



## Achievements and Forward Planning

Issue 2, January 2017



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## Achievements and forward planning statement

We have once again created a summary, detailing recent achievements and our forward planning in order to provide an opportunity for comment and for reflection.

Hence, given below is a summary of the main 2016 activities, together with an activity plan for 2017.

We sincerely hope that this short summary serves to confirm that EPIC is an active and effective membership organisation and that its officers will continue to deliver on key issues and areas of concern highlighted by the membership.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries or comments.

Thank you for your continued support.

*M Hardwick*

**Martin Hardwick MCS MCMI BBA**

General Secretary

Engineered Panels in Construction Limited (t/a EPIC)

# 2016 Achievements

- **New Articles of Association**

The EPIC Articles of Association were revised in early 2016, bringing them in-line with current legislation and also allowing an Associate Member Representative to become a Director

- **Appointment of new Director**

Following the formal acceptance of the Articles of Association by the EPIC Membership, Mr Dave Ferguson was formally registered with Companies House as a Director of EPIC, representing the views of the EPIC Associate Members

- **Launch of Sustainability Charter**

The draft 2015 charter was revised and formally issued, together with a new logo and associated press coverage

- **Sustainability Charter Certificates issued and publicised**

Framed sustainability certificates were formally presented to all 'Producer Members', together with PDF versions for onward publication

- **Sustainability report, KPIs and targets formalised and published**

The 2016 report was revised and formally issued, incorporating agreed Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and targets, linked to wider construction industry benchmarks and Government aspirations

- **Data collation process completed (draft 2015 data)**

Sustainability data was collated as a dummy-run, using 2015 data. This allowed minor amendments to be made to the collation process and the reports/charter (above)

- **A.10 fire test completed**

The A.10 fire test results showed full compliance with the standard. These essential tests were used to justify our position and industry guidance statement contained within the publication (below)

- **'Identification and re-use' brochure/guidance document revised and re-issued**

Incorporating the above, together with updated content and guidance with regard to current legislation and hazardous waste regulations, the 'Identification and re-use' brochure was revised and re-published in an improved format.

This document produced with the full cooperation of the Environment Agency and was endorsed as such.

- **'Real-Fires' publication finalised and published**

The 'Real-Fires' document was released in 2016, detailing the performance of PIR panels in real-fire situations, thus reinforcing the industry position in terms of fire performance

- **Scottish Part L Guidance document updates published**

Updates detailing the changes to the Scottish Part L Document were published

- **New web site**

EPIC launched its new web site in late 2016, with new features and updated content.

The web site now offers exceptional mobile access and also allows EPIC Officers to update its content and download features without the need to employ third party expertise, thus allowing changes to be made instantly and at a much lower cost

- **Promotional work**

Marketing activities, including the distribution of news releases to publicise new literature, together with topical blog posts were undertaken to support all newly released documents and issues arising

- **Membership expansion plan agreed**

Agreement of a 'membership expansion' plan, due for implementation in 2017

- **Legislative work (protecting the industry position)**

- **British standards & CEN work - new committees and voting:**

- FSH/021/0-/08 Reaction to fire tests - Classification and application of test results
- FSH/021/0-/07 Reaction to fire tests - Large and intermediate scale tests
- CEN CT127, WG1 is mirrored by FSH/22/-/7 and FSH/22/-/12
- B/542/12 Sandwich Panels
- FSH/022/0-/07 Non loadbearing separating elements
- SDS/001/06 Responsible sourcing of construction products
- UK Mirror Groups of CEN TC350 (under B/558)
- CENTC350 (via B/558)

- **Our work in the area of 'BS/EU standards' resulted in:**

- UK Positive vote on B/542/12 developments
- UK positive vote on ISO TC58/SC17 re: Benchmarking
- UK Negative vote on ISO large-scale test standard development

- **PEF/CEN CEN TC 350 - Benchmarking**

- The EPIC lobbying resulted in ensuring the inclusion of benchmarking requirements within the CEN TC 350 mandate and onward UK standards

- **Environment Agency (EA) liaison re: hazardous waste classification**

- EA liaison refuting eSynergy claims re: hazardous waste classification of pentane blown panels was successful
- Liaison re: TCPP and DCP requirements and status has been essential and again has allowed us to work closely with the EA
- Both of the above allowed the EA to formally support/endorse EPIC's 'Identification and re-use' publication

- **MEP contact**

- Liaison work with MEPs, PU Europe & BRUFMA regarding FireSafe Europe statements (i.e. counterbalance arguments)

- **Fire Task Group work to counter FireSafe Europe statements**
  - Active participation in the PU Fire Task Group, offering advice and direction to all concerned with regard to statements/approach/liaison with other parties
- **CIBSE/DCLG Part L Building Regulations**
  - Active participation in DCLG discussions, offering direction and advice in terms of policy and content
- **PU Europe liaison**

EPIC attends the PU Europe SHE Committee, Technical Committee and Fire Task Group in Brussels, taking the UK viewpoint forward and proactively participating in the various sub-committees, technical, standards, marketing and promotional activities, ensuring that the UK case is put forward.

