Injury survey: CFA members shamed

MOST flooring contractor members of the Contract Flooring Association have failed to respond to this year's NSCC accident survey. The CFA is affiliated to NSCC (National Specialist Contractors Council).

At the beginning of June only 44 CFA members had submitted their accident data. The deadline is now only weeks away on July 31.

Last year there were 129 CFA responses, only a third of the membership. This year looks to be even worse.

This compares with some NSCC affiliated trade associations which achieved a 100% response.

Your company's accident statistics are required for the period from April 1, 2007, to March 31, 2008.

The survey has been reformulated this year, allowing you to enter your accident figures in less than five minutes by clicking on 'NSCC accident survey' on the homepage of the NSCC website: **www.nscc.org.uk**

It's equally important to respond even if you haven't had any accidents during the last 12 months.

Your figures help NSCC to show the government, HSE and the insurance industry that NSCC (including CFA) members have a better health and safety record than non-members.

All information submitted is treated in confidence and no company names will be given in any reports.

It is in the interests of every flooring contractor member of the CFA to respond to the NSCC accident survey. Your participation is vital for securing competitive insurance rates for the specialist sector.

Go to the NSCC website and do it today!

- **www.nscc.org.uk**
- **T: 0870 429 6351**

Carpet sales plunge

SALES of carpets by retailers fell by **84%** in May, according to a new survey by the Confederation of British Industry (CBI). Carpets and furniture are one of the sectors covered in the CBI's monthly Distributive Trades Survey.

It reveals high street activity down for the second consecutive month, with 42% of businesses reporting a decline in sales volumes and 28% claiming an increase. On balance, sales volumes across all sectors dropped 14%, better than April where the fall was 26%.

Although retailer confidence worsened in May, an improvement was expected in June. Another feature of May was the fastest rate of retail price rises since 1992.

Down 84%
in May, 2008

Meanwhile, the three-month moving average of sales volumes continued its downward trend.

Retailers also sharply cut back orders with their suppliers and strengthened stock volumes.

In contrast to the dire situation with carpets, the big supermarkets, had a strong month; clothing sales were stable following a poor April, and footwear & leather retailers had another successful month.

Shops selling big-ticket items linked to housing had another difficult month. Retailers of durable household goods, hardware, china & DIY all reported lower sales.

Ian McCafferty, CBI chief economic adviser, said: 'The high street faced another testing month as consumer spending power was hit by the rising cost of fuel and food, and credit crunch worries.'

'Sales are falling in sectors closely tied to the housing market, such as those selling carpets, furniture and white goods.'

Wholesalers reported strong sales for the second month, as did motor traders, with average vehicle selling prices rising firmly.

'Fast-track' contract for CFA member

LEEDS-based flooring specialist Fresco Group, a member of the CFA, installed **RESDEV** Pumaflow resin flooring system in the new premises of the Leeds branch of Group20 SuperCar Club.

The premises is used as a showroom for the exclusive members-only SuperCar Club, frequently hosting vehicles including the Pagani Zonda Roadster F and Lamborghini Gallardo Spyder.

Fresco Group laid the self levelling resin flooring on an existing concrete substrate. Pumaflow is a flow applied epoxy resin flooring, said to result in a smooth, easily cleaned surface with an attractive gloss finish, claimed to be highly resistance to both wear and spillage, including hydrocarbons.

The project was completed to a tight time schedule in line with the planned grand opening of the new showroom and collection area.

- **T: 01422 379131**
- **www.resdev.co.uk**

The Leeds premises of Group20 SuperCar Club where CFA member Fresco Group installed Resdev Pumaflow resin flooring system

Business in brief

Many jobs disappear

The credit crunch is causing hundreds of job losses in the construction industry, especially in the house-building sector. Taylor Wimpey and Bellway Homes are among those announcing lay-offs. Building supplies group Wolseley and main contractor Kier are also said to be planning redundancies.

Tremco merges ACM

Tremco illbruck has merged Advanced Construction Materials into its flooring division. ACM manufactures pump applied concrete screed, epoxy screeds, floor paint and surface coatings, slip resistant coatings, repair mortars, waterproofing compounds, non-shrink grouts and concrete floor repair products. www.tremco-illbruck.co.uk

Latham invests on sites

James Latham is investing £1.5m on new sites this year, including its recently opened first Scottish depot, a 40,000sq ft operation in Lanarkshire. A new 35,000sq ft facility at Fareham recently replaced the Eastleigh depot and the Dudley depot is soon to relocate to a purpose-built site a mile away from its current facility. www.lathamtimber.co.uk

Flooring firms slide claim

A third of flooring companies are 'showing signs of recessionary behaviour, reporting declining sales', according to a 'survey of the UK's top 1,000 companies in the floorcoverings market' by Plimsoll.

Profits boost for hire firm

Hewden Stuart, which hires out general plant, saw pre-tax profits nearly double to £60m in the year to December 2007. This follows the sale of its tool hire arm last year.

Mitie's mighty surge

Interior fit-out Mitie has achieved a 20% rise in pre-tax profits to £67.9m in the year to March.

QUOTE:

'I don't want to see a load of cowboy plumbers turning up at peoples' doors in London, saying they're ready to meet the demand. Plumbers need to come with recommendations'

– Andy Stern, of the Property Owners Director, commenting on the serious shortage of plumbers in inner London boroughs