

LABC Outlook

**Issue 4
June 2006**

LABC
137 Lupus Street
London SW1V 3HE
t: 020 7641 8737
f: 020 7641 8739
e: info@labc-services.co.uk

www.labc-services.co.uk



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**Article
Deadline for
LABC Outlook
Issue 5:
24 July 2006**

LABC AGM Ushers in First Welsh President

The 2006 LABC Annual General Meeting was held in Oldbury at Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council House on Thursday, 22nd June. The meeting began with a presentation from Michael Finn, Chairman of BRAC, followed by a captivating discussion. We look forward to working with BRAC in the near future and thank Mr. Finn for his presentation.

LABC Chief Executive, Paul Everall (left) with BRAC Chairman, Michael Finn



All of Council's recommendations for LABC posts to be filled were carried forward. Kevin Dawson was succeeded as President by Ian Vaughan-Evans, the first ever Welsh LABC President! Steve Evans from Milton Keynes was elected Senior Vice President, and Jeremy Hall from Oldham was elected Vice President.



Steve Evans (left) with Ian Vaughan-Evans

Upon receiving the LABC President's medal, Ian Vaughan-Evans noted that he was looking forward to representing the biggest and the best provider of Building Control Services in England and Wales, and referred to many excellent examples across the country that were helping to raise the profile of Building Control, and he expressed that he would like to see quality awards and Regional training seminars being held in every region.

Newly elected LABC President Ian Vaughan-Evans (right) presents Kevin Dawson, with a gift from LABC.



Ian congratulated Paul Everall and Kevin Dawson on the work they had done in raising the profile of the organisation in both the political and professional arenas, and he stated that he expected that we will benefit from this in future years. In his view, Business Development was the most important function of the organisation and the appointment of a Technical Co-ordinator and Business Development Director would help to ensure that the company, over the next twelve months, delivered many more of the services expected by members. Ian asked authorities to work together and to acknowledge the professionalism and expertise of their colleagues in ensuring that a consistent national approach was delivered to our customers.

Ian then thanked everyone for their hard work in supporting the organisation; he also thanked the Welsh Region and Flintshire County Council for their continued support. Finally, he thanked Kevin for representing the organisation in such a professional and statesmanship manner over the last twelve months and presented him the Past President's medal and a gift from LABC.

Upcoming Events

Next Council Meeting:
12 September 2006
Venue to be confirmed

Next General Meeting:
28 September 2006
Venue to be confirmed

LABC Welcomes Two New Staff to Lupus Street

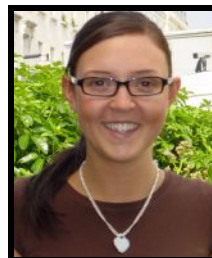


Gulgun Chelikhhan

I have now been with LABC as an Administrative Assistant since the beginning of May, and so far no regrets! The LABC team here at Lupus Street are an amazing bunch as they have been all too keen to offer a helping hand and support me in adjusting to my new environment. I have had the opportunity to visit a Local Authority and attend a Council Meeting, which have both provided me with a better understanding of Building Control and what LABC is here to achieve.

Prior to my employment with LABC, I worked as a Marketing Officer for two years at Westminster City Council, supporting the Head of Marketing in promoting the Westminster owned car parks. Prior to this, I was employed as a Compliance Officer also within the same department.

Well, I hope this provides you with a little insight into my background and I look forward to getting to know all of you in the near future.



Becky Low

Hi, my name is Becky Low. I commenced employment with LABC on the 6th June and have enjoyed everyday so far. The team have been brilliant and have made me feel very welcome.

Previously to working at LABC I spent 6 years at TNT International, based at the Bermondsey Depot where I took care of all the administration duties. I started out as an Operations Admin Clerk and was then promoted to an Administration Controller, and finally after 5 years made a bad move and became a Field Sales Executive!!

I have had the pleasure to meet a few of you already and look forward to meeting the rest of you and assisting you in due course.

