

# cement industry update



Issue 27, December 2005

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**The British Cement Association would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.**

[www.cementindustry.co.uk](http://www.cementindustry.co.uk)

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## Industry News

### European standard for masonry cement

The European Standard for masonry cement, published as British Standard BS EN 413-1:2004 in November 2004, replaced BS 5224:1995 on 01 December 2005. Masonry cement must now bear the CE marking to demonstrate conformity with BS EN 413-1 and BCA member companies' masonry cement products all conform. During this changeover process, specifiers and users will have experienced no change to the properties, performance or quality of traditional UK masonry cement class MC 12,5.

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## Health and Safety

### Conference reinforces Health and Safety initiatives launched

The UK cement industry continues to work towards its vision of an operating environment where accidents to employees and contractors do not occur. To help achieve its aim to reduce injury rates by 30 per cent year-on-year, various initiatives were launched in 2005. Progress and advice were shared by representatives of all four UK cement manufacturers at the BCA's Revitalising Health & Safety conference in November. Further information on the prevention of hot meal burns; slips, trips and falls and customer site safety can be downloaded from the library section of the BCA website, [www.cementindustry.co.uk](http://www.cementindustry.co.uk)

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## Parliament Update

### Significant lobbying success on the European Chemicals Proposals

An extra-ordinary meeting of the EU Council was held on 13 December at which the UK sought political agreement on its compromise text on the EU Chemicals proposals known as REACH. The Spanish delegation again put forward the exemption of clinker from registration and evaluation, and this time the UK Presidency accepted the proposal and no other member country sought to block it. This is a significant lobbying achievement for the European cement industry. In addition, the exemption of wastes from the proposals and the option for one-substance, one-registration and the ability for a third party to register, means that the cement industry has gained all four of its key objectives. The next step will be for the Council and the

European Parliament to try to agree a final deal at the Second Reading stage. This is likely to begin in late Spring 2006.

## EU Mine Waste Directive (MWD)

The conciliation process was completed on 7 December to the general satisfaction of industry. The Directive will be formally published early next year and will come into force within two years. The key outcomes of the Directive for the cement industry include keeping it away from 'thermal manufacturing processes.' Other key points for which industry lobbied included:

- Inert waste and unpolluted soil to be exempted from permits, falling under the public participation directive, after-closure procedure, and financial guarantee - a key outcome for industry.
- Non-hazardous non-inert waste to be exempted by Member States from the financial guarantee.
- Temporary storage of waste to be allowed for one year for non-hazardous non-inert waste and three years for inert waste. After these periods, the waste disposal will be considered as waste facility.
- Thresholds for the classification of a waste facility as 'Category A' (large/dangerous waste storage sites) to be maintained at a practical level. The vast majority of aggregate sites in the UK do not fall within this category.
- Rehabilitation of abandoned sites is left in the hands of the Member States. There remains the requirement to have in place financial guarantees for site rehabilitation.

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### BCA website

[www.cementindustry.co.uk](http://www.cementindustry.co.uk)

Since its re-launch in April 2004, the BCA website has continued to be a trusted and valuable source of information. Visitor numbers grew from 5,530 in April 2004 to an average of almost 17,000 visitors per month during the last quarter of 2005.

The file that consistently receives the highest download figure every month is European & British Standards 03 (downloaded 2,812 times in November 05). The corporate responsibility report, *Performance*, was downloaded 2,782 times since publication in July and *Working Towards Sustainability* 494 times during November.

Industry guidance on the prevention of slips, trips and falls has also made an impact since its publication in June, with 1,700 people downloading the document.

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## BCA in the news

### BCA media coverage for November

Article	Media	Issue
Cement firms must cut CO <sub>2</sub> emissions	Construction News	10 Nov 05
UK launches 'cooperative industry regulation'	Environment Daily	16 Nov 05
Heavy industry takes step towards sustainability	Edie.net	17 Nov 05
Contractors counting cost of carbon scam	Contract Journal	23 Nov 05
Govt unveils green targets for concrete	Construction News	24 Nov 05
Cement industry on track to achieve environmental objectives	Azobuild.com (Australia)	29 Nov 05

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## News roundup

### Lafarge reveals quarry building plans

Lafarge Cement UK has unveiled plans for a multi-million pound development on the former Blue Circle quarry site in County Antrim, Northern Ireland.

Proposals for the site in Magheramorne include a world class mountain biking centre, a scuba diving centre, a village of 450 eco-friendly houses, international film and television studios and a bird and wildlife reserve.

### Lafarge gains permission for import terminal

Lafarge plans to increase their business in the South East as planning permission for £5m improvements at a Thames import terminal is approved.

### Cemex plans to increase output at Barrington

Barrington has submitted a planning application for an extension of the quarry, a new cement plant and the construction of a new access road. The company hopes to increase its business in the South East and increase energy efficiency by replacing its old wet process of cement making.

### Drop in construction rates

Figures published by the Department of Trade and Industry show a 1.3% fall in output in the first nine months of 2005. While the Construction Products Association fears the industry is heading into recession, the Construction Industry Council disagrees, saying that public spending will redress the balance of the slowing private sector.

## Code for Sustainable Homes published

Planning Minister Yvette Cooper published a draft of the new Code which aims to introduce environmental safeguards into building designs of new homes. Read the ODPM release on their [website](#).

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## Publications

### New chromium (VI) information sheets

Sheet 7: Compliance protocol for Chromium (VI) content of cement

Sheet 8: Shelf-life expired cement

### New waste related information sheet

Sheet 15: Classification/characterisation of cement where discarded as waste

All three publications can be downloaded from the publications section of the [BCA website](#).

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Please visit [www.cementindustry.co.uk](http://www.cementindustry.co.uk) <<http://www.cementindustry.co.uk/>> for all the latest news and updates from the industry.

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