



FETA NEWS

FETA Fire Extinguishing Trades Association

ENVIRONMENT & FIRE SAFETY ORDER ON CONFERENCE AGENDA



NEW OFFICES BRING NEW FACILITIES FOR MEMBERS

ITEM NUMBER: 2



FETA members are being encouraged to use the new meeting facilities available at the secretariat's new offices following the re-location earlier this year.

FETA, along with the other organisations within the Association of British Fire Trades, moved to bigger and more modern premises within Kingston town centre in April. The official opening took place on 23 May when Ken Knight, CBE, Commissioner of the London Fire & Emergency Planning Authority, unveiled a commemorative plaque.

FETA Marketing Manager, Terry Martiny commented - "We are delighted with the new facilities and are currently only making them available to our members at a nominal rate to cover the cost of catering. We are well placed for anybody looking for a venue close to London, with our two air conditioned meeting rooms complete with full AV facilities."

The room can be used singly (accommodates up to 50 boardroom, 30 theatre, 24 classroom) or split into two with a floor to ceiling partition, with seating which can be configured to meet a variety of needs

The FETA Annual Conference will take place on 1st December, with environmental legislation and the impact of the introduction of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order topping the bill.

The Conference is moving from the Windmill Hotel in Coventry this year, to a new venue which will again be centrally located for ease of access.

With recently introduced environmental legislation requiring

firms to be licensed to dispose of hazardous waste and to transport hazardous materials, the conference will provide a timely opportunity to get all the latest information on how to comply.

Subjects covered will include the safe disposal of the contents of portable extinguishers - foam, powder, wet chemical and water - along with how to dispose of extinguisher hardware. The dangerous goods by road act and how to obtain the necessary

licences will also be addressed.

The December date of the conference also provides an excellent lead in to the all important Fire Safety Order which will be implemented just 4 months after the conference. The focus will be on guiding companies through the legislation, including references to business opportunities that it will present

Further details and conference booking forms are available from the FETA secretariat on tel: 020 8549 8839, e-mail: feta@abft.org.uk

ITEM NUMBER: 1

NEW MARKETING CHAIRMAN

David Murfitt, Managing Director of Fire Safety Services (UK) Limited, has been appointed Chairman of the FETA Marketing Strategy Sectoral Committee. 44 year old David has some 20 years experience in the portable fire extinguisher market, having worked for Chubb, Thorn EMI and FPS before setting up his own company in 1999.

David has been working on the FETA marketing committee for 18 months and has therefore seen first hand many of the issues facing the association. He recognises that he takes up the position of Marketing Chairman at an important and challenging time and sees reacting to change as key to FETA's continued success - "I am delighted to take on what is a very significant role for FETA as we seek to communicate not only with specifiers and users of first aid fire fighting equipment but also with the members that we serve. Having taken an active role in FETA I have seen that it is an organisation which can bring real benefits to any company, from the sole trader right through to the large multi-national. FETA is perceived as a very strong brand in the market and it is up to us in the marketing committee to ensure that strength remains and is actually built upon. The fact that some companies that are not FETA members are using the logo

- one of the situations we will be addressing - is testament to that. We are looking at a number of areas where we can enhance the benefits of membership and will be working on rolling out some of those ideas in the coming months. We wish to ensure access to membership, and its benefits, is available to every company in our trade, irrespective of size, and we will do our utmost to assist companies in achieving the standards required."

David takes over from outgoing Chairman Phil Martin who will be concentrating his

attention on sister trade association the British Fire Protection Systems Association (BFPSA).



David Murfitt

NEW MEMBERS DIRECTORY PUBLISHED

ITEM NUMBER: 3

The FETA Directory is now available, providing contact details for all of the association's members plus useful information on the work of FETA and a guide to extinguishers and their applications.

The Directory is widely used to find companies that supply and maintain extinguishers and hosereels, with the association issuing it in response to requests for members' details.

The 2005/2006 version has been issued via 'Risk' magazine

and copies are freely available from the FETA Secretariat on tel: 020 8549 8839 e-mail: feta@abft.org.uk



CERTIFICATION KEY TO DEMONSTRATING COMPLIANCE

The countdown to the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order continues, with the 6th April, 2006 implementation date now only a matter of months away. The Guidance Notes for the Fire Safety Order are currently being circulated and the importance of third party certification is evident from the inclusion of the following section in no less than 11 editions of the Guidance Notes.