A Surprise Honour for One of LABC's Own

By Kevin Dawson, LABC Past President

At the President's Reception in May I was able to present both Adrian Prest and Peter Gilder with awards in recognition of their respective contributions in getting LABC where it is today. At that time I did say that there was a further person who had been singled out to receive a similar award, but due to holiday commitments was unable to attend the reception. However, I did manage to catch up with him when I attended a meeting of the LABC Northern Region in June.

It was **Doug Basen** I was after, and with a little bit of help from a couple of conspirators I was able to spring a surprise. Doug has been involved with both DSA and LABC Services over many years and when I caught up with him he had recently taken over the role of Regional Chair for the second time. He took on the role of President during 2000/01, but it was his involvement on the LABC Services Board, which I believe was his main claim to fame.

Doug was Chair of LABC Services for 4 years and during that period the company undoubtedly moved forward to take it towards integration and the unqualified success that you see today. I am informed that it was during his period of Chair that the Business Development Team was set up and initiatives such as the National Awards were planned.

I have no doubt that without the contributions from Adrian, Peter and Doug LABC would not be where it is today and the whole membership will be forever grateful to them for all their hard work and endeavours.



Kevin Dawson (left) presents Doug Basen with his award on 5 June 2006 in Hexham.



From the Chief Executive

By Paul Overall, LABC

The highlight of this month has undoubtedly been LABC's first AGM, held at Sandwell on 22 June. We were fortunate to have as our guest speaker Michael Finn, who told us about the work of BRAC and BCPSAG and finished with his thoughts on regulation making in the future. He stressed the importance of working closely with DCLG, and said that was what they wanted, too. The liveliness of the debate which followed indicated just how interested those present had been in what he said.

The AGM itself saw Ian Vaughan-Evans installed as the LABC President for the coming year. On taking office Ian paid tribute to the outgoing President, Kevin Dawson, and presented him with some gifts to mark his period of office, including, of course, his Past President's Medal. I should like to add my own thanks to Kevin; I could not have wished for a more helpful, or nicer, President in my first year in this post. I am delighted that he agreed to stay on the Board, so his knowledge and experience are not lost to us.

And now I look forward to working closely with Ian in the coming year, and with our new Vice Presidents, Steve Evans and Jeremy Hall. Of course, working with Ian will not be new to me, for I have got to know him well this year in his roles of Chair of both Board and Council. I know that Wales is very proud to have its first President from the Principality, and his considerable abilities will serve LABC well in his new post.

The meeting also paid tribute to Steve Broughton, who has now stood down both from the Board and as Finance Director. Again I add my own thanks to him. As one of the two people who interviewed me for this post, I have a very good reason to be grateful to Steve - and indeed I am. He was another person who has been of great help to me in the last year. We shall miss you, Steve - and I hope we can continue to find ways of using your talents.

A new Finance Director will be appointed at the next Board Meeting on 19 July. At that meeting the existing Members will welcome to the Board John Branchett, now working at Reigate and Banstead, and hopefully also Andy Hardy from the London Borough of Brent.

At the AGM, the meeting was adjourned until 28 September. This was because the Board had not yet had the opportunity to approve the accounts for 2005-6, and circulate them to the membership 21 days in advance of the AGM as required by law. A particular complication this year has of course been the need to prepare three sets of accounts - for LABC, the DSA and LABC Services. The reconvened AGM will therefore be held on the same date as the next General Meeting, the venue for which will be announced shortly.

Both the report I prepared on 13 June for the AGM and the earlier report I prepared for the Council Meeting on 6 June recorded some of my activities in the last month and are available on the website, so I

will not repeat the details here. However, I can provide a few updates. I have already invited you to inspect the new Planning Portal, with its Building Regulations content, and a number of you have kindly copied to me your comments about it. Interviews have been held for the post of Technical Services Co-ordinator, and I hope we can announce who is taking up that post within the next few weeks. The shortlisting from almost 100 entries for our National Built in Quality Awards in October took place on 21 June, and the judges meeting on 6 July now are left with deciding the winners in each of the eleven categories.

