Partners voted for the Supplier of the Year in each of NBG's eight Category Management Teams (CMTs), as well as Product of the Year and Brand of the Year in both the heavyside and lightside sectors. This year, a brand-new category was added, and Partners were asked to vote for their NBG Lockdown Hero.

In addition to the four award wins, Mannok was named as in second place in the Brick and Block Supplier of the Year category and third place in the Roofing and Insulation Supplier of the Year category.

Speaking of the company's success at the awards, GB Sales Director, Lee Gillman, said, "We are absolutely delighted to be recognised by NBG in this way, particularly in such a challenging year for the industry.

"Each one of these awards means a great deal to us, and reassures us that we are doing right by our customers, both in terms of the products we're producing and the service we're providing.



"Given the unprecedented challenges 2020 has presented, to receive the newest award at this year's event, Lockdown Hero, is a very special achievement for us. Like every other business, we've had to adapt in any way we could to service our customers safely, and the whole team has worked incredibly hard to ensure we support our customers throughout.

"To have this hard work and commitment acknowledged by our customers in this way is a fantastic achievement, and the entire Mannok team deserves to be congratulated for their commitment, agility and 'can do' attitude, which they've demonstrated in spades this year. We're incredibly proud."

Mannok's success at the 2020 NBG Awards comes just weeks after the announcement of an extended exclusivity deal for Mannok's Master Grade Cement which will give NBG customers exclusive access in the GB market to the award-winning product until the

end of 2024, extending the current partnership by three years.

NBG's Kerry Kincade congratulated Mannok on their achievements and spoke of the strong partnership the buying group has with the company, saying, "NBG and Mannok have a strong partnership, built on trust, honesty and great service and supply. Both parties are dedicated to growing the



relationship, we are continually looking for ways to develop and secure new business together.

"In this new world we have done exactly that, we have adapted and maintained the relationship. We look forward to the future with Mannok!"

As an NBG partner, a Mannok customer, and a company impacted by Covid like many others, Merritt and Fryers Ltd. are among many merchants offering their congratulations to the Mannok team, with Director Rachel Fryers saying, "We wish to pass on our sincere congratulations to the team at Mannok on their recent successes at the NBG supplier awards: Truly well deserved, brilliant products, excellent organisation and exceptional support.

"As an NBG partner, you've really helped us out this year, there are times we would have been pretty stuck without your support above and beyond any expectations, thank you.

"Great job, we look forward to working with you in 2021..."

Winning streak

It may be just over a month since the Mannok name replaced the Quinn brand, but this already brings the awards total to six since the official name change. The company was also celebrated at Ireland's HR Leadership and Management Awards 2020 picking up the Most Innovative Use of Technology Award in recognition of their new Digital Skills Development Programme. Mannok's packaging solutions area of the business also won a top environmental award for their achievements in reducing plastic waste and their contribution to a true circular economy. Both awards were hotly contested, featuring giants such as LinkedIn and Vodafone Ireland, Coca Cola and Tesco among the contenders. ■■■



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Maintaining Supplies of Batten During the Worst Timber Shortages Since WWII

Shaun Revill, Trading Director of SR Timber explains how the company is securing its supply of roofing batten and other timber, at a time when the UK timber market is experiencing its worst shortages in the last eight decades.



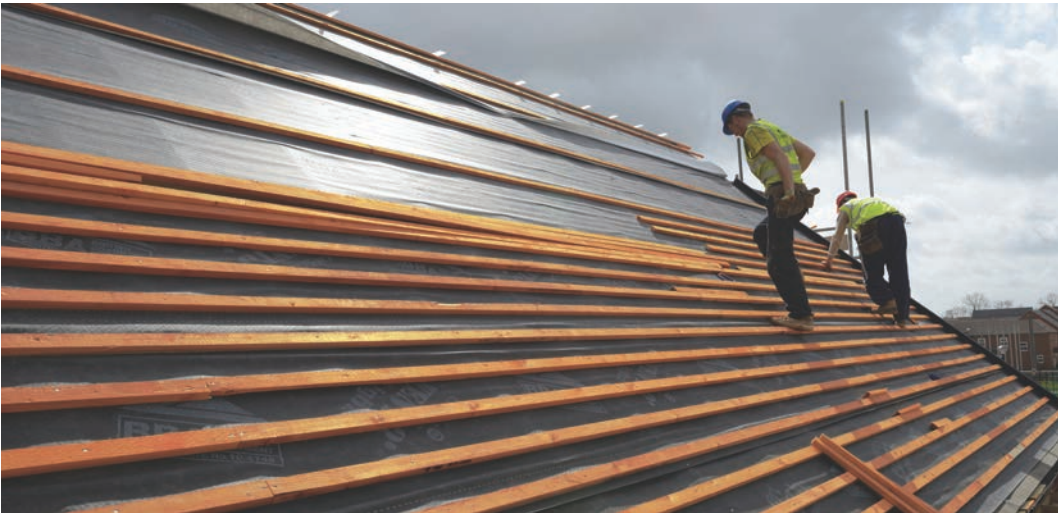
I was a bit shocked when I first heard that it's been 75 years since the UK has seen such shortages of timber. And although I've since heard it from other people in the timber trade, it's no less of a jaw-hit-the-floor moment.

It's not just because of COVID. Yes, there's been massive disruption caused by the global pandemic, but there have also been other factors at play. The most significant factor has been the pressure placed on the timber industry in Scandinavia and the Baltics because of demand from America. This has ramped up in 2020, and the Americans have been buying up lots of softwood and, significantly, paying top dollar for it. This has meant that it's more profitable for sawmills to supply America than markets such as the UK.

So how have we managed to secure quantities of batten for the next six months?

Supply chain infrastructure

We have created a robust manufacturing infrastructure in the Baltic states, with support and partnerships in place that start at the top. Ministers in the Latvian government have fostered a collaborative approach with key businesses (such as sawmills) to help to maintain a plentiful supply of high-quality raw materials to meet demand. They also have an eye firmly fixed on the long term and take issues of sustainability



The Americans have been buying up lots of softwood and, significantly, paying top dollar for it. This has meant that it's more profitable for sawmills to supply America than markets such as the UK.

very seriously, which ensures that the next generations will also have access to high levels of raw materials.