This includes specific in-depth liaison with regard to the following, resulting in the UK position being taken forward:

- Benchmarking principles and implementation for CEN TC 350
- Recycling and re-use project group linked to the revised EU Waste Directive
- Fabric v Content project
- ISOPA Isocyanates development/structure/training requirements
- Fire Task Group projects and promotional literature
- **CPA liaison**

EPIC attends the Technical and Sustainability Committees and also actively engages with CPA Officers in order that the EPIC viewpoint is heard.

We have actively participated in the development of CE Marking, CEN TC350/PEF Benchmarking & fire testing regulation discussions, influencing the onward content and direction.
- **EPIC joins the Fire Sector Federation (FSF)**

EPIC became full members of the Fire Sector Federation and attends various meetings throughout the year, ensuring that we remain close to the various fire professionals represented on the technical and marketing committees and participate fully in strategy/direction consultations
- **BRUFMA liaison and creation of close working relationship**

EPIC have worked closely with BRUFMA Officers and as such have developed a close working relationship, allowing the UK to express a united front and stronger position in terms of regulatory development work.

Together with BRUFMA, we have provided information and direction to the PU Fire Task Group, and supported the MEP contact process.

EPIC also now attend the BRUFMA Technical Committee and a reciprocal arrangement has been offered to participate in the EPIC Management Meetings.

# 2017 planned activities

- **Collation of 2016 sustainability data and onward publication of second report**

The 2016 data collation process is planned for 2017, allowing the onward publication of the second 'Sustainability Report' within 2017

- **Membership expansion implementation**

Implementation of expansion plans, with direct contact with prospective members and associated marketing activities

- **RRFSO updates**

Finalisation of the review process and publication of amendments

- **Publication of Mechanical Handling document**

Finalisation of the draft guidance document and onward publication and promotion

- **Publication of Air Tightness document**

Finalisation of the draft guidance document and onward publication and promotion

- **Publication of BIM Guidance document**

Finalisation of the draft guidance document and onward publication and promotion

- **H&S guidance document for shredding 'Pentane blown panels'**

It is the intention to produce an industry guidance document on the 'safe shredding of pentane blown panels'

- **Update to the existing EPIC 'Identification and disposal' guidance document (2017 versions)**

Linked to the above, minor amendments will be made to the existing publication

- **Promotional work**

Marketing activities, including the distribution of news releases to publicise new literature, together with topical blog posts to support this work

- **Fire Sector Federation (FSF) liaison**

Liaison, meetings and a specific MP presentation planned with regard to the wide-scale publication of the 'Fabric v Contents' project findings, including a short video presentation

- **PU Europe liaison**

EPIC will continue to attend the PU Europe SHE Committee, Technical Committee and Fire Task Group in Brussels, taking the UK viewpoint forward and proactively participating in the various sub-committees, technical, standards, marketing and promotional activities, ensuring that the UK case is put forward. In particular:

- Waste position and promotion, linked to the revised EU Waste Directive
- Technical video (say 5-8 minutes) on Fabric v Contents project
- ISOPA Isocyanates project

- **CPA liaison**

EPIC will continue to attend the Technical and Sustainability Committees and also actively engage with CPA Officers in order that the EPIC viewpoint is heard.

We will continue to actively participate in the development of CE Marking, CEN TC350/PEF Benchmarking, BIM, circular economy & fire testing regulation discussions, influencing the onward content and direction

- **BRUFMA liaison and creation of close working relationship**

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Together with BRUFMA, we will continue to provide information and direction to the PU Fire Task Group, and support the MEP contact process.

EPIC now attends the BRUFMA Technical Committee and a reciprocal arrangement has been offered to participate in the EPIC Management Meetings

- **Legislative work (protecting the industry)**

- **British standards & CEN work - new committees and voting:**

- FSH/021/0-/08 Reaction to fire tests - Classification and application of test results
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    - CEN CT127, WG1 is mirrored by FSH/22/-/7 and FSH/22/-/12
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    - UK Mirror Groups of CEN TC350 (under B/558)
    - CENTC350 (via B/558)

- **PEF/CEN CEN TC 350 - Benchmarking**

- B558 and TC 350 (Via PU Europe) to continue

- **EA liaison re: hazardous waste classification**

- Continued liaison throughout 2017 is planned

- **MEP contact**

- Liaison work with MEPs, PU Europe & BRUFMA regarding FireSafe Europe statements (i.e. counterbalance arguments)

- **Fire Task Group work to counter FireSafe Europe statements**

- Active participation in the PU Fire Task Group, offering advice and direction to all concerned with regard to statements/approach/liaison with other parties

- **CIBSE/DCLG Part L Building Regulations**

- Active participation in DCLG discussions, offering direction and advice in terms of policy and content

**END**