Finally, by the time you read this, I should have represented LABC at a Round Table that the new Minister for Building Regulations, Angela Smith, is holding on 27 June. Also represented there will be the Cabinet Office's Better Regulations Executive who have begun a new study on simplification of the Building Regulations. And as a result of our membership of CIC we will be able to attend another Round Table they are organising on this topic with the Executive. So there is no doubt we are being asked to participate in a number of strategic exercises which could significantly affect our future, and I shall endeavour to ensure that our views are heard.

West Yorkshire Builds on Last Year's Success & Hosts Its 2nd Annual Built in Quality Awards

By Phil Deacon, Building Control Manager, Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council

Following on from last year's success the second West Yorkshire Built in Quality Awards took place on 15 June 2006. It was a "black tie" event held at Bagden Hall Hotel, in Scissett, Huddersfield.

At the event all finalists received a certificate of recognition and the winner of each category received a winner's trophy. Fund raising took place for Yorkshire Air Ambulance and guests were entertained by top local comedian Lea Roberts.

The number of categories was increased this year to seven with the introduction of a "sustainability" award.

The categories were:

- ▶ Domestic Extensions
- ▶ New Dwellings Volume
- ▶ New Dwellings Under 10 Units
- ▶ Restoration and Conversion Projects
- ▶ Commercial Developments
- ▶ Community Projects
- ▶ Sustainability

A panel of judges made up of representatives from each of the West Yorkshire Local Authorities - Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield - chose three schemes in each category with the winner unveiled on the night.

This year's awards were sponsored by YBS Insulations, McMillan-Scott Publishing, Arco and Barbour Index.

AND THE WINNERS ARE:

▶ Domestic Extensions

Project: Glen Farm
Award presented to Richard Battye (RB Construction) by Darren Mawson (Barbour Index)

▶ New Dwellings Volume

Project: Great George Street, Leeds
Award presented to David McCleans

▶ New Dwellings Under 10 Units

Project: White House Farm, Wentbridge
Award presented to Norman Wakefield (J&E Richards) by Suzanne Burnley (Arco)

▶ Restoration & Conversion Projects

Project: Listers Mill
Award presented to Tom Hobson (Urban Splash) by Rosamund Lee (McMillan-Scott)

▶ Commercial Developments

Project: New Morrisons HQ
Award presented to Michael Hellawel (AEMHA Architects) by Emma Arrowsmith (Arco)

▶ Community Projects

Project: Batley Community Health Care
Award presented to Geoff Pester (Amec) by Paul Gowland (Yorkshire Air Ambulance)

▶ Sustainability

Project: Gibson Mill, Hebden Bridge
Award presented to Eric Parks (EcoArc Architects) by Ian Vaughan Evans (LABC)



Ros Lee presents Tom Hobson with the Restoration & Conversion Projects award



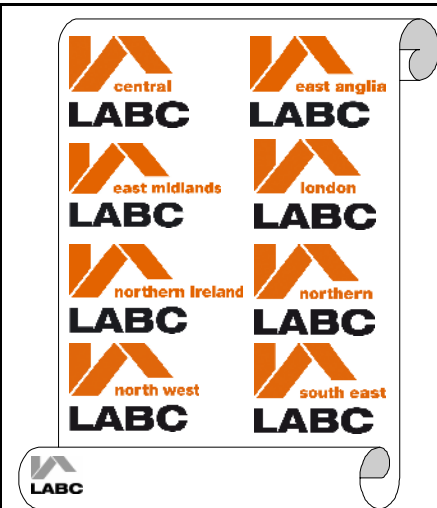
Emma Arrowsmith presents Michael Hellawel with the Commercial Developments award



LABC President Ian Vaughan-Evans (right) presents Eric Parks with the Sustainability award

LABC Promoted with Pride

By Graham Lee, LABC
Business Development Director



Following integration it is vital that the new LABC brand is prominent in everything we do as an organisation. All LABC offices are urged to use the new logo in all of their communication and business development initiatives. User guidelines have been prepared for your assistance to ensure consistency.* The National logo and your Regional logos should be used at every opportunity.