It's these strong foundations that give companies like us the platform and, more importantly, the confidence to keep doing what we do best in producing roofing batten that meets the British Standard.

Why the Baltics? Our dedicated sawmill in the Baltics is able to produce roofing batten that meets UK standards such as BS 5534:2014 + A2:2018 at source. It is important to strenuously emphasise this point because our sawmill does this as

one complete process. Every single piece of batten that leaves our sawmill is fully compliant before it leaves the Baltics for three main reasons.

The first is the quality of the raw material. Our dedicated sawmill has great sources of material (derived from both spruce and pine), which accounts for the vast majority of timber used in the UK construction industry – for floor joists, framing, roof trusses, standard doors and, of course, roofing batten.

The second is the way that the raw material is processed. When felled trees are brought to our sawmill as

cut logs (typically about 25–35 cm in diameter and about 5 metres in length), the sides of the logs are sawn and the bark is removed so that these side boards can be cut to produce 25 mm thick batten. The main part of the log (known as the 'cant') is then cut to produce both 38 mm and 50 mm wide (full size in both width and thickness) batten.

The third and most crucial is the grading. Every single piece of graded roofing batten is inspected and graded throughout the production process for acceptable quality by experienced, trained personnel, who check to make sure

that no defective material gets through the system. Once approved, the pieces of batten are stamped – ahead of being treated – with their dimensions, timber species code and a code that denotes that the batten has been independently assessed by a third-party quality assurance expert. This shows that the grading, preservative treatment, product marking and management processes have all been independently audited and verified by a good third-party organisation.

As soon as a consignment has been produced, it is shipped to one of a number of ports in the UK where we hold stock. This approach means we can respond quickly and get batten delivered quicker to customers around the country.

Every single piece of batten that leaves our sawmill is fully compliant before it leaves the Baltics.

One wish as the UK leaves the EU

Speaking of ports, I know what I'm about to say will be contentious, but, as the UK leaves the EU, I hope that the custom clearance processes, and the due diligence processes become pivotal in the roofing industry's fight against the influx of poor-quality products.

We've been vocal about how substandard batten has been a blight on the UK roofing sector. Due to poor policing, some graded batten that is unfit for purpose has slipped through the net and made it on to the roofs of homes across the UK.

Hopefully, greater scrutiny at ports by customs processes and due diligence systems will start to address this – simply with greater due diligence around the checking of the documentation that accompanies consignments of batten. At the very least, this should act as a deterrent for suppliers of the poorest-quality or counterfeit graded batten. This is especially so in cases where fundamental requirements are necessary, such as accreditation covering legality due diligence as well as sustainability due diligence from organisations such as the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).



Four Ways to Spot Poor Quality Batten

'Due diligence' is still the watchword for the roofing industry, and here's a useful reminder of tell-tale signs of batten that doesn't meet the British Standard.

1. Check your delivery details

Before you check the batten, check the paperwork. Deliveries of British Standard-compliant graded batten will come with documentation that will state five things:

- ❑ Name of the supplier
- ❑ Origin – imported or British grown and/or species code
- ❑ Graded in accordance with BS 5534:2014 + A2:2018
- ❑ Batten size or sizes
- ❑ Type of preservative and method of treatment including – treatment User class, at present for graded battens it is User class 2 (UC2). If deliveries of batten don't come with documentation, ask the supplier.

2. Check the markings



If the paperwork is in order, the next thing to check is the batten for stamping. The stamping can be on the side (edge) or the face, and there should be five pieces of information stamped on the side of every length of batten, giving contractors key information.

The first and most obvious thing to say is that no matter what colour the batten is, if there's nothing marked on it, then it's very unlikely to have been produced in accordance with the British Standard.

In order from left to right, the markings are as follows:

- ❑ There will be a stamp to denote the batten has been independently assessed by a third-party for quality assurance. It shows that the grading, preservative treatment, product marking and management processes have all been independently audited.
- ❑ TX TTB-012 – TX is the sawmill identification mark. TTB-012 is the certificate number.
- ❑ GRADED BS5534 – the batten must have been pre-graded to the British Standard.
- ❑ WPPA – the species code of the timber: WPPA refers to pine and spruce – which is a mixed species code.
- ❑ 25x50 – the dimensions of the batten in millimetres. The other standard size is 25x38mm.

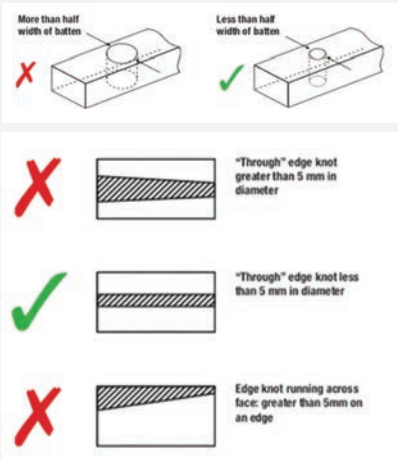
3. Get your tape measure out

Batten comes in two dimensions: 25 x 38mm and 25 x 50mm. The British Standard states an allowed tolerance of +/-3 mm on the width and a tolerance on the thickness of -0/+3 mm. The 25 mm thickness is the most important one, and this will barely alter at the range of moisture levels that are encountered in batten production and on building sites. So, 25 mm minimum is what to look for in a good batten. 50 mm and 38 mm width batten offers superior quality, as it is produced full size in both thickness and width.

4. Check the sizes of knots

The rules on knots can be quite complicated, but, essentially, any large knots should not be bigger than half the width of the batten, should they appear on both sides of the face (width).

Knots smaller than 5 mm in diameter (which are usually referred to as 'pin knots') may be allowed anywhere, but knots over 5 mm that appear on the edge/thickness are not permitted to run across the batten from edge to edge.





