

cement industry update



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Industry News

Cement Industry demonstrates sustainability progress

The British Cement Association has just published this year's *Performance*, the UK cement industry's corporate responsibility report, which demonstrates significant progress towards

sustainability.

The industry cut emissions of carbon dioxide and used over one million tonnes of waste materials in 2004 as replacement fuels or raw materials. The BCA and its four members – Buxton Lime Industries, Castle Cement, Cemex UK and Lafarge Cement UK – have continued to work with the Environment Agency on the development of a sector plan containing performance indicators to measure performance against eight agreed key objectives. Together with demonstrating greater transparency and achievements, *Performance* sets out plans for delivering real environmental benefits.

The report will be available to download from the [BCA's website](#) from 18 July 2005.

Stakeholders gather to discuss UK cement industry sustainable development programme

A group of key cement industry stakeholders reviewed the work being done by the British Cement Association's Sustainable Development Task Force to develop a programme to further improve the social, economic and environmental performance of the industry.

The Task Force, which involves representatives from all four UK cement makers, has produced an assessment of the societal value of cement, incorporating social and environmental costs and benefits. Some six months into the year-long programme, the industry was particularly keen to seek the stakeholders' views on:

- How to improve the assessment so that it reflects a true picture of the impacts of cement making
- What else the UK industry must consider to ensure that it makes a genuine contribution to sustainable development
- How the industry would best translate aspirations and potential into operational reality

The event was facilitated by Forum for the Future and Dialogue by Design, and feedback received on the day was very valuable to further shape the industry's sustainable development programme.

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Health & Safety

Directive 2002/44/EC: Physical Agents (Vibration) Directive

The Physical Agents (Vibration) Directive came into force on 06 July 2005 and lays down minimum standards for the health and

safety of workers exposed to hand-arm and whole-body vibration. The UK will implement the Directive by regulations under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

Hand-arm vibration comes from the use of hand-held power tools and is the cause of significant ill-health. Whole-body vibration comes from riding in vehicles, particularly over rough terrain, and is a factor in back pain and injury.

Specifically the Directive require employers, where there is likely to be a risk from exposure to vibration to:

- reduce exposure to a minimum
- provide information and training
- assess exposure levels
- carry out a programme of measures to reduce exposure and provide appropriate health surveillance when exposure reaches the exposure action value
- keep exposure below the exposure limit value.

The UK has supported the Directive and considers the requirements in it to be broadly proportionate to the risks of exposure. Compliance with the requirements should result in significant improvements in health, and in particular the virtual elimination of occupational hand-arm vibration syndrome.

Further information is available from the [HSE website](#).

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Parliament Update

Waste Policy and the Landfill Directive

The Government has responded this week to the report on Waste Policy and the Landfill Directive from the House of Commons Environment Committee issued in March, by clearly stating that they 'recognise incineration with energy recovery (such as in a cement kiln) as a sustainable waste management option and supports the need for additional energy recovery from waste in the coming decades.' The Government also used the opportunity to back the recently revised Substitute Fuels Protocol. [Full report.](#)

DTI

The new Minister for Industry and the Regions, Alun Michael MP, has announced a thorough review of the Government's strategy for sustainable construction. The BCA will be working with its colleagues in the sector to ensure that the case for cement and concrete is placed at the heart of the new strategy.

European matters

BCA has worked with CEMBUREAU, the European Cement Association, and arranged a meeting for industry representatives with UK Government officials to discuss the key issues for the cement industry as the UK took over the Chair of the European Council.

European Parliament

BCA was represented in Strasbourg at the most recent meeting of the Parliament to lobby UK MEPs on a variety of current legislation, including the proposed chemicals policy REACH, and the Mine Waste Directive.

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Events

Lubetkin Lecture

The annual Lubetkin lecture will be presented on 10 November by Structural Engineer Anthony Hunt from SKM Anthony Hunts. Please see future editions of *Cement Industry Update* for further information.

Revitalising Health & Safety Conference

The BCA RHS Conference will be held on Tuesday 22 November at the Bank House Hotel in Worcester. More details will be available soon.

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BCA in the news

BCA media coverage for June

Article	Media	Issue
Fight fire with fire engineering	Construction Manager	June 05
Officials blame fire proofing for Twin Towers collapse	Construction Manager	June 05
Riding High (<i>use of concrete</i>)	Construction Products	June 05
BCA's Revitalising Health & Safety programme	Construction Products Innovation and Achievement	June 05
A Building in a bag	New Concrete	24 June 05
Mortar guide	Construction News	30 June 05

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Publications

Masonry mortar

The BCA has just published a new guide to materials for masonry mortar. *BCA guide to materials for masonry mortar* will be a great help to builders in selecting the most appropriate mortar for various applications. It highlights the properties of materials for use in masonry mortars and the British/European Standards that describe them. The guide further discusses the types of masonry mortar most commonly encountered: cement-sand mortar; cement-sand (plasticized) mortar; masonry cement-sand mortar; cement-lime-sand mortar and hydraulic lime mortar.

Copies of the guide (£7) are available from the Concrete Bookshop, telephone 01276 608778, fax 01276 37369 or email enquiries@concretebookshop.com.

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