Similarly, all Power Point presentations used locally, regionally and nationally should include the LABC logo as audiences include many prospective and existing clients. An LABC Power Point presentation template has been created and is available from Lupus Street.

The new corporate exhibition stand is available for booking. Contact the staff at Lupus Street (020 7641 8737) with the dates you need the stand, but book early as it is now appearing across the country at conferences, seminars, and Built in Quality Awards. The stand features the new corporate branding that will also be incorporated into the new corporate brochure, which is currently under development.

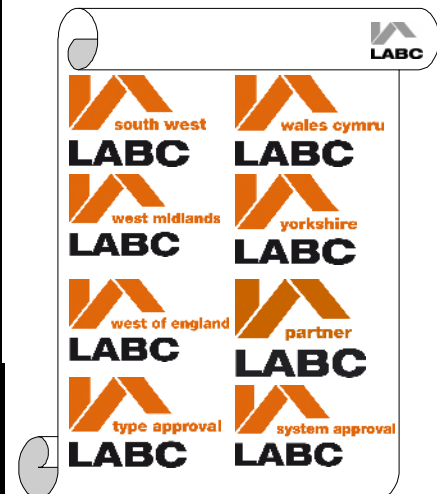
There is also now an extensive range of LABC endorsed promotional merchandise which will enhance your promotional event. Our brand is LABC - do all that you can to make sure it is promoted at every opportunity to ensure it is recognised as the UK's Number One Building Control Service provider.

If you need help or assistance with promoting LABC, contact either of our Business Development Directors:

Graham Lee 01902 326969 or
Phil Harrison 01246 292029

**The LABC National logo and Regional logos can be found in the Members Area of the LABC website. Along with these logos, you will find the Design Guidance and Rules and Regulations Governing the Use of the Logo. It is essential that these two documents are read and understood before using the logo.*

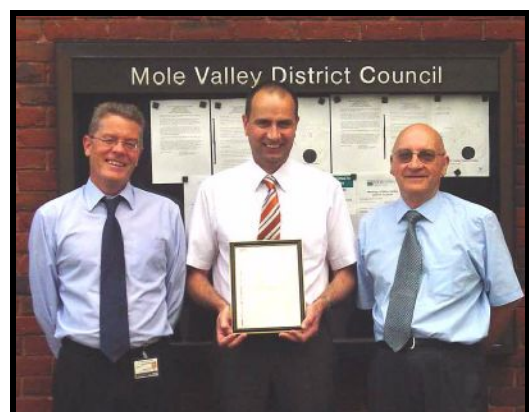
A major opportunity to promote our organisation through the use of the corporate logo is when advertising for staff in National and Regional publications. These are read by a wide and influential audience so make sure that your next job advert promotes LABC.



Floor Slab Obtains LABC System Approval

By Malcolm Dean
Building Control Manager
Mole Valley District Council

Robert Withers, Managing Director of Withers Group Ltd, was presented with an LABC System Approval Certificate for their innovative 'With-A-Void' cast insitu floor slab system. The construction method, used in conjunction with piled foundations, features collapsible formwork which does away with the need for traditional void formers. The resultant subfloor void provides protection against clay heave and also allows for venting if necessary (eg if building on contaminated land).



From left: Malcolm Dean (Mole Valley District Council), Robert Withers (Managing Director of Withers Group Ltd) and Alan Lendon (Building Control Structural Engineer)

The Fire Column

By
Paul Hanson

Ductwork and mechanical ventilation - Part 3 Kitchens

Kitchens

Background

The first matter to consider is whether we need to enclose this risk with fire resisting construction. Approved Document B 2000 only recommends kitchens be enclosed when in a school, however as discussed in the fire column article on ancillary accommodation [1] the ODPM have conformed that kitchens do need to conform to the guidance in the BS 5588 series.

