

SEC *focus* GROUP

Voice of the Specialist Engineering Contractor

The members of the SEC Group are:

Association of
Plumbing and Heating
Contractors

British Constructional
Steelwork Association

Electrical Contractors'
Association