Beating the Shortages - Is Now the Time to Consider Alternative Products?



John Mercer, Expert
Roofing Consultant

Though we are currently seeing dramatic growth in some areas of construction, particularly housebuilding - due in part to renewed confidence in the economy and the Government's 'Help to Buy' scheme - we are experiencing unprecedented shortages of building materials. There are several reasons for this, not least COVID, which forced many manufacturing facilities to shut down temporarily. Manufacturers are still struggling to get back to full capacity and build up stocks due to the increase in demand.

It is not just manufacturing that is suffering shortages; supplies of timber are in short supply for many reasons, including COVID, Brexit and even Bark Beetle. Timber harvests in Sweden, Russia and the Baltics have been smaller than usual due to a wet summer and the situation has been exacerbated by

extra demand coming from countries such as China, Dubai, and the United States. There are also severe shortages of bricks, plasterboard, and various other common building materials.

However, there are some great alternatives to the usual suppliers of roof tiles, who can offer much shorter delivery lead times. For example, Condron Concrete, based in Tullamore in the Irish Republic. Condron Concrete is one of the most innovative manufacturers of concrete products, manufacturing not only roof tiles but also concrete pipes, manholes, gully traps, as well as plastic pipes and ducting. The company has a great environmental record too; the use of heat exchangers to recycle heat and moisture from its roof tile curing chambers to reduce gas energy consumption is just one of many measures the company has introduced.

A switch to alternative concrete tiles represents no risk for the user; tiles are manufactured to the same Standard as UK-produced tiles, that is EN 490.

A switch to alternative concrete tiles represents no risk for the user; tiles are manufactured to the same Standard as UK-produced tiles, that is EN 490, and are generally identical in appearance and dimensions. Even colours tend to be similar across manufacturers as they use acrylic finishes and

pigments that are produced by just a small number of manufacturers.

For alternative suppliers of clay tiles, the French company, Edilians is an ideal choice. Edilians is the leading French clay tile manufacturer and incorporates some iconic tile brands such as Huguenot, Doyet Phalempin, and Sainte Foy.

Unlike concrete tiles, there is much more freedom in the design of clay tile, therefore it is harder to compare like-for-like between manufacturers. Even so, the general shapes of tiles are similar, for example, pantiles, roman, plain, therefore it is quite easy to substitute an alternative tile even on an existing development. Clay plain tiles, traditionally 265 x 165mm in size, are available from Edilians in slightly larger sizes such as 300 x 260mm, meaning savings in installation costs.

For users of truly handmade clay tiles, there are imported options available. Not least, from Sahtas, a Turkey-based clay tile manufacturer. Sahtas has found an innovative method of manufacture which overcomes any possible durability problems. A process known as 'clay washing' is used in which the raw clay is mixed with water to produce a slurry. This is then passed through filters to remove any deleterious materials. The excess water is then removed, taking with it soluble salts which could otherwise cause efflorescence.

Imported clay tiles should comply with EN 1304: the European Standard for clay tiles and pass Level 1 (150 cycles) of the frost test in EN 539-2.

There are technical issues to be aware of though. Tiles from different manufacturers should not be interlocked together or otherwise mixed on a roof slope. Even though

tiles may look alike, technical differences in design, for example side and top interlocks, may cause weathering problems and will certainly void manufacturer's warranties if mixed.

Fixing specification

It is important to always obtain a fixing specification from the tile manufacturer and not use a spec produced by another manufacturer, even when the alternative tiles are being used on an existing site and where the alternative tiles appear identical. Fixing specifications are calculated using wind uplift resistance data derived for each tile type, therefore subtle differences in weight or mass distribution between tiles will influence the specification.

It is also important to use the tile clips supplied by the tile manufacturer. Clips are tested for wind uplift resistance in combination with each tile type,

It is important to always obtain a fixing specification from the tile manufacturer and not use a spec produced by another manufacturer, even when the alternative tiles are being used on an existing site and where the alternative tiles appear identical.

therefore clip data is not valid for clips supplied by other manufacturers.

Wherever possible, dry fix products supplied by the tile manufacturer should be used. If an alternative system is to be considered, it is important to establish its compatibility with the roof tiles and fittings and to ensure the system is fully compliant with BS 8612: British Standard for dry fixed ridge, hip, and verge systems.

Generally, roof tile manufacturers who are importing into the UK will have UK-compatible installation guidance available on their website. However, always check to ensure that the guidance being given follows British Standards such as BS 5534: British Standard for slating and tiling, BS 8000-6: British Standard for workmanship on building sites, and BS 5250: British Standard for control of condensation in buildings. ■■





Defect or Damage? Being Clear with Customers

Andy Pilkington, Director at DFR Roofing asks when it comes to roofing repairs, does the fault always rest with the last person on the roof?



As roofing contractors, we generally focus on solving the most obvious or prominent roofing issue first. However, as many of us know, this may have not been the problem to begin with. It could be just a part of a series of ongoing faults resulting from an aged roofing system - leading to irate calls from the customer and requests for further reparation, any time from a few days to a few years after a job is completed.

From coming to the end of its life, to storm damage or blocked drains, a roof is a complex system constantly exposed to the elements; meaning it is just as susceptible to damage as anything else. After all, we don't often visit a car garage with a broken brake light and come out with a free, new and improved engine.

While some are willing to accept this, not all customers are, and instead it becomes a 'contractor

defect' which is expected to be rectified as part of the original contracted works agreement. However, as contractors and roofing experts, we have a responsibility to politely educate customers on the process, rather than hoping they will simply accept our recommendations for further works - especially when dealing in what is often defined as a 'necessity' market.

Winter wrath

With threats of harsher weather just around the corner, the roofing industry is entering one of its busiest annual business periods. Call-outs, repairs and leaks are par for the seasonal course. It is during this time that it is likely previous customers, along with new ones, fall victim to a failing, fatigued or damaged roofing system, and when damage becomes evident, a solution needs to be found quickly.

