

28 July 2008 – Amended 04 August 2008

Press Release: Responsibly Sourced Materials

The concrete industry continues to work towards a UK Responsibly Sourced Materials (RSM) scheme for both readymixed and precast concretes. A consulting firm, Optimat, have produced a detailed report and developed a series of proposals for the future of the concrete industry. These were discussed at the Master class for Directors and CEOs of these companies which took place on 30 July.

The essentials of the scheme revolve around the collection of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) which will be reported annually and agglomerated for the concrete industry. Different organisations are taking differing approaches to achieving this aim.

The UKQAA fully support the general principles of the initiative. As material suppliers the members of the UKQAA have been working on a similar reporting scheme for KPIs which will be produced annually. This will be administered by the UKQAA. Third party accreditation will be considered in due course when the scheme has been trialled and proven to work.

The concrete industry through The Concrete Centre requested we sign up to a number of commitments, which are as follows:

- 1. To launch an Annual Sustainability Performance Report for the UK Concrete Industries commencing in March 2009**
- 2. To set targets for Performance Indicators (PIs) by the end of 2009**
- 3. To design a Joint R&D Programme to reduce CO₂ and other impacts**
- 4. To design a Joint Skills Transformation Programme aimed at positioning the industry to play a leading role in the challenge of sustainable construction**
- 5. To provide clients with industry data for LCA (life cycle analysis) models**
- 6. To develop 'Sustainable Construction' solutions**
- 7. To provide clients with the knowledge and tools to adopt new solutions**
- 8. To demonstrate the benefits of concrete in the built environment**

These commitments were changed during the Master class as the R&D and Joint Skills Programmes were felt by many, including the UKQAA, to be potentially expensive unless



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fully discussed and planned. As a result of these changes, the UKQAA were able to sign up to the both the general principles and commitments of the scheme.

The UKQAA Responsibly Sources Materials scheme will continue to be developed and implemented over the next year. We fully support the concrete industry's initiative and wish it all success over the coming years.

On behalf of the members of the UKQAA

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "L. Sear".

*Lindon K. A. Sear, BSc, PhD, FICT
Technical Director*