

FIS Operable Wall working group

Meeting notes and actions 12 October 2022

	<p>Members were reminded through the agenda and at the outset of the meeting to agree to conform to FIS policy to comply with the Competition Act 1998.</p> <p>The meeting was 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.</p>
	<p>Attendance Martin Fletcher Arrowhead movable walls Adrian Smith Ezyglide Peter Slaney Hufcor EU (Chair) James Hannah Multiwal Alistair Jackson Multiwal Julian Sargent Style Door Sytems Micheal Porter Style Door Sytems</p> <p>FIS Joe Cilia Iain McIlwee Flavie Lowres</p>
	<p>Iain opened the meeting and confirmed that the meeting will be held in accordance with the FIS code of conduct and the competition Act. Competition act</p>
	<p>There was a formal handover from Julian who has shared this working group since its inception to Peter Slaney. Peter and Iain thanked him for all his work and dedication to the group and the achievements including the Acoustic verification scheme.</p> <p>Introductions Iain introduced the new members of FIS and those new people who have attended the group</p> <p>Iain talked through the regional meetings planned</p> <p>The building safety act. IM gave a short overview of the Building Safety Act and the impact that it is going to have on the wider Building Regulations.</p> <p>The big difference is that we are moving from a regulator who is reluctant to prosecute to one that is driven by prosecution, the HSE.</p> <p>Whilst most of the attention now is on higher risk buildings, the introduction of the Act brings a new Regulator who will be overhauling the who process. Already the consultation that closed on the day of the meeting outlines the focus on competency will be applicable to the building control process for all projects. Competency Plans will be key to compliance.</p>

FIS Operable Wall working group

Meeting notes and actions 12 October 2022

Another key aspect is the need to better manage information, the Golden Thread.

Digital data

Joe discussed BIM and the production of Product data templates (PDT's) using LEXiCON.

Members were asked to provide an example PDT and what is being asked for by Tier 1 contractors.

Could the information provide guidance on deconstruction, re use and recycling with a link to the PreCyle Agreement?

Aligning support to 7 stages of the construction process:

Joe talked through the 7 stages from marketing to maintenance and the support from FIS on all stages through the FIS Technical Work.

- Marketing
- Specifications
- Tender
- Site Planning
- Installation
- O&M Manual
- Maintenance

The meeting considered the development of guidance specifically for the sector on

- Specification
- Pre contract
- Site guide
- Installation

These don't have to be full guides but can be short information sheets, and outline content from [the specifier guide to partitioning](#).

Results of the survey

IM presented the findings of the recent FIS Census of the market. There was good response, but no major shock. The largest market for operable walls is Education representing 32% of turnover, followed by Commercial Representing 28%.

Issues in tender packs are common with 63% noting that adequate structural allowances for operable walls was frequent (or in the majority of cases) and close to 60% were in a similar boat for issues at installation stage that undermine efficiencies.

On challenges raised with SER, FIS is now looking at this now as part of our wider work on standard T&Cs rather than as a technical issue. We are developing recommended clauses to cover any instance in the regulatory process to make it clear that information is provided on the

FIS Operable Wall working group

Meeting notes and actions 12 October 2022

assumption that no additional work is required to support compliance with the Building Regulations/Standards. When additional requests for information that require external advice/calculations related to wider fire, acoustic or structural issues or due to variation in design from the original tender this will effectively be treated as a variation and time and external costs will be chargeable.

Discussion centred on procurement being stilted towards lowest price and the need for FIS to help push the acoustic verification scheme particularly to help differentiate within the market. Reference was made to leveraging new relationships linked to the Passive Fire Knowledge Group focussed on compliance.

Check if a re validation process is required and if the code of code of conduct needs updating, including that all their products are verified.

Action A small working group to help with the review

Julian

Peter

Alaistair

Action

Consider a tiered membership scheme for operable walls group. (bronze silver, Gold) that might include competency training plans/ sustainability plans?

Sustainability

Flavie presented on the Construction Playbook that focussed on driving value into procurement.

Flavie invited members to join our Sustainability group who meet roughly every 4 months.

We have a [sustainability hub](#) on the FIS website and we are creating a sustainability pathway through the [Supply Chain Sustainability School \(SCSS\)](#).

Measuring your carbon footprint is becoming more and more important. See video recording if you want to find out more about using the SCSS's carbon footprinting tool:

<https://vimeo.com/729158701>. You can also find more information here: [Sustainability related to your organisation - FIS \(thefis.org\)](#). Contact Flavie Lowres if you want to help with your net zero or sustainability plan.

If you are interested in finding our more about net zero at building level and Environmental Product Declarations, you can find more information here: [Sustainability related to your activities - FIS \(thefis.org\)](#)

[The Governments construction playbook](#) sets the rules for Government purchasing.