BS 5588: Part 11 recommends the following:-

1. Kitchens be enclosed with 30 minute fire resisting construction. (15.2.2 a) and table 11).

2. Where forming part of a staff restaurant the restaurant itself can be enclosed with fire resisting construction and the kitchen be open to the restaurant. (15.3)

3. In small premises not exceeding 280m² consisting of not more than a first, a ground and basement storey a kitchen need not be enclosed with fire resisting construction if it is located at the extremity of a dead end remote from any exits. (10.2.1 b)).

Approved Document B 2000 in the B1 means of escape section, refers to BS 5588: Part 9 and BS 5720 for mechanical ventilation requirements (paragraphs 6.46 and 6.49).

BS 5588: Part 9 (hereafter referred to as Part 9) recommends kitchen extract ductwork be separate from any other ductwork (6.3.4.2). Also that fire dampers are not used in a kitchen extract duct (6.4.6.2).

BS 5720: 1979 recommends that fire dampers are not used in a kitchen extract duct and the kitchen extract duct be fire resisting where a fish fryer is installed and the duct penetrates floors (2.5.2.3). This reference in BS 5720 can really be ignored as Part 9 recommends that all non-domestic kitchens do not use fire dampers, not just those with fish fryers. Part 9 is a more up to date code last revised in 1999, where as 5720 was last revised in 1979.

The reason fire dampers are not suitable in kitchen extracts is due to the build up of grease which will prevent the fire damper operating. There is a myth that motorised fire damper overcome this problem but it is only a myth.

Part 9 also recommends cleaning access be provided to the duct every 3m.

Requirements for means of escape

In summary; for means of escape purposes a kitchen needs to be enclosed with insulated fire resisting construction by virtue of BS 5588 Part 11 (or directly from the Approved Document if a school), and the kitchen extract needs to be enclosed throughout its entire length with insulated fire resisting construction up to the discharge to external air because fire dampers are not effective. (see figure 1).

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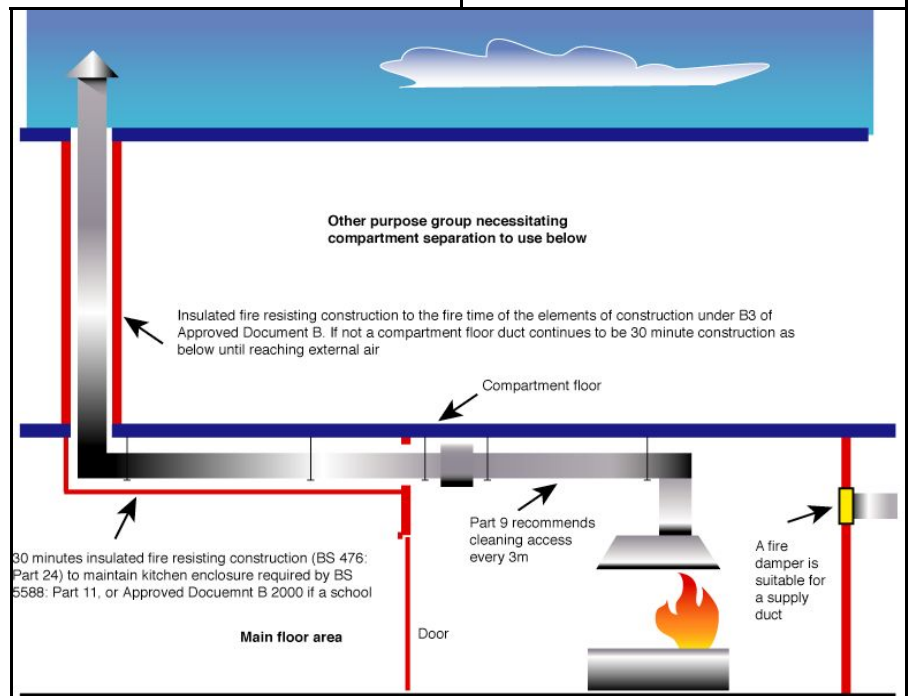


Figure 1 Section showing BS 5588: Part 9 and Part 11 Kitchen extract requirements - illustrating method 2 fire resisting duct

Alternatively; method 3 the kitchen extract duct itself is insulated fire resisting

The Fire Column, continued from page 6

However in small premises described in 3 above, duct protection is not suggested, as the kitchen does not need a fire resisting enclosure. In the case of a staff restaurant the fire resisting duct enclosure would start where (and if) the kitchen extract duct extends outside the staff restaurant to reach external air.

