

# FIS Ceilings & Absorbers Working Group

Meeting Notes and Actions 07/06/23

## Saint-Gobain Build Better Centre 95 Great Portland Street, London, W1W 7NY

Participants 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

Morgan Doouss, ALLSFAR  
Damian Stokes, Barrisol  
Marcus Coates, Cipriani  
Marco Chiusole, Cipriani  
Arwel Williams, Dragon Designs  
Paul Latham, Encon/Nevill Long  
Jessie Jay, Kemwell PFP  
Kye Edwards, NOWN/Arktura  
Simon Humphrey, OWA  
Karen Berridge, Ocula  
Steve Mansell, Trolldtect  
Geoff McBride, Troax

### Apologies

Pete Benjamin, Lindner  
Peter Carter, PC Products  
Anna Dawson, Soundtect  
Andrew Lees, Zentia

### FIS

Joe Cilia  
James Parlour (notes)  
Flavie Lowres  
Nigel Higgins

<p><b>Marcus Coates welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed that the meeting is held in accordance with the competition act.</b></p>	<p><b>ACTIONS</b></p>
<p><b>Quick reminder of what guidance is available for Ceilings and Absorbers</b> Joe Cilia introduced a reminder of existing published guidance on ceilings as follows: <a href="#">Specifiers Guide</a> <a href="#">Site Guide</a> <a href="#">BS EN 13964 Guidance</a> <a href="#">Selection &amp; installation of Top Fixings</a> <a href="#">Installation Guide</a> <a href="#">Maintenance &amp; Access</a> <a href="#">Resource Efficiency Action Plan (Mineral Tiles)</a> There are also a number of shorter technical notes on specific subjects concerning Ceilings which can be found <a href="#">HERE</a>. These guides can be used by members to distinguish themselves as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educate and inform your own staff and your clients.</li> <li>• Use in specification clauses and refer to as independent standards.</li> </ul> <p>Guides can also be issued branded with a member's logo for a fee.</p>	<p>Members should contact <a href="mailto:Joecilia@thefis.org">Joecilia@thefis.org</a> if you are interested in guides branded with your own Logo.</p>
<p><b>Is UKCA marking working?</b> James Parlour summarised the events leading up to the end of last year and the delay in the deadline for UKCA marking from January 2023 to June 2025.  The discussion then focussed on the implications of the retraction of advice from government in June 2022 concerning relaxations of evidence allowable under AVCP system 3. FIS have published a more comprehensive guide to conformity marking which can be found <a href="#">HERE</a>.</p>	<p>Members who have further questions about UKCA and conformity marking can contact <a href="mailto:jamesparlour@thefis.org">jamesparlour@thefis.org</a></p>

# FIS Ceilings & Absorbers Working Group

Meeting Notes and Actions 07/06/23

<p><b>Building Safety Act</b>  <b>What could the Golden Thread of Information look like</b>          Joe Cilia introduced the key requirements of the golden thread according to the Government building regulations advisory committee. The full text can be found <a href="#">HERE</a>.</p> <p>James Parlour summarised supplier feedback from a very recent FIS survey regarding digitisation readiness in the sector and then led a discussion on readiness based on the experiences of those in the room where the following points were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whilst many manufacturers in the room have PDSs, there is concern about proper interoperability with client data requirements.</li> <li>• There is a presence in the market of generic BIM objects that do not have embedded data in line with BIM requirements or those of the Golden Thread. The data in these cases is being completed on a case-by-case basis.</li> </ul>	<p>Members who have examples of complete PDSs are encouraged to share them confidentially with <a href="mailto:jamesparlour@thefis.org">jamesparlour@thefis.org</a> to help us better understand the data environment.</p>
<p><b>Building Safety Act</b>  <b>Competence Management plans</b>          Joe Cilia introduced the new FIS guidance to competency management plans which can be found <a href="#">HERE</a>.</p> <p>A new white paper has been published by Working group 12 that sets out how the entire built environment sector can unite behind a single, agreed standard to determine, demonstrate and recognise construction product competence (CPC) and is available to download online <a href="#">HERE</a>.</p> <p>A recording of the launch presentation is available <a href="#">HERE</a>.</p> <p>Joe Cilia also introduced MyProPass which helps individuals manage achievement in any form – education, training, qualification and experience – by storing records in one secure place to create a Competency Passport.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employers can then access individuals’ records, subject to permission, to validate their competence. This work aligns to the <a href="#">FIS Competency SAKE (Skill, Attitude, Knowledge and Experience) Frameworks</a></li> <li>• The platform is free for individuals.</li> </ul> <p>More information can be found <a href="#">HERE</a></p> <p>The 4 standards that have been published to outline what is meant by competence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">BSI Flex 8670 v3.0:2021-04   30 Apr 2021   BSI Knowledge (bsigroup.com)</a> Core criteria for building safety in competence frameworks. Code of practice.</li> <li>• <a href="#">PAS 8671:2022   31 Jul 2022   BSI Knowledge (bsigroup.com)</a> Framework for competence of individual Principal Designers. Specification.</li> </ul>	<p>Members who have further questions about competence management should contact <a href="mailto:beenanana@thefis.org">beenanana@thefis.org</a></p>

