

SFS Working Group
Meeting held on 11 November 2021
At the Knauf Showroom
20 Baltic Street, London EC1Y 0UL

Members are reminded they agree to conform to FIS policy to comply with the Competition Act 1998. The meeting is convened and held in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association of FIS and the regulations made by the Association. The Association has in place procedures to ensure compliance with all relevant competition laws and the meeting is subject to those procedures.

In attendance

Sandeep Chatha
Alex Double
Richard Gay
Stephen Ginger
Steve Goodenough
Martin Hunt
Stephen Hall
Richard Haworth
Chris Holleron
Adam Jones
Colin Kennedy
Constantinos Kyprianou
Daryl Lewis
Alex Middleton
Andrew Way
Paul Winwood

Apologies

Alasdair Bell
Jolyon Berg
Anthony Coulson
Paul Gray
Katie Hawkins
Kevin Naughton
Dan Norman
John Taylor
Ryan Simmonds

FIS

Iain McIlwee
Joe Cilia (notes)
James Parlour

	Colin Kennedy welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed that the meeting is held in accordance with the competition act.	
	<p>latest guidance and documents relating to SFS were circulated with the agenda are available here</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Specifiers guide to external wall systems HERE ▪ Best practice Installing Drylining HERE ▪ Recommendations For the Safe Ingress of Plasterboard HERE ▪ Firestopping of Service Penetrations Here ▪ Site guide for drylining Here ▪ The Competency Framework Career and Qualification Path HERE ▪ Apprentice guide for employers HERE ▪ BS8000-8 Review documents HERE 	
	<p>Update on key activities and projects</p> <p>Specifiers guide</p>	

- A specifiers guide to external wall systems using SFS has been published by FIS and the Steel Construction Institute (SCI)

the guide can be downloaded [HERE](#)

The guide can be used by members who can have a version with their logo in the front cover, there are also plans that when all four or five guides are published, they will be put forward as RIBA assessed reading material and a presentation will be drafted assessed and recorded for the website, which will also be available for members to use.

Industry advice note on 'Through Wall'

FIS have employed Alex Double as Technical Author who is working with a drafting panel to produce a new guide

Scope:

Develop formal guidance on Infill SFS targeted at providing a standard definition for:

- 'Through wall'
- Performance attributes and parameters
- Performance tests
- Direction of test
- Where fire performance is required
- Current legislation
- Impact of Building safety Bill
- Impact of PAS 9980 if any
- Current tests and field of application.
- Regulation 7
- Load bearing
- Responsibility

Guidance will support understanding within the sector and will be targeted at architects, engineers and designers looking at the impact of building elements on the installed 'Through wall', i.e. insulation, rainscreen, cladding, masonry and the impact of additional load in a fire.

In addition to circulation via the core FIS channels, CPD information will be developed and distributed through NBS and Barbour ABI.

Guidance will also need to be cross referenced in FIS SFS Specifiers Guide and SCI Guidance.

Objectives:

- Address confusion in the marketplace.
- To identify and support the management of any risks.
- Reaffirm FIS position as a technical authority in this space.

The guide is going through an internal review and will be out for wider review early next year.

It will be a joint document with the Steel Construction Institute and possibly another associated trade body.

Members who would like to have a copy of the guide that includes your logo on the front alongside FIS for a one-off cost is £500.00 + vat, should email joecilia@thefis.org

	<p>There was a call for images to bring the document to life.</p>	<p>Images should be sent to joecilia@thefis.org</p>
	<p>Update on legislation and standards BREXIT Construction Products Regulation (CPR) the supply chain and UK CA marking. Our Brexid toolkit is kept up to date and includes guidance on conformity marking.</p> <p>Iain explained that the requirement to bring new trained people into the market has more than doubled due to new immigration rules and as a result that workers from the EU have not returned. He confirmed that Dry liners are now recognised in the top four occupations where there are shortages, which will help our case in discussions with Government.</p> <p>There are reported issues with mutual recognition between the EU and UK which are compounding the issue and requiring additional testing both for UK marking and CE marking where products are exported.</p> <p>The importance of building more respect for the trade of drylining was emphasised in discussion.</p> <p>The Building Safety Bill was discussed. It was reported that this was as an overarching piece of legislation that defines High Risk Buildings, Key roles and responsibilities of the parties involved in the construction and management and gives powers to a new regulator to manage the construction process against clear gateways. It also allows for a Construction Product Regulator to be formed under the Building Safety Regulator who FIS are already engaged with.</p> <p>The Bill includes proposals increasing the period of liability against the Defective premises Act which was 6 years to 12 years and then extending it to 15 years. This is concerning. The timeline was discussed, with the whole process expected to take around 30 months.</p> <p>More information can be found HERE</p> <p>Sustainability: FIS have taken on a 'Sustainability Champion' Flavie Lowres flavielowres@thefis.org will work on a part time basis to develop strategies and support members. Meanwhile we are working with the Supply Chain sustainability School where a finishes and Interior's eLearning hub has developed. FIS have also established a Sustainability Hub on our website to help members.</p>	