In many cases, we will re-attend properties or sites where roofing

Pinpointing any type of defect or damage issue within a roof – bar the obvious – is a difficult process, as water has the ability to track along and through a roofing system before reaching the point where it eventually becomes noticeable to occupants.

repairs have previously been undertaken. While blame can often be directed at the original repair location, it is sometimes an unrelated issue entirely; from a simple slipped slate, to severe deterioration of the roof covering or membrane, or even a poorly installed window. However, it isn't always straightforward, and with roofing systems consisting of a complex build-up of materials, the source of the issue cannot be guaranteed until further, more invasive investigation has taken place.

What is often viewed as a 'defect' (that is a failing roofing repair), can suddenly become 'damage' – an unrelated issue caused by external forces, such as the weather, wildlife, materials or lifespan. As the damage has no relation to a previous issue, or if the repair is failing through no fault of its own and instead was always only a temporary fix, additional costs are incurred to rectify it. This is where communication becomes vital.

Customer first

If something breaks or becomes faulty, especially in relation to

items or services which are considered necessities requiring higher investment, it is human nature to point blame at the supplier of that service. Additionally, while we understand the complexities of roofing systems, customers may not; and that applies to both those in the commercial and domestic sectors.

This is often the point where relationships can break down, and so ensues a game of cat and mouse. Often, (and) unless the customer agrees to the need for additional work, roofing operatives can end up attending time and time again to identify the source. If a roof is part of guaranteed works, then it makes the situation much more straightforward. However, if it's part of a series of never-ending repairs to an aged system, or not a fault ensuing from the roof at all, it becomes a much more complicated process, especially if the customer disagrees with your diagnosis.

Pinpointing any type of defect or damage issue within a roof – bar the obvious – is a difficult process, as water has the ability to track along and through a roofing system before reaching the point where it eventually becomes noticeable to occupants. To pinpoint a roofing issue the process is always one of elimination, tackling the most obvious first before looking elsewhere, with a variety of internal and external forces having the potential to make an impact. There have been a number of occasions upon attending properties where despite the damage, the issue is actually a result of blocked guttering, faulty plumbing or poorly installed windows, all of which mirror a major roofing issue.

Communication is key

It is basic human instinct to not want to pay over the odds for any unplanned issue, especially for faults which require specialist construction knowledge to identify. As often the last people on the roof, we need to prevent the finger being pointed in the direction of roofing contractors, when the fault lies elsewhere. With this in mind, it falls to us as roofing professionals to ensure that we are not only

adequately communicating with customers, but also educating them.

This can be done in a variety of ways, and while seemingly obvious, should start with being honest with customers. If a roofing issue isn't a defect, we need to be clear on what can be done to rectify it, or at least what steps need to be taken to investigate the problem further, as well as outlining why and how it is a separate issue if works have taken place previously. If a roof is clearly in a condition beyond repair, or if a

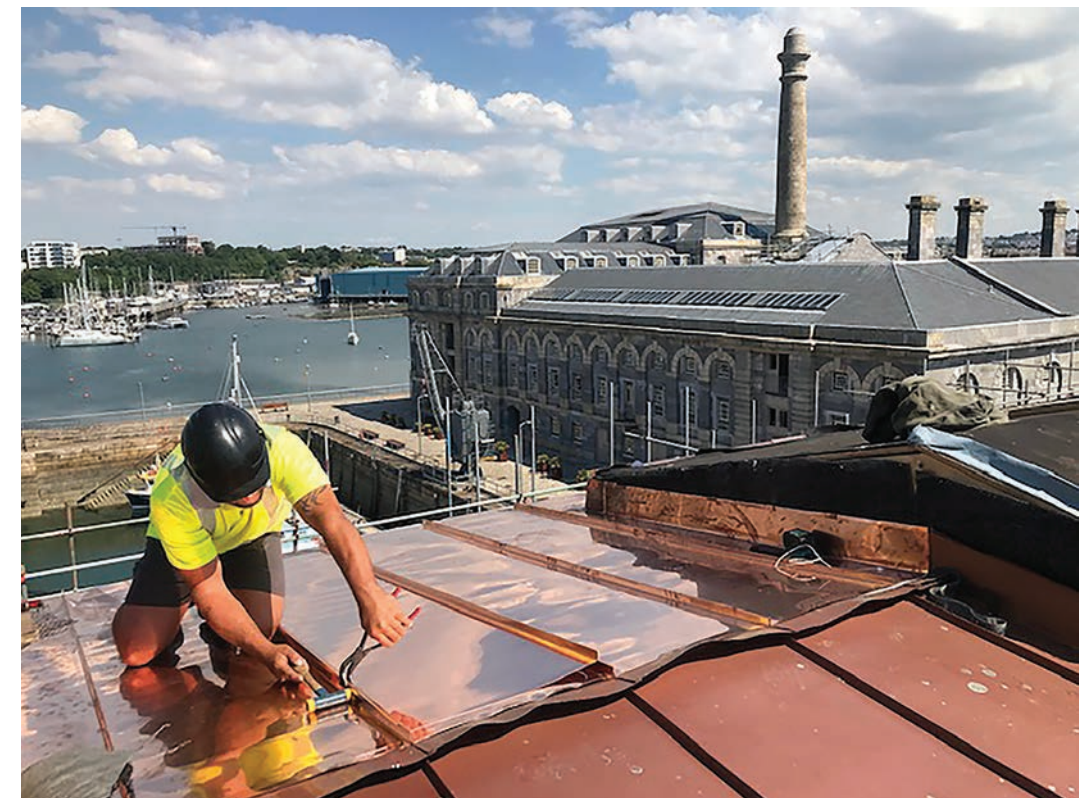
simple steps can they undertake to ensure their roof continues to perform to the best of its ability. If safely accessible, regular gutter and debris clearance along with visual inspections and checks for masonry cracks or fatigued flashing could help identify a problem before it becomes evident internally.

