



The chief executive of CFA: Richard Catt

Environment moves up the CFA agenda

ASK any company or individual what environmental issues matter to them, and you'll get different responses: Carbon footprint, carbon neutral policy, recycling, waste management, sustainability, environmental policies, the BRE - Green Guide, BREEAM, lifecycle analysis, WRAP, CRUK, environmental legislation, eco labelling and site waste management plans, could all be mentioned in relation to flooring. It's a massive and diverse subject.

I relate my first concepts back to childhood where a basic commonsense approach to environmental issues were instilled into me. My parents were from an age when wasting things was frowned upon.

I am not suggesting they were green campaigners, but if I put a hole in the knee of a serviceable pair of jeans, it would be patched (with a fabric badge) and consigned to 'playing out'. Dad had a compost heap, although as I remember it never worked and just got bigger, rather than supplying usable compost.

We collected milk bottle tops for the blind (remember foil tops and gold top milk) and newspapers for scouts to sell for the camp kitty. They also tried to buy the best they could afford, so it would last as long as possible; mum knitted jumpers and turned them into gloves and scarves when they were worn out. So as a family we had a commonsense approach to re-use, recycle and try to buy sustainable products.

Things are more complicated these days, especially in business, with the list above growing every week. There is a great deal of expertise around, but very little co-ordination.

At the CFA we try to take a pragmatic approach, helping contractors understand how best to provide a service that meets legislation and delivers best practice in an environmentally sensitive way. This is becoming more important to everyone, not least customers.

Last year the CFA started regular environmental meetings, involving contractors, manufacturers, and

distributors who collaborate to develop information we can pass on to members.

We recently heard from Jane Anderson of the BRE about the BRE green guide. As previously reported in **CFJ**, the flooring section of the Green Guide was still under review, however it is important to understand its scope and how it operates. www.thegreenguide.org.uk

Buildings funded by public money, as well as those for major retailers and major developers, must now meet the BREEAM (Building Research Establishment) requirements. An architect designs a building based on information from manufacturers and must then provide written documentation to BREEAM auditors that the product supplied meets the required rating. Once a building is constructed the auditor checks that it was built with the materials specified or that any alternative products also meet required ratings.

The BRE Green Guide and associated environmental profiles are the only way an architect or builder can prove that the requirements for sustainable materials have been met.

As a contractor or manufacturer, particularly on PFI or large commercial projects, your clients are now more likely to ask you to supply or install products that meet the Green Guide specification. But it's not prescriptive and specifications exclusively for A+ rated products do not follow the basic concept outlined by BRE. The news section of the CFA website has further information.

CFA member can access all this environmental information via the members section of the website www.cfa.org.uk Our environmental 'jargon buster', for example, summarises many of the concepts mentioned above with links to further information.

Remember, we changed the log in system recently so that the user name is your individual email address and passwords can be changed. We can now offer five separate logins per member company.

If you have any questions or want to check your login details just ring us on **0115 941 1126**



The president: John Alcock

It's all for the love of flooring

AH February - the lovers' month and of course we in the flooring industry are not without our loves and hates. To be honest, it's all too easy to focus on the bad things about the industry. We all love a good moan, but actually there's so much more that is good.

In many ways, the flooring industry is about managing relationships and understanding the need of each party, manufacturers, customers or products. Just like any relationship it needs effort to work well and can

easily go wrong.

I am always impressed by the choice, versatility, functionality and especially visual appearance of floorcoverings, which over the years have got better and better, especially quality.

Sadly, as floorcoverings have improved many installers seem reluctant to accept that the methods of fixing and installing have moved on.

These new floorcoverings have different demands; you may not be able to get away with latex like you

did years ago. Fifty years ago you could do away with membranes, because there were breathable floors and bitumen adhesives; nowadays bitumen is virtually gone.

Good contractors take time to find out about things; they learn by their mistakes and accept them. Unfortunately there are other characters who, no matter what goes wrong with a job and regardless how many corners they've cut to save costs, fail to

Continued on page 26

Environment

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