<p>Update on Skills</p> <p>Iain reminder those present of the FIS strategy for Skills and the Goals:</p> <p>Shortages remain a key concern and annual recruitment targets have increased by an estimated 400% because of the inability to access workers through immigration and labour returning to Europe.</p> <p>Working on the standardisation of delivery via FIS Approved Training Providers by supplying example Training Specifications.</p> <p>Developing clear routes to proof of competence using the FIS Career and Qualification Paths.</p> <p>CITB gained consensus and will collect the construction industry levy to 2024. FIS was one of three organisations whose members voted no to the proposals.</p> <p>Assisting FIS members to secure the funding they are entitled to. The free Skills and Funding Clinics clawed in £154,622 of funding that employers did not realise they were eligible for between in the 2020/2021 financial year.</p> <p>Key message to the supply chain is if they want to get a training programme in place, contact FIS we can help them to identify training, funding and save a lot of time. It is a complicated landscape, but FIS are here to help and take away your pain.</p> <p>FIS have engaged with My Pro Pass https://www.mypropass.co.uk/ to investigate digitisation of training, qualification, registration and experience records.</p> <p>Also, keen to see manufacturer training support competence. Please contract FIS with details of any training you do, CPD or installer. See attached slides for more details</p>	<p>If looking at installer networks and competency requirements contact FIS to discuss training and funding options.</p> <p>For more information contact Marie Flinter 07799 903103 or email marieflinter@thefis.org</p>
<p>Priorities and Potential projects</p> <p>Site Guide</p> <p>Matt Taylor has been employed by FIS to carry out a review of the site guide for drylining</p> <p>The group were asked if a similar guide should be produced for SFS?</p> <p>Insurance and Design Liability</p> <p>Iain McIlwee ran through FIS strategy to address the issue of insurance costs by setting up a new brokerage to support the sector. Ideally the aspiration is to run as an industry co-operative and ultimately look at a mutual insurance option for the sector.</p>	<p>Members wishing to know more should email IainMcIlwee@thefis.org</p>

<p>Proposed BS8000-10 Workmanship on construction sites – Part 10: Design and installation of external wall systems using SFS systems – Code of Practice</p> <p>FIS are involved in the drafting of a code of practice for drylining which is due for publication next year. FIS have been asked to help with the drafting of a similar guide for external wall systems using SFS.</p> <p>To save time in the drafting process a best practice guide using the same structure as BS8000-8 will be started next year.</p> <p>Structural Engineers Register (SER)</p> <p>SER Scotland</p> <p>Iain McIlwee has followed up a concern raised at the last meeting that SER Scotland are creating challenges regarding installing load on the building and required calculations. Inconsistency in interpretation and a lack of clear guidance/understanding of what needs to be calculated by the contractor can waste time and delay projects. FIS have established contact and had an initial meeting with the SER, they are keen and happy to work with FIS but the reallocation of contract and subsequent work SER Ltd are undertaking has delayed progress. When they have cleared the decks we have agreed to do a joint bit of research on common problems and try to identify whether we can agree some core guidelines that would lead to a more consistent application and understanding of the requirements. There will be opportunity to present findings and discuss options through SER meetings. IM has again chased in recent weeks and will revert back as soon as SER have confirmed that they have the bandwidth.</p> <p>Market Survey</p> <p>Iain discussed the importance of data which will help provide a foundation for our work next year. He encouraged everyone to take part when the email arrives and return the forms. The data will be anonymised and initially only shared with those who contribute.</p>	<p>Members wishing to contribute to the draft should email joecilia@thefis.org</p>
<p>Martin Hunt of NBS presented his thoughts on the way forward to specifying infill wall systems using Chorus.</p> <p>Martin started by running through the current Building Clauses based on the Common Arrangement of Work Standard (CAWS) using G10/150 Structural steel framing</p>	

<p>NBS is now operating the Chorus platform which has options for both CAWS and Uniclass 2015 compatible specification and Martin will seek to liaise with FIS and include new and improved references to the <u>New Specifiers Guide</u> and the definition which is in the current draft of the Through Wall Guide</p> <p>Through Wall <i>A series of components when tested together can provide evidence of compliance.</i> <i>Sometimes considered to be from the Sheathing board to the inner plasterboard lining but sometimes this will include the insulation on the face of the sheathing board</i></p> <p>There are three options that NBS will explore going forward</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue with the user generated ad Hoc process using cut and paste based on existing clause G10/150 (status quo option) 2. Add guidance to improve the existing G10/150 so that it works better for Through wall. 3. Create a new Clause (e.g. G10/165) for Through wall <p>FIS to consult with suppliers and feedback through a small working group.</p> <p>SFS Manufacturers using NBS Source to be contacted as part of the consultation.</p> <p>See attached slides for more details</p>	
<p>Presentation from Alex Middleton</p> <p>Alex and Adam have invented a Head Track Clip (HTC)</p> <p>The clip was designed out of necessity for safety and accuracy of installation for drylining and SFS.</p> <p>The clip is installed prior to the head allowing supervisors to check the accuracy of the installation against the layout. The head assembly including any plasterboard fillets is installed into the clip before fixing it to the head. The sides of clips are removed, and the rest of the installation takes place as usual.</p> <p>Adam and Alex are looking for interested manufactures to contact them Middletons@gmx.com 07581339714 See attached slides for more details</p>	
<p>Presentation from David Rintoul and William Hodges of Hill Dickinson</p>	

	<p>David and William delivered a presentation on design responsibility, contract structure and indemnity insurance.</p> <p>The presentation covered key considerations and gave advice to mitigate risk on the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “No greater liability” • Professional indemnity insurance • PI insurance requirements in contracts • Net contribution • Collateral Warranties • Underhand vs. Deed contract signing • Caps and exclusions on liability • What to do in the event of a claim <p>See attached slides for more details</p>	
	<p>AOB</p> <p>None raised ahead of the meeting so the meeting was closed.</p>	
	<p>Date and time of next meeting 6 April</p>	