Fire dampers are acceptable to supply ducts serving kitchens.

Compartmentation

B3 of Approved Document B 2000 covers the situation where a kitchen extract duct extends through a compartment floor or wall, and in 11.10 refers to standards in BS 5588: Part 9 being acceptable. Therefore if a building has a compartment floor or wall, any kitchen extract duct passing through this element in addition to being enclosed for means of escape purposes, would also need the fire resisting enclosure to prevent fire spread between compartments. This essentially means the enclosure would need to have the 30 minute rating for means of escape and then increased to the standard of the elements of construction where passing through another compartment up to the point where it reaches external air (see figure 1).

Type of fire protection

Part 9 describes two alternative methods for fire protecting kitchen ducts. Method 2 is a separate enclosure, and method 3 is a fire-resisting duct. The relevant test is BS 476: Part 24 or BS EN 1366 Part 1*, fire resistance must be from the

inside (kitchen side of the duct) and be fire resisting in terms of insulation. (Method 1 is fire dampers which as previously mentioned are not suitable). (BS 5588: Part 9; 6.4.3)

*Note the European (BS EN) test is not mentioned in Part 9 but is acceptable via the Approved Document B 2003 amendments.

References

[1] The fire column 10. Ancillary available from <http://thefirecolumn.moebuildingcontrol.co.uk>

Part 4 will look at the additional requirements for mechanical ventilation in hotels and entertainment premises.

The Fire Column Archive

An interactive fire resisting glazing guide is now available from the website together with an online fire exit sign size calculator. Past fire column articles are also available from the following link.

<http://thefirecolumn.moebuildingcontrol.co.uk>

If you have any news that is relevant to the LABC membership, please send it to

jrich@labc-services.co.uk

for inclusion in next month's edition of
LABC Outlook.

IHS Acquires Construction Research Communications Limited



ENGLEWOOD, Colorado, and London, UK – June 2nd 2006 – IHS, the leading worldwide provider of critical technical information, decision-support tools and related services including the leading on-line service for construction professionals - the Construction Information Service (CIS), announced today that the company has acquired Construction Research Communications Limited (CRC).

The CRC business was created by the Building Research Establishment (BRE) and Emap Construct to provide a wide range of BRE products relating to all aspects of the built environment - ranging from environmental issues to fire safety. The range includes a variety of products, including the internationally respected BRE Digests, information papers, reports and guides. These products provide a wealth of knowledge, experience, practical advice and information on new developments, regulations, codes and standards on all aspects of the built environment.

BRE provides a complete range of consultancy, testing and commissioned research services covering all aspects of the built environment and Emap Construct is home to the Architects Journal, Construction News, New Civil Engineer and Interbuild to publish material created by BRE.

This acquisition will provide construction professionals and users of BRE material with one of the largest and most comprehensive single sources of critical information for the construction industry. IHS will continue to provide on-line access to BRE products via CIS, to BRE-Connect (BRE's subscription

service) and also to on-demand retail sales of hard copy publications through its IHS retail operation.

"This acquisition is a win for all parties, providing BRE customers with a single source for all their construction information needs" said Andrew Sadler-Smith, Senior Vice President for IHS Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA). "We are excited to further develop our longstanding relationship with BRE as providers of BRE publications and to continue to fulfil our commitment to the customer."

"We are delighted to be teaming up with IHS. This furthers our role as a worldwide information provider supporting innovation and sustainability and brings new opportunities for both partners" said Martin Wyatt, Chief Executive of BRE.

About IHS (www.IHS.com)

IHS is one of the leading global providers of critical technical information, decision-support tools and related services to customers in a number of industries including energy, defence, aerospace, construction, electronics, and automotive. We serve customers ranging from governments and large multinational corporations to smaller companies and technical professionals in more than 100 countries. Our customers rely on our offerings to facilitate decision making, support key processes and improve productivity. We have been in business for more than 45 years and employ more than 2,300 people around the world.