Explain how susceptible different materials are to damage from external forces, as well as how everything from a building's build-up and position, to the surrounding environment, can affect a roof's lifespan and integrity. If the

start changing the way customers understand their roofs, and the complexities that come with something as simple as a leak. As roofing professionals, we provide a service that comes with experience and knowledge, and while to a customer it might look like a simple fix, we understand the work and investment needed to put it right.

Having clear conversations with operatives can help put a stop to a ringing phone of call-outs, as well as outlining exactly what guarantees and support are

Explain how susceptible different materials are to damage from external forces, as well as how everything from a building's build-up and position, to the surrounding environment, can affect a roof's lifespan and integrity.



repair will likely only be a temporary fix, only recommend the best approach; the one which will most likely prevent further problems in the future.

Get ahead of the problem by also educating customers about their roofs before any reactive work is even needed. For example, what

problem ultimately rests with another trade, ensure the customer understands this and takes the appropriate action.

Roofing rights

While the 'defect or damage' question will likely never stop being asked, we can potentially

included when it comes to repairs. This is even more important if a roofing system is failing, whether in part or in full. Starting off on the right foot goes a long way in building loyal and long-term customer relationships built on mutual respect. ■

Riding Out Economic Uncertainty Through Innovation

Technology, sustainability and agricultural conversion trends show the way forward, says Tony Hobbs, Managing Director, Southern Sheeting



The construction and roofing industry has endured a challenging year, with Covid-19 and Brexit causing economic uncertainty and numerous practical challenges. From distancing, isolating and illness, to material delays and ever-changing restrictions – the last 12 months has seen at all.

In such demanding business conditions, it can be a matter of survival to be open to changing ways of going about even fundamental operations.

Businesses are already analysing where the roofing industry can expect to see demand coming from over the first half of the year. It's worth thinking about now how the impact of the pandemic can be tackled through innovation, technology and new ways of working.

Overcoming skills shortages

There are mounting concerns about the skills shortages in the sector as professionals leave the industry but are not replaced. It's well established in the roofing industry that there is an ageing workforce, and recruitment into the industry, particularly this year, has not kept pace with the rate at which roofers are leaving it. Added to this is the expected reduction in migrant labour this year, post-Brexit. This will particularly affect the Capital and Home Counties.

One solution is to look for products which are easier and quicker to install and this also presents manufacturers with an opportunity to innovate in the market.

For example, products such as Structured Insulated Panels (SIPs) are made in a factory and fit together like a jigsaw. It can take

as little as two to three days to build a house using these materials, as opposed to weeks, and this could help meet Government targets for increased housing.

SIPs are a high-performance building system for residential and light commercial construction. The panels are made of an insulating foam core, sandwiched between two structural facings and can be made to fit almost any building design. The building system is strong, energy efficient and cost effective - saving time, money and labour.

Embracing technology

Looking at how quickly technology has been adopted to deliver solutions to consumers in other sectors should be an inspiration to the roofing industry.

From Uber Eats to Amazon Prime, everyone's used to using technology to make their lives easier. The construction industry is sometimes accused of being slower to pick up on emerging technology, but there are plenty of businesses willing to do so.

A newly developed app which takes the work out of sheet profile identification is one example - and means customers need never order the wrong profile sheet again. Enter three or four simple measurements and the app will find the correct

One solution is to look for products which are easier and quicker to install.

profile match for your roof or cladding. The next stage of the app will allow users to aim their phone camera at the sheet profile and using Augmented Reality will detect the critical dimensions and then present a profile match.

To enhance the user experience in the roofing industry and make use of technology, we also expect there to be an increased demand for click and collect this year. It's an easy system for the end-user and with consumers expecting this in other areas of their lives during the pandemic, there will be an expectation for it to be delivered in the roofing industry, too. Some suppliers have already embraced click and collect, but there will be more to follow.

An increased use of video content to illustrate how products are installed could also help change the industry. Some people prefer

visual explainers of how to use products than to read technical manuals and as a society we're watching more content than ever before, from YouTube to Vimeo. This presents an opportunity for the roofing industry to step up and boost customer engagement.

Focusing on sustainability

Sustainability is an increasing issue for all industries and, despite the current pandemic, remains one of the biggest underlying trends for business of all kinds.

The roofing industry has led the way in some products, but the journey has only begun with others. As consumers are increasingly calling for more sustainable products, now is the time to respond.

It is always worth keeping an eye on what's happening in markets such as Scandinavia and Germany where, as a rule, demand for sustainable products is ahead of the UK.

As an example, in the UK, plastic-coated metal roofing still dominates, whereas in Scandinavia and Germany, high build polyester is used because of its better environmentally friendly credentials.



Planners previously favoured brick, stone or timber frame barns for conversion but now Dutch Barns are viewed as an important part of our farming heritage.

Many companies in other industries are committing to a circular economy by focusing on sustainable products, and this is likely to be driven by legislation as well as culture in future.

Plastic-coated metal, for instance, can cause leaching of the coating chemicals into water systems and

many people believe it is only a matter of time before the UK decides to ban it.

The same is true of PVC guttering, which is extremely popular in the UK, whereas in Germany metal guttering is the clear winner to prevent leaching of plastic into water systems.

There is already evidence that metal guttering will be the next trend to take root in the UK. Just look at the recent introduction of the Green Homes Grant from the Government as an indicator of the move towards sustainability.

Conversion of agricultural buildings

Another industry trend worth watching closely is the conversion of agricultural buildings. Recent changes in planning laws mean that you can convert agricultural buildings into domestic dwellings as long as you maintain the character of the original building. As the Government continues to encourage us to work from home and people look to escape from inner cities to the countryside, there will be an increased demand to convert these buildings into homes.

Take the Dutch Barn. Originally built during The Depression when materials and budgets were scarce, they often featured curved corrugated iron for roof sheeting. They have little value to modern farms and are often left to decay. Planners previously favoured brick, stone or timber frame barns for conversion but now Dutch Barns are viewed as an important part of our farming heritage. This, together with the change in planning policies on converting agricultural buildings (Class P and Class Q) means converting these buildings with their elegant curved, corrugated roofs is now realistic.

