

CRA TO HIGHLIGHT NEW STANDARDS AT CIVILS 2008

Details of the new 'British Standards for Concrete Repair' (BS EN 1504) will be the primary topic of discussion on the Concrete Repair Association (CRA) stand (No. E20) at this year's Civils 2008 event at Earls Court, London, scheduled to take place between November 18th and 20th.

For the first time, the UK concrete repair industry has a comprehensive set of standards, both for the process of concrete repair and for the majority of the products it uses.

Now that the Standards are in place as BSI publications, the clock is ticking on the introduction of CE marking. Whilst not applicable to the UK (since they have not previously existed) all conflicting standards throughout Europe are to be withdrawn before the end of 2008.

As of January 2009 CE marking will be mandatory in most parts of Europe. Also as of January, all specifications for public works will be required to conform to BS EN 1504. Materials intended for export (excepting to Finland, Portugal and Ireland) are to be CE marked. Those intended for UK consumption only need not be CE marked, but materials must comply with the Construction Products Directive (CPD) as a legal requirement. There are six essential requirements that construction products need to satisfy and in simple terms, products are to be demonstrably fit for purpose. In practice this is easily demonstrated by compliance with the British Standard and hence CE marking.

As clients become aware of the standards, they will expect them to be used as the basis of the work to be carried out. This means that they will want products and specifications that meet the standard and that they will expect manufacturers, engineers, designers, specifiers, contractors and specialist consultants to follow the various parts from design through to site execution of concrete repair works.

As experience of the standards is gained, it is almost inevitable that some problems may emerge. The CRA intends to monitor the market to assess how it approaches the new Standards. The Association is represented on the BSI Committee and as such, it is ideally placed to bring evidence of problems to the fore and additionally to put forward appropriate solutions.

Full details of the new Standard can be obtained from the CRA on Stand No E20. Alternatively, information can be requested, free of charge, from the Secretary, Concrete Repair Association, Tournai Hall, Evelyn Woods Road, Aldershot GU11 2LL. Tel: 01252 357835. Fax: 01252 357831. Email: admin@cra.org.uk or visit www.cra.org.uk

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Notes to Editor

- (1): For further information, a high resolution pic, or the above text by email, please contact:
INITIAL CONTACTS, Tel/Fax: 023 8073 8953. Email: initialcontacts@btinternet.com Contact: Laurie Perkis
- (2): Please arrange for a copy of any published item to be sent to: Initial Contacts, 21 Gannet Close, Southampton SO16 8ET
- (3): Reader enquiries should be addressed to: CRA, Tournai Hall, Evelyn Woods Road, Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 2LL