Section 8: Quality assurance of fire protection equipment and installation

Fire protection products and related services should be fit for their purpose and properly installed and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions or the relevant British Standard.

Third-party certification schemes for fire protection

products and related services are an effective means of providing the fullest possible assurances, offering a level of quality, reliability and safety that non-certificated products may lack. This does not mean that goods and services that are not third-party approved are less reliable, but there is no obvious way in which this can be demonstrated.

Third-party quality assurance can offer great comfort to employers, both as a means of satisfying you that goods and services you have purchased are fit for purpose, and as a means of demonstrating that you have complied with the law.

Your local fire authority can provide further details about third-party quality assurance schemes and the various organisations that administer them.

2005 AGM STIMULATES DEBATE

The FETA AGM and Annual Lunch once again provided an opportunity for members to address issues as well as entertain their customers as almost 100 people attended the popular event at the Savoy Hotel in London.

In her post lunch address, FETA Chair, Suzanne Donovan, spoke of the association "...embarking on the greatest change in UK fire safety legislation in a generation", thanking guest Clive Norris of the Fire, Health and Safety Directorate of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, for his and his team's support and transparency in taking forward the significant changes required.

Suzanne, a member of the Fire Safety Order publicity group, recognised the importance of the fire extinguisher industry in communicating the changes to the market - "For the fire extinguisher industry plays a vital role in communicating fire safety requirements. I cannot think of another industry which so single-mindedly seeks out the person responsible for fire safety in every workplace in the UK."

She also spoke of "an equally important message for FETA members to communicate is the benefit of third party certification



FETA officers at the 2005 AGM; (L to R) Peter Kemp, 2nd Vice Chairman, Brendan Gately, General Manager, Suzanne Donovan, Chair and Brian Gibbons 1st Vice Chairman.

for products and services" and assured the guests of the commitment of FETA members to further raising standards through the adoption of such schemes as BAFE's ST104 scheme for registered technicians.

Following Suzanne was Guest Speaker Pamela Castle, OBE, Chair, Business and Community Safety Forum. Pamela began with an overview of the work of the BCSF, recognising that as a stakeholder forum "...the value... is that different perspectives can be drawn into a holistic view."

Also addressed was the issue of the Fire and Rescue Service potentially charging for giving advice, with the BCSF concluding that "any move to charge would put the Service in direct competition with the private sector providers and the Office of Fair Trading should be consulted

before any moves are undertaken." The Forum also expressed concerns that charging could act as a disincentive for business to seek advice when they need it most.

In terms of the new Fire Safety Order and the onus on risk assessment, Pamela said - "The truth is that there is a heavy burden on those ultimately responsible for the risk assessment and risk management and should there be...any challenge, say a legal challenge, to the appropriateness and validity of the assessment, those responsible should make sure that they have a clear 'paper trail' on how decisions were made, what was taken into account, what was not taken into account and the reasons why those decisions were made."

**Regulatory Reform
Fire Safety Order**

ADVERTORIAL

NEW MACRON RANGE OF PORTABLE EXTINGUISHERS FROM TYCO

Tyco Fire and Security has introduced a new range of high-performance portable fire extinguishers under the Macron brand. Manufactured in Germany, the range comprises around 60 different models that are suitable for Class A, B and C fires. The line-up also includes models that are appropriate for Class K fires that involve cooking oils and fats. All models comply with EN 3, and models destined for sale in the UK are Kite Marked.



A high-resolution version of this image is available electronically from Magna

The options include foam, water, dry powder and carbon dioxide extinguishing agents, with capacities spanning from 2kg to 12kg and from three litres to nine litres, depending on the agent. All are guaranteed for five years, providing they are serviced from new in accordance with BS 5306:Pt 3.

The new extinguishers are manufactured by FLN Feuerlöschgeräte Neuruppin Vetriebs, a Tyco company based in Neuruppin, north east of Berlin, which has been manufacturing portable extinguishers for 100 hundred years. They are made to the industry's most exacting standards, and have what Tyco believes is the industry's most hard wearing cylinder coating.

The addition of portable fire extinguishers to the Macron offering is a major boost to its ability to meet the industry's needs as a single-source supplier, with a comprehensive range of cost-effective fire protection products. These include fire hoses and fittings; hose reels and cabinets; foam equipment, monitors and trailers.

Further details on the new Macron portable fire extinguishers can be found at www.macron-safety.com, or are obtainable by email on macron-info@tycoint.com, by telephone on +44 (0) 1493 417600, or by fax on +44 (0) 1493 417700.

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