Unfortunately, the difficult conditions for contractors look set to remain in 2021, getting worse before it gets better. But the roofing professionals who embrace the trends of tomorrow will be the ones who are best positioned for future success as we navigate our way through the pandemic.

Embrace technology, look to sustainability, seek out innovation to solve industry challenges and consider opportunities such as agricultural conversions. Above all – look to the future and ensure you are an early adopter. ■■



NEW FlexiWork Neon Jackets and Fleeces

New Neon Jackets and Fleeces from Snickers Workwear are for the flexible, working environment, delivering visibly superior comfort and freedom of movement. While Fabric, Functionality and Fit are hallmarks of Snickers Workwear, it's the innovation and fabric technology in the design of the new FlexiWork Neon Fleece Hoodie, Jacket and Gilet that really set these new garments apart. They're great for working outdoors in the colder months. Delivering superior flexibility and comfort, these lightweight 4-way stretch garments come in a body-mapping design. They are made from an Elastane/Polyester fabric with a water-and wind-repellent finish, providing warmth and durability when you need it most. As well as being street-smart and visibly striking, they include neon panels and reflective details for enhanced visibility. They're designed for the fast-paced professional who's always on the go and delivering top class work on site. Perfect for professionals who rely on their gear in demanding environments and a must for those who want to be visibly ahead of the rest on site this winter. Visit the website and download a digital catalogue at www.snickersworkwear.co.uk.



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Hambleside Danelaw Open for Business to Support Roofers

For the construction industry, a second lockdown saw a further surge in home improvements, with almost one fifth of homeowners planning to begin projects, according to research. Alongside the onset of colder weather, which can lead to an increase of insulation installation and exterior roof refurbishment, it is important not to forget the crucial part that ventilation plays in keeping roofs internally protected against varying temperatures. Ann Leeson, Hambleside Danelaw Marketing Manager, comments: "With people spending more time at home, and often needing to create a workspace, they are becoming more aware of elements of their home that need addressing. Temperatures falling and record levels of rainfall last autumn will also combine to make them aware of problems with the roof." Many of the Danelaw range of roof ventilation components are particularly suited, and even specifically developed, for refurbishment projects. In order to support roofers and enable them to quickly select the most appropriate solutions for each project, Danelaw has published a new pocket guide for roofing and ventilation products. To download the new product guide, visit www.hambleside-danelaw.co.uk.



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ROCKWOOL Supports Contractors in Managing Flat Roofs Fire Risk

With roofs maintaining their prominent role in contemporary building design, ROCKWOOL has released a new whitepaper exploring how roofing contractors and specifiers can manage fire risk when planning and installing flat roofs. The 'Flat Roofs: Managing fire risk in the fifth façade' report addresses misconceptions around testing protocols and material fire classification ratings, plus examines the rise in roof fires and the resulting social and economic impact. The whitepaper then outlines specification best practice for flat roof insulation and how to futureproof the building envelope in line with expected changes to Building Regulations. Will Wigfield, Product Manager at ROCKWOOL, commented: "This report explores the risks of exposed flat roofs, delves into the effects of prominent fires, and then advises roofing contractors and specifiers on selecting materials that will help protect lives and the remaining building structure in case of fire." The whitepaper is available for download here: www.rockwool.co.uk/fifthfaçade.



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Brett Martin Delivers a Gold Standard Performance

Brett Martin Daylight Systems' Marlon Clickfix VF polycarbonate glazing system is delivering exceptional natural daylight inside Dublin's new National Indoor Arena. The system has been used to create a bright, appealing interior that will help provide the perfect environment for sports, whilst providing exceptional aesthetics. Built by contractor Buckingham Group, this 18,480m² multipurpose facility features 2300m² of the Marlon Clickfix VF glazing system for the roof gables and as part of the triangular-patterned façade on the front elevation, a key architectural feature of this multi-sport arena. With aesthetics, light and U-values a vital consideration for the design of the arena, Brett Martin's daylighting solution offered optimum light transmission, minimal installation time and an ability to accommodate building movement. Specified in clear and blue glass polycarbonate, the Marlon Clickfix VF system ensured a fast and straightforward installation for roofing and cladding contractor, Roofscape. Commenting on the project, Peter Hanvey of Brett Martin Daylight Systems, said: "Brett Martin was involved throughout the design, development and construction phases, ensuring design intent was translated with material use, along with appropriate and robust detailing." Visit www.brettmartin.com.



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BMI Redland Rosemary Delivers Restoration in Robust Conditions

Combining a heritage appearance with 21st century performance, the BMI Redland Rosemary Clay Classic tile, proved ideal when sensitivities surrounding conservation and heritage environments were paramount. When architect, Gordon Delgano wanted to refurbish his mid-terrace house in an architecturally distinguished area of Glasgow, it was to the Rosemary Clay Classic tile he turned. Together with Mark Cattanach of Rooftec (Scotland), he chose tiles in Light Mixed Brindle, having used them on a separate garage and kitchen extension in 2001. "I knew from this, that it would weather well and blend in with the surrounding area, which is important," Gordon says. "The method of fixing is also very robust as the tiles are nailed onto cross battening that is so dense and close that the roof looked as if it was yellow before the tiles were laid." Mark also installed the BMI DryVent Ridge system with half-round ridge tiles to meet the current British Standards and fitted Code 5 lead for the valleys, skewes, aprons and abutment. "We prefer small format tiles because, when you've prepared the roof properly, it results in a stunning job at the end that is very robust and ideal for the Scottish climate," concludes Mark. Visit www.bmigroup.com/uk.



