## **CDB CONSULTING ENGINEERS LTD**



## JANUARY NEWSLEFTER

Issue 14

### **Controlling efficiency**

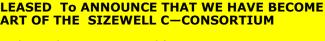
Graeme Rees, vice president of the Building Controls Industry Association (BCIA), discusses the efficient management of buildings post-lockdown, and how a new Technical Guide can help ensure building controls perform to their maximum potential

The world is certainly a very different place today than it was just six months ago, but with people beginning to return to work we are all wondering what the new normal will look like as we learn to live in whatever a normal world becomes.



As we need to learn to adapt so too do our buildings. Many have been left empty for some time and with government advice to continue working from home if you can, a good proportion of general office spaces will only be operating at a much reduced occupancy level and are likely to continue in this way for some time yet. CIBSE has issued guidance for building owners, occupiers and operators on procedures and practices to follow to ensure buildings are not only brought back online safely and efficiently but are operated slightly differently to ensure the safest environment for occupants. For example, adjustments to the control systems on ventilation plant to operate supply and extract ventilation at higher volume flow rates and to avoiding recirculation wherever possible. Also, extending operating hours to at least two hours before occupancy and two hours after should a 24hour operation not be possible. Read more at https://www.heatingandventilating.net/controlling-efficiency

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Five reasons why you should carry out prepurchase legal due diligence on any property transaction

Just as buying a home is a major investment for the average person, buying business property is a major investment for a company. Property transactions take a great deal of time and money to complete, and require the buyer to take the utmost care not to do the equivalent of stepping on a rake. This is why we recommend that buyers carry out pre-purchase due diligence, including legal due diligence, on any potential property transaction. That being said, it would



make sense for all property owners where such a property is on the larger and more expensive side to carry out their due diligence before the sales process even begins. This will also give the seller a better understanding of the nature of the property that is to be sold.

#### What is pre-purchase legal due diligence?

To minimise any risks which may relate to the property that is to be purchased, it makes sense for the buyer to carry out, as thoroughly as possible, their own pre-purchase due diligence process, with legal due diligence included, in regard to the property that they intend to buy. Legal due diligence will provide answers to most of the questions that could arise, primarily in connection with plans concerning the location of the property and

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#### JANUARY NEWSLETTER



Updated CIBSE Code of Practice key to future of heat networks – Rehau

The publication of the new CIBSE/ADE CP1 (2020) Heat Networks Code of Practice is a welcome step in increasing the uptake and quality of design, installation and operation of low-carbon heat networks in the UK, says polymer pipework specialist REHAU.

The long-awaited revision was developed by the CIBSE and Association for Decentralised Energy (ADE) and takes into account the trend toward low-carbon heat networks since the previous guidance was published over five years ago.

Specifically, CP1 (2020) recommends a maximum flow temperature of 70°C on new schemes, encouraging specifiers and contractors to consider fourth generation heat networks. These networks, which typically favour low-carbon heat sources like heat pumps and waste heat, are suited to polymer pipework. The guidance goes on to describe how these pipework solutions can also play a major role in the implementation of district heating schemes across the UK.

With renewable heat networks increasing in popularity as a means of decarbonising buildings in line with Government net zero emissions targets, CP1 (2020)'s messaging comes at a crucial time, says Steve Richmond, head of marketing and technical at REHAU Building Solutions, a leading district heating pipework supplier.

He said: "We have long asserted that the implementation of district heating schemes will be vital to the decarbonisation of the country's building stock and are therefore pleased the latest CP1 guidance shares this view. In particular, the guide's highlighting of the benefits associated with polymer district heating pipework, like lower installation costs and the lack of expansion loops required, clearly demonstrate the key role they will play in reducing emissions.

"We also welcome the guide's practical recommendations around fitting polymer pipework. This includes highlighting their compatibility with specialist installation methods like horizontal direction drilling, and how compression sleeve joints reduce the potential for failures during installation."

CP1 (2020) also provides a series of checklists and a toolkit for verifying compliance to ensure quality assurance and regulations within the heat network market, and more detailed guidance on diversity calculations. Taken alongside funding initiatives like the Heat Networks Investment Project and its 2022 replacement, the Green Heat Networks Scheme, Mr Richmond said he is confident CP1 (2020) will ensure new district heating schemes are as efficient and futureproofed as possible.

He concluded: "Government support is helping increase uptake of district heating schemes, and through following guidance like CP1 (2020), heat network providers will be able to more effectively maximise carbon savings while increasing efficiency through reduced heat losses. We view these efficient, low-carbon heat network solutions as instrumental to constructing carbon-neutral new-build properties ahead of the Future Homes Standard introduction.

"As ADE members, we work closely with CIBSE and are fully committed to our role in the delivery of efficient low carbon heat networks. Along with Government policies and funding, CP1 (2020) marks a fantastic turning point in favour of renewable heat networks as one answer to the low-carbon transition, and we are hugely excited to be part of this revolution."

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#### Covid blamed as construction faces 'significant issues' from materials shortages

Booming housing market fuelling demand

The construction industry is facing a shortage of building materials thanks to disruption at ports caused by the covid-19 pandemic and a booming housing sector.

According to the Builders Merchants Federation (BMF), a shortage of products including roofing materials and timber is starting to impact on the industry.

The BMF has received reports of some products being unavailable as far in advance as August, while timber prices are surging by an average of 20%.

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John Newcomb, chief executive of the BMF and co-chair of the Construction Leadership Council's Brexit Movement of Building Products and Materials Group, said demand had skyrocketed since the first lockdown last spring.

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The CPA's state of trade survey said 85% of heavy side firms and 50% of light side firms reported that construction products sales rose in the quarter.

But 23% of heavy side firms cited material and component supply as their primary constraint over the next year, marking the highest proportion since the survey began in 2008. Around 16% of light side firms said this was their biggest concern.

Rebecca Larkin, CPA senior economist, said: "At the end of last year, around one-fifth of product manufacturers noted that issues around material and component supply risked constraining activity over the next 12 months. "This highlights the effect that global supply issues for imported products such as steel and timber, as well as maritime transport logistics, are having on UK manufacturing and construction."

Taken from Building News https://www.building.co.uk/news/covid-blamed-as-construction-faces-significant-issues

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