# FIS Ceilings & Absorbers Working Group

Meeting Notes and Actions 07/06/23

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">PAS 8672:2022   31 Jul 2022   BSI Knowledge (bsigroup.com)</a> Framework for competence of individual Principal Contractors. Specification.</li> <li>• <a href="#">PAS 8673:2022   31 Jul 2022   BSI Knowledge (bsigroup.com)</a> Competence requirements for the management of safety in residential buildings. Specification.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Market Survey</b></p> <p>Joe Cilia shared some early results from our Ceilings market survey (which is still open to responses). The initial feedback is showing a definite trend towards the use of discontinuous ceiling products.</p> <p>The top three points raised in the survey by respondents are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 33% have unresolved issues relating to compliance with the UK Construction Products Regulations and UKCA/UKNI Marking.</li> <li>• Growth of online traders identified as a concern.</li> <li>• Nobody anticipates reducing headcount, but only 29% anticipate increasing the size of their workforce in the next 12 months.</li> </ul>	<p>Members are encouraged to take part in the survey which is still open to responses <a href="#">HERE</a>.</p>
<p><b>Sustainability Leadership and Net Zero</b></p> <p>The FIS runs a sustainability leadership group. Meetings are quarterly. The aim of the group is to help focus the FIS effort to deliver a more sustainable sector.</p> <p>Flavie Lowres covered a number of sustainability updates as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Mission Zero</a> - Independent review of Net Zero</li> <li>• <a href="#">LinkedIn Post</a> - Lauren Pamma, Director @ Green Finance Institute</li> <li>• <a href="#">BREEAM Update</a></li> <li>• Embodied Carbon Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">Consultation on Type III EPD Product Category Rules</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Part Z</a> - Proposed amendment to building regulations</li> <li>○ <a href="#">UK Net Zero Carbon Buildings Standard</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Built Environment Carbon Database</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Consultation on measures to mitigate future carbon leakage risk</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Timber industry Net Zero roadmap</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>A number of other points were discussed in the room as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concrete roadmap is worth looking at as a model for improvement.</li> <li>• Members are invited to look at ceiling product vales in the review of Type III EPD product category rules.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Free training</a> is available through the supply chain sustainability school.</li> </ul>	<p>Members interested in the sustainability leadership group should contact <a href="mailto:flavielowres@thefis.org">flavielowres@thefis.org</a></p>

# FIS Ceilings & Absorbers Working Group

Meeting Notes and Actions 07/06/23

<p><b>Sustainability</b>  <b>CAT A to CAT B Transition</b></p> <p>The impact of the construction industry was highlighted as a preface.</p> <p>Flavie Lowres summarised the circular economy with an overview of the existing linear pathway towards end of product life and the alternative route to circularity through re-use of products.</p> <p>A discussion followed on the subject of CAT A to CAT B transition where the following was covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members note that there is a noticeable trend towards shell and core.</li> <li>• Feedback from the live survey carried out during the FIS fit-out industry day.</li> <li>• Members believe that financing options available to developers for low carbon projects will help incentivise awarding projects based on sustainability outcomes rather than just cost.</li> <li>• CAT A whilst often wasteful may encourage product and design standardisation.</li> <li>• New revision of the <a href="#">government construction playbook</a> puts more emphasis on sustainability than previously.</li> <li>• Significant disharmony between product lifespan and fit-out lifespan is also a contributory factor to the CAT A product.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Sustainability</b>  <b>Pre-Cycle Agreements</b></p> <p>Joe Cilia outlined the core idea of a pre-cycle agreement being that a manufacturer agrees in advance to take a product back at end of life. The scope of how products are re-used, salvaged and re-manufactured or recycled can all be detailed within the pre-cycle agreement.</p> <p>The scheme will work on a project-by-project basis and requires a verification process.</p> <p>A logo has been designed that can be used by members in the scheme and applicable products will be listed on the FIS website.</p>	<p>Members should contact <a href="mailto:Joecilia@thefis.org">Joecilia@thefis.org</a> if you are interested in pre-cycle agreements.</p>
<p><b>Sustainability</b>  <b>Resource efficiency action plan</b></p> <p>Joe Cilia introduced the <a href="#">Resource Efficiency Action Plan</a> for mineral fibre ceiling tiles that was created back in 2012, during which time there have been significant improvements and changes in the sustainability landscape that apply both to mineral fibre tiles and ceilings more broadly.</p> <p>There was a short discussion about how extended producer responsibilities might encompass construction products and what the implications would be (consider Automotive and WEEE case studies).</p> <p>A review of this document will be launched, and FIS is looking for contributors.</p>	<p>Members who are interested in contributing to the revision should contact <a href="mailto:Joecilia@thefis.org">Joecilia@thefis.org</a></p>

# FIS Ceilings & Absorbers Working Group

Meeting Notes and Actions 07/06/23

<p><b>Top fixings</b></p> <p><b>Current guide review</b></p> <p>Joe Cilia introduced the <a href="#">Installation and Selection of Top Fixings for Suspended Ceilings</a> that was last revised in 2015.</p> <p>A review of this document will be launched, and FIS is looking for contributors.</p>	<p>Members who are interested in contributing to the revision should contact <a href="mailto:Joecilia@thefis.org">Joecilia@thefis.org</a></p>
<p><b>Date and time of next meeting TBC</b></p>	