<https://www.thefis.org/knowledge-hub/sustainability/relevant-literature/>

FIS Operable Wall working group

Meeting notes and actions 12 October 2022

The FIS is very interested in the reuse agenda and understanding what that means for its members. A discussion on the reuse of operable walls took place at the meeting and it was agreed that perhaps a guide to end of use for operable walls could be of use to the members. Members to provide information on what currently happens. If interested in further discussions, or members who have case studies where an operable wall has been moved to another building should be provided to FlavieLowres@thefis.org

Points that were raised include:

The installation teams carry out the deconstruction.

There are some maintenance companies who offer this as a service to their clients. (Can we invite them to membership?)

Supply of spares and the competency of the operatives may require some structure.

Recycling is something that is within reach.

Action Manufacturers to provide information they currently provide on sustainability and end-of-use guidance to Flavie.

Precycle agreement

The PreCycle agreement brings both the manufacturer and user of the product together from the beginning of the project to ensure that during construction and at end of use, the material can be recovered, repurposed, recycled or processed in the most environmentally way by keeping the product at its highest value application and importantly avoiding landfill.

This PreCycle agreement confirms that all the materials in (the product) can be returned to us (the manufacturer) or we will signpost you to a recycling facility for recycling and that none of the material returned need be sent to landfill.

Members will be invited to join the scheme by demonstrating how the products can be effectively and efficiently reused, returned to the manufacturer or signposted to recognised and safe recycling.

Members will after verification receive a unique number and a logo that they can use in marketing and sales literature along with a prycle agreement which will be signed by both parties at the point of sale.

The purpose of the PreCylce agreement is to

- Encourage companies to use FIS members products
- Encourage manufacturers to use products that can be wholly recycled
- Encourage manufacturers to design for disassembly of materials to avoid comingling of waste
- Encourage manufacturers to develop products that can be reused

The precycle agreement will also put end users in touch with manufacturers at end of life so providing a potential sales opportunity for replacement.

Action

Please email joecilia@thefis.org if you are interested in becoming an early adopter

FIS Operable Wall working group

Meeting notes and actions 12 October 2022

Delivering a Competent Workforce

FIS is providing support to help members develop competence plans.

Government are drafting legislation under the Building Safety act to ensure that people involved in construction are competent to carry out the functions they are employed to do. These 4 standards that have been published to outline what is meant by competence:

- BSI Flex 8670 v3.0:2021-04 | 30 Apr 2021 | BSI Knowledge (bsigroup.com) Core criteria for building safety in competence frameworks. Code of practice.
- PAS 8671:2022 | 31 Jul 2022 | BSI Knowledge (bsigroup.com) Framework for competence of individual Principal Designers.
- PAS 8672:2022 | 31 Jul 2022 | BSI Knowledge (bsigroup.com) Framework for competence of individual Principal Contractors.
- PAS 8673:2022 | 31 Jul 2022 | BSI Knowledge (bsigroup.com) Competence requirements for the management of safety in residential buildings.

A new white paper has been published 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 [HERE](#).

A recording of the launch presentation is available [HERE](#).

IM highlighted the FIS strategy designed to support members in achieving and proving competence of individuals. He emphasised the FIS partnership with My Professional Pass <https://www.mypropass.co.uk/> as a platform for recording individual and organisational competence. He stated organisations will be required to show proof of competence at every level, in every role and post.

He explained FIS are in the process of drafting a guide to the creation of an organisational Competency Management Plan. He emphasised organisations will already have policies and procedures and the main work will be to consolidate, link and align these in preparation for an inspection or audit, should things go wrong.

IM presented diagrams showing career opportunities and progression routes in the finishes and interiors sector. He stated it is unlikely the occupation will get an apprenticeship route, due to the small numbers employed, and suggested employers concentrate on developing the vocational outcomes embedded in Interior Systems level 2 for Operable Partition Systems. He explained the change request submitted to CITB requesting a qualification route for service, maintenance and repair was still open and need employer support. Employers should message martin.scott@citb.co.uk copying in lynne.morgan@citb.co.uk to show their support. Full details of the request can be seen: [here](#) under Reviews.

IM explained the funding available to support employers, CITB grants for those organisations in scope to the Industrial Training Act and/or Local Enterprise Partnership funds which are unique to the different 38 areas in England <https://www.lepnetwork.net/about-leps/location-map/>. There are Local Employability Partnerships in Scotland <https://www.employabilityinScotland.com/partnership/our-partners/local-authorities/> and Local Partnerships in Wales <https://localpartnerships.org.uk/our-expertise/wales/> and Enterprise Northern Ireland <https://www.enterpriseni.com/councils>.

FIS Operable Wall working group

Meeting notes and actions 12 October 2022

	<p>IM concluded by saying FIS will be happy to help, employer members should not struggle in acquiring training and qualification for their workforce, member just need to pick up the phone 07553 874838 or email, georgeswann@thefis.org we will be happy to help.</p>
	<p>Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members meeting 19 October Birmingham • Partitions WG 2 November London • Members Meeting 9 November Manchester • Ceilings WG 16 November Coventry • Training Awards 22 November London • SFS WG 30 November Smethwick • Members meeting 1 December Glasgow <p>You can register HERE</p>