In the UK, IHS is a leading provider of construction related information including the Construction Information Service (CIS) produced in partnership with Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA). CIS is a comprehensive source of technical information for construction industry professionals. The extensive

collection of high quality, full text documents cover all aspects of the building, engineering, design and construction process.

IHS forward looking statements

This release may contain forward-looking statements as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements are statements that are not historical facts. Such statements may include financial projections and estimates and their underlying assumptions, statements regarding plans, objectives and expectations with respect to future operations, products, and services, and statements regarding future performance. Forward-looking statements are generally identified by the words "expect," "anticipate," "believe," "intend," "estimate," "plan" and similar expressions. Although IHS and its management believe that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are reasonable, investors are cautioned that forward-looking information and statements are subject to various risks and uncertainties--many of which are difficult to predict and generally beyond the control of IHS--that could cause actual results and developments to differ materially from those expressed in, or implied or projected by, the forward-looking information and statements. These risks and uncertainties include those discussed or identified by IHS from time to time in its public filings. Other than as required by applicable law, IHS does not undertake any obligation to update or revise any forward-looking information or statements. Please consult our public filings at www.sec.gov or www.ihs.com.

Media contact:

IHS
Tim Stack
303-397-2359
tim.stack@ihs.com

DataSpace Consult Online

Building Control Consultations Go On-line

Resolution announces new DataSpace Consult On-line for electronic consultation. Using DataSpace Consult On-line consultations on Building Control applications can now be carried out on-line.

Overview

Building Control applications received through Submit-a-plan or received as paper applications and scanned can easily be published to DataSpace Consult On-line for consultation. DataSpace Consult On-line invites a group of consultees to review and comment on applications facilitating a shared consultation environment. Consultees are directed to specific applications through a link in an email and need to securely logon in order to access the application.

Viewing & Commenting

The document viewing tools support 280 file formats enabling fast and simple viewing of the native file formats without complex file translation and its inherent problems. As well as viewing textual documents specific functionality is provided to deal with plans such as calibration, measuring and printing to scale. Comments can be created as annotations, notes and even as uploaded documents. Other consultees comments can be viewed but not edited enabling an incremental iterative approach to consultations, resolving conflicting views between consultees as part of a dynamic consultation process.

Inviting Consultees

The Building Control Department or the application sponsor can chose which applications to publish for consultation either directly from Submit-a-plan, directly from scanned applications or from DataSpace. Consultees are setup once and can then be selected and automatically invited to consult on an application but only invited consultees are able to access an application. Once a comment is made the sponsor is notified and directed to the relevant comment.

Scanned and Submit-a-plan Applications

DataSpace Consult On-line extends the usage of electronic data into the consultation environment helping justify the cost of scanning paper applications by removing the cost of creating multiple paper copies and the costs of manual paper distribution. Applications already scanned to enable public consultation and applications received electronically through Submit-a-plan can now be provided to statutory consultees without the high costs of document printing and paper distribution. DataSpace Consult On-line provides a secure, feature rich, dynamic consultation environment incorporating consultees into the electronic approval process.

To discuss this further or arrange a demonstration of DataSpace Consult On-line please Contact Steven Mabbutt at Resolution Data Management.

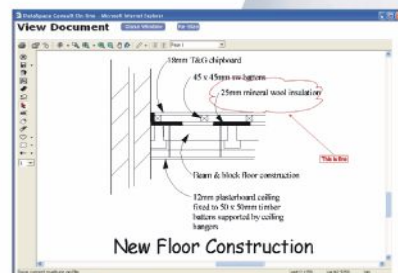
T 01242 260505
E steven.mabbutt@resolutiondm.com
W www.resolutiondm.com



DataSpace Consult On-line Removes The Need For Paper



DataSpace Consult On-line Application Search Screen- Shot



DataSpace Consult Online Redline Screen-Shot

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