

By Lindon Sear – Technical Director and Yvonne Cotterill – Administration and Marketing Officer

Its summer time, honest, though there is little sign of the sun. It's time for another an update of the UKQAA. There are some positive signs of a light at the end of the recessionary tunnel, with housing starts apparently on the increase and civil engineering projects taking PFA in some substantial amounts. Let's hope this is not a double dip recession and these improvements are not just temporary.



WRAP QUALITY PROTOCOL

Since the public consultation on the Quality Protocol (QP) there has been a period of reflection. Part of the QP process is to revise the UKQAA Code of Practice on using PFA. Similarly, BRE are also redrafting the BRE Code of Practice for grouting. The QP should be sent to the EU for Technical review in August 2009. There will be a 6 months review period after which any comments will be incorporated into the QP and finally published. This is expected to be in the Spring of 2010. There will be a continuous review of the operation of the QP and there is an option in conjunction with the EA to correct any problems that may arise.

CONCRETE INDUSTRY - SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION FORUM (CISCF)

The UKQAA is involved with the CISCF initiative. However, as the ash industry covers a broad range of applications it is has not been possible to provide all the data they require. A compromise has been reached and we will have to see how the two differing schemes interact in years to come. What is clear that using PFA and FBA is highly sustainable as full utilisation replaces Portland cement and natural aggregates in most applications.

REACH

Work is proceeding within an ECOBA lead SIEF to produce the required Chemical Dossier before Dec 2010. This is an expensive and time consuming business for the producer of ash products. One issue is the interaction of REACH with other initiatives, e.g. Regulated Dangerous Substances and the Quality Protocol? This is not clear... There does seem to be a considerable amount of duplication in protecting the environment!



STANDARDISATION WORK – A REVIEW OF BS AND EN COMMITTEES



The UKQAA is heavily involved with standardisation work. TC104/SC1/TG5 has been the most

controversial committee, which is looking at revising the k-value concept within EN206-1 (Concrete). This has proven such a problem that some of the issues have been put back to SC1, the committee who asked for the work to be done.

TC104/WG4 Fly ash for concrete, has been one of the better committees, with the revision of EN450 due next year virtually completed. Another BSI committee of interest is Regulated Dangerous Substances (RDS). This has caused some consternation in respect of aggregates, which will be one of the first committees to incorporate RDS requirements within their standards.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

The UKQAA is actively involved with ProCeSS, which is looking at encapsulating wastes with cementitious systems. The Cambridge University SMIRT project is looking at producing curtain walling systems using a revolutionary machine with dry powder injection. Another project being researched by Dundee University is trying to find a new method of testing fly ash faster than the current activity index test method. Another area they are looking at is the prevention of sulfate heave using PFA in lime stabilised clays.



CASE STUDIES

A new UKQAA case study on the use of PFA with lime and cement as a base material for the construction of Ratcliffe's construction area, for their new boilers.

UKQAA MEMBERSHIP

Finally we extend a warm welcome to three new members of the UKQAA – Ash Solutions Ltd who have joined as an Associate member and Fairport Engineering Ltd and Shanks Waste Management Ltd who have joined as Affiliates. We hope that they will find membership beneficial, interesting and informative.



For more information about ash from coal fired power stations, please see our web site www.ukqaa.org.uk.

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