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Makita Launches New Twin 18V Brushless Disc Cutter

Suitable for dry and wet cutting, the Twin 18V DCE090 Brushless Disc Cutter is Makita's latest addition to its world renowned LXT range. Powerful, compact and packed with safety features, this new construction tool is ideal for heavy-duty applications. The new cordless DCE090 Brushless Disc Cutter features a powerful 36V brushless motor with a no-load speed of 6,600rpm and maximum cutting capacity of 88mm, and is powered by two 18V LXT Lithium-ion batteries. The tool has been designed with safety in mind and includes Makita's Active Feedback Sensing Technology (AFT) which shuts down the current to the motor if the rotation speed suddenly slows down, as well as an electric brake, a soft start feature that gradually increases speed to eliminate start-up shock, and a lock-off button to prevent accidental start-up. Kevin Brannigan, Marketing Manager at Makita UK says, "The Twin 18V DCE090 joins the line-up of over 250 cordless products within our LXT range, offering users wider flexibility on site and the ability to switch between jobs easily. The tool has been engineered with user safety and productivity in mind as well as incorporating features that optimise battery and tool performance, so that users benefit from an extended life cycle." Visit www.makita.co.uk.



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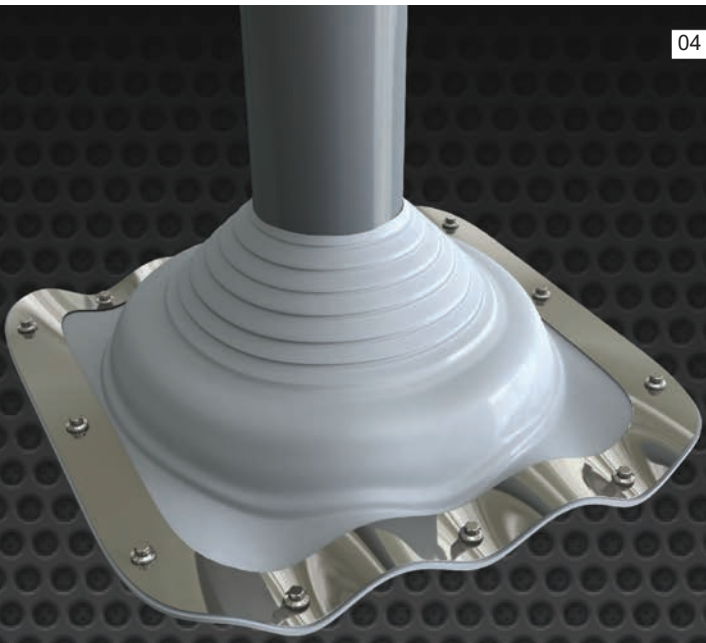
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Deck VQ Gives Superb Thermal Performance in Arts Centre Refurb



When an arts centre's extension precluded the use of upstands as part of a roof terrace installation, a slim, high-performance insulation solution was required to prevent instances of cold bridging and ensure the application met the regulatory U-value. Recticel Insulation's Deck VQ® was more than up to the challenge. As part of a £1.5m redesign, the Courtyard Centre was extended to include a shop selling locally-produced arts and crafts and a new multi-purpose meeting room. For the café bar area, the client required cut-to-falls insulation as part of the flat roof's waterproofing system. However, as the waterproofing abutted a glass façade, the challenge was to forward an insulation solution that optimised the adjoining building's windowed element in terms of the amount of light it allowed, whilst ensuring the roof itself achieved the regulatory U-value. As the 90m² roof was without a sufficient upstand, the insulation's profile needed to be kept to a minimum to avoid compromising the windows' threshold, hence the specification of Recticel's Deck-VQ® - an ultra-thin vacuum insulation panel (VIP), which solves the challenge of achieving required U-value performance in areas of minimal roof build-up. Visit www.recticelinsulation.com/en-gb/deck-vq.

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The Jackson Slate Layer NEW Slate Laying Hand Tool



British Made The Jackson Slate Layer holds your slate in place leaving your hands free to grab hammer/nails/rivets and slates. SAVES you time, speeding up the slate laying process. Lightweight and Strong – made using 100% Recyclable Materials. Adjustable to different size slates – use natural, cement-fibre, manmade slates. rivet scribe attached - sliding plate to hold hip ends/cuts - slides along the battens. Suitable for multiple roof systems including: vertical, mansard, up & overs and dormers. Pay your apprentice to lay your roof slates, a great way to train whilst giving you professional results. Your apprentice will lay up to 300 slates in one day! Tried, tested and approved by construction training staff and pupils in colleges across the UK. Save Money - no need to tap your slate up or down to fix in place, meaning no more slipping or damaged slates. Save Time - slate can be fixed on average in under 60 seconds (23 seconds was the fastest we recorded!) To find out more head on over to our website at www.jacksontoolsdirect.co.uk Find us on eBay - Etsy – YouTube – Instagram – Twitter and leading online roofing stockists.

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Proctor Group Win for 2nd Year at Construction Marketing Awards



The A. Proctor Group has been awarded “Best Use of Content Marketing” at this year's virtual Construction Marketing Awards (CMA). They were also delighted to receive the 'Highly Commended' trophy for the “Marketing Team of the Year” category. The night was topped off with a social media award for their Zoom-call group pose framing Communications Director, Angela McIntyre. This year, the categories the A. Proctor Group were shortlisted in recognized their bold response to the pandemic. With face-to-face client-support channels eliminated overnight by the Covid-19 lockdown in early Spring, the A. Proctor Group quickly turned to digital to maintain the high level of customer service they are well known for. Starting in April, they broadcast an original webinar to the industry on a weekly basis. This was a huge shift in digital production for the company as they had previously only delivered these webinars quarterly. A. Proctor Group M.D. Keira Proctor, said: “Despite the challenges of 2020, we succeeded in using our webinars as a platform to reach our audience. Our brand and reputation have grown as a result, and I am so proud of everyone.”

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ROCKWOOL Delivers Specialist Fire Protection for Grange University Hospital

A combination of ROCKWOOL's non-combustible stone wool insulation and certified FIREPRO® products have been specified to ensure the Grange University Hospital, a new specialist healthcare facility in Wales, can achieve the highest levels of fire protection. ROCKWOOL worked with main contractor, Laing O'Rourke and passive fire protection contractor, Optimum, to ensure effective firestopping throughout the critical care centre. Approximately 25,000 penetration seals were installed throughout the scheme using certified products from the ROCKWOOL FIREPRO® Range. Opening its doors ahead of schedule in November 2020, ROCKWOOL supported Central Roofing South Wales Ltd in delivering non-combustible insulation for critical areas of the external envelope. While the façade benefited from the installation of ROCKWOOL RAINSCREEN DUO SLAB® in the through-wall build up, ROCKWOOL HARDROCK® Multi-Fix Dual Density was laid on the metal deck roof areas to ensure regulation compliance. To find out more about the project, please visit www.rockwool.co.uk/sccc.

