

cement industry update



Issue 38, November 2006

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Industry news

BCA Reaction to Stern Review

The UK cement industry welcomes the publication of the Stern Report and its potential impact as a catalyst for increasing awareness, both domestically and internationally, and for galvanising urgent action on reduction of greenhouse gases. The United Kingdom has for some time provided the lead on climate change issues and the publication of this report provides convincing, definitive arguments that the costs of action, whilst high, will be substantially lower than the longer term costs of inaction.

As an energy intensive industry, the UK cement manufacturers have long been aware of the need to increase their efficient use of energy with a view to reducing production costs and emissions of carbon dioxide. The UK industry is committed to sustainable

development with the launch of its strategy in November 2005, an important component of which is the development of a carbon profile that will make a substantial contribution to the reduction of emissions by 60% or more by 2050.

The British Cement Association supports the conclusion of Stern and re-affirms the role that the cement industry worldwide must play in achieving its goals. In a report of this complexity, the industry accepts the difficulty in assessing data from many different sources in order to give a fully accurate representation of each industry/sector considered, and this is so for cement manufacture.

Whilst this does not in any way negate the broad conclusions that are drawn in the Report, there is a danger that the regulatory impact of resulting policy instruments developed directly from the report, without further qualification, may have a substantial adverse influence on specific industry sectors, such as cement.

The British Cement Association has reviewed the Report and identified specific areas that do not reflect the technical or economic issues associated with the manufacture of cement manufacture in the UK and Europe:

- The difficulty of the industry to pass on its costs
- The threat of imports of cement and clinker
- The large CO₂ emissions per unit of production/profit
- The impact of energy costs
- The impact of electricity cost rises.

Fire lecture

Dr Pal Chana, BCA's Technical Director, gave an invited lecture in Lisbon on 4 Decemeber on *Fire Safety with Concrete*. This was jointly organised by The Portuguese Institute of Engineers and The Portuguese Cement Association (ATIC). The lecture covered the need for Fire Safety, the design approach in the recently published Eurocode and the benefits of concrete construction for fire resistance.

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Sustainability

Recarbonation project

The BCA recarbonation study is in progress and an interim report summarising the results was issued at the end of November 06. Results indicate that factoring in recarbonation would reduce CO₂ emissions from the manufacture of cement by around 19%. Other recommendations in the report include:

- Revisions to the BRE methodology for recarbonation
- A recommendation for further research to establish the true

- extent to which calcium oxide will recarbonate
- A comparison of the embodied CO₂ in a timber frame and masonry wall and the implications of recarbonation.

Please contact Tom DeSaulles on Tel: 01276 608700 for further information.

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Public affairs update

REACH

Cement clinker currently remains exempt from registration. Adoption of the directive looks likely now that a 'take it or leave' deal has been agreed between Parliament, Council and the Commission. The Environment Committee will vote on the deal at its Plenary session on 11-14 December and the Environment Council will vote on the proposal at its meeting on 18 December.

Waste Framework Directive

The Environment Committee voted on 28 November on the compromise amendments tabled by Dr Jackson. Some of the amendments adopted are helpful to the industry, some are not:

- The Committee agreed not to add a definition of by-products in the WFD, but rather to add in the preamble that the Commission should come up with a proposal or guidelines on by-products
- The waste hierarchy in five levels was adopted as a 'general rule', not as a guiding principle
- Recovery is defined on the basis of substitution of other resources, but it must be ensured that pollutants are not transferred into the product
- End of waste criteria are not as strict as industry would want
- The priority for the regeneration of waste oil remains
- Mixing of waste is prohibited.

The proposed revision will be voted on by all MEPs in February 2007. The Directive will then return to the Council to reach a common position before returning to Parliament for a second reading later in 2007. Dr Jackson believes that the process will end up in conciliation with the Council. BCA is planning to issue a response to the DEFRA consultation on the WFD following the Environment Committee latest vote. A BCA meeting is planned for early January to agree the way forward, in advance of a CEMBUREAU meeting in mid-January for the same purpose.

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Consultations

Valuing Planning Gain

Consultation details of the valuations that would be needed for the Planning Gain Supplement. Deadline for responses is 28 February 2007. Further information on HM Revenue & Customs [website](#).

Paying Planning Gain

The paper sets out the proposed framework for administering the Planning Gain Supplement. Deadline for responses is 28 February 2007. Further information on HM Revenue & Customs [website](#).

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BCA in the news

Media coverage for October

| Article | Media | Issue |
|--|------------------------------|-----------|
| A pat on the back [for BCA pledge cards] | Global Cement | Oct 06 |
| BCA's Head of Public Affairs | Global Cement | Oct 06 |
| Tips on how to use cement safely | AzoBuild (Sydney, Australia) | 30 Oct 06 |
| Cement industry addressing sustainability | AzoBuild (Sydney, Australia) | 30 Oct 06 |
| Cement and concrete universal construction materials | AzoBuild (Sydney, Australia) | 30 Oct 06 |
| Cement operations in UK carefully regulated | AzoBuild (Sydney, Australia) | 30 Oct 06 |
| Cement's role in daily life | AzoBuild (Sydney, Australia) | 30 Oct 06 |



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The British Cement Association would like to convey our best wishes to you for the festive season.
Merry Christmas!

for all the latest news and updates from the industry.

For comments or contributions, please contact Liezel Tipper, Press Officer, on
telephone: 01276 608707 or email: Ltipper@bca.org.uk