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Clever SterlingOSB Zero Fire Solutions from Norbord

Leading wood panel manufacturer, Norbord, has developed SterlingOSB Zero Fire Solutions to help housebuilders reduce the risk of fire spreading to neighbouring buildings during construction. The Structural Timber Association produces guidelines for reducing fire spread in large timber frame buildings during construction before fire resistant finishes have been put in place. The guidelines require builders to reduce potential radiant heat emissions to acceptable levels, thus controlling the risk of a timber frame construction fire spreading to neighbouring buildings. Completed timber frame buildings (dry linings fixed) are then fully compliant with the Building Regulation fire protection requirements. The guidelines enable the architect or builder either to specify a type of timber frame with inherently reduced fire spread properties or, where suitable, to adapt the construction process to allow the use of standard open panel timber frame. The guide includes three generic categories of timber frame with increasing resistance to fire spread and associated reduction in radiant heat to neighbouring buildings, as well as giving a detailed test and approval protocol by which systems or product assemblies can demonstrate compliance with any given category. SterlingOSB Zero Fire Solutions is designed, when used in conjunction with Rockwool insulation, to match the categories in the STA guidelines. Visit www.norbord.co.uk/housebuilders.

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Crest Nelskamp are Bucking the Trend in Supplying the UK with Roofing Tiles

With our factories having available stock and excellent lead times, merchants and distributors are turning to Crest to help them through the current roofing materials crisis. It's been well documented over the past few months that the UK is facing a roofing materials shortage. Many contractors are calling it a major crisis as they face long delays in obtaining roofing materials, the situation is desperate and with winter fast approaching the pressure is mounting. Concrete roofing tiles seem to be one of the most affected with lead times from order to delivery being at least 12 weeks and, in many cases, up to 22. Crest Nelskamp are one of the UK's leading suppliers of high-quality roofing tiles and have been actively increasing the supply to merchants, distributors and housebuilders to help remove the tremendous pressure they all face. Stuart King Crest's Deputy Managing Director said: “With stock on the ground waiting to be despatched from our factories and the increase to our transport and logistics operation to cope with the extra demand we are working hard to keep delivery times as short as possible.”

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Gradient CPD Highlights Principles and Benefits of Tapered Roof Insulation

Insulation specialist, Gradient, has created a CPD-style presentation aimed at providing architects and roofing contractors with an understanding of the principles behind tapered roof insulation. The 'Specifying Tapered Roof Insulation' presentation includes an in-depth look at how tapered roof insulation works and why it is required, as well as highlighting the different systems currently available on the market. It also considers some of the innovations that have elevated tapered roof insulation to new levels of performance. One of the main benefits of tapered insulation is its ability to reduce the risk of standing water on a roof by allowing appropriate channelling to drainage outlets. This decreases the potential for leaks and negates the need for a structural fall which in-turn, helps minimise the roof's overall cost and installation time. Paul Griffiths, Business Development Director at Gradient said: “This presentation was devised by our technical team as an industry aid to give clear, practical guidance on tapered roof insulation specification.” The sessions will be held at 10am each Tuesday and Thursday from Tuesday 19th January to Thursday 11th March. To book a place at one of the 'Specifying Tapered Roof Insulation' online sessions, visit <https://bit.ly/EventbriteGradient>.

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BMI Systems Raise Roofing Performance for Grade II Listed Apartments

Market-leading guarantees and technical support, in addition to pitched and flat roofing requirements made BMI the top choice when it came to refurbishing Crowngate Apartments in Birmingham. Midland Heart asked roofing contractor, Hodgson Sayers to survey both flat and pitched roofs on the multi-storey building and advise whether repair or replacement was needed to meet current building regulations. In turn, Hodgson Sayers invited manufacturer BMI to survey and provide specifications for renewing the flat and pitched roofs because the poor condition of the existing roofs ruled out repair as an option. A BMI flat roofing system comprising areas of BMI Sealoflex liquid waterproofing and BMI Icopal bituminous waterproofing and insulation was specified for the flat roofs, and BMI Redland Cambrian tile on the pitched roofs. The Welsh-made Cambrian tile slate replicates the original slate roofing, and so meets Birmingham City Council's conservation policy whilst offering a robust modern material that withstands severe weather conditions. John Sayers, Director of Hodgson Sayers, said: “Hodgson Sayers has a strong reputation for quality and to maintain that reputation we need to install high quality materials and BMI's products certainly fit the bill.” Visit www.bmigroup.com/uk.

18

NEW Jackets, Work Trousers & Topwear in the 2021 Snickers Workwear Catalogue

With a focus on comfort, performance and sustainability in its new products, the 2021 digital catalogue has all you need to know about Snickers Workwear, including new products that now use REPVEE, the world's number one brand of recycled performance fibre. There's a new AllroundWorkTopwear with the cooling 37.5" moisture transportation fabric, as well as upgraded FLEXIWork Stretch Trousers with extra functionality and durability. By popular demand, there's also a stretchy hi-vis Work Jacket with great comfort and flexibility for high-performance work and high visibility in low-light conditions. Added to which, there's the most innovative street-smart stretch fabrics in the ALLROUNDWork clothing range for mobile comfort and a Layered Clothing System that ensures you can choose clothes to suit the weather on site – rain or shine, wind or snow - plus an extensive range of EN-certified ProtecWork and PPE products. Complemented by Snickers Workwear's Profiling and Embroidery services and the most extensive range of garment sizes, this clothing system delivers the ultimate solution to make every man and woman's workday easier and safer. Visit www.snickersworkwear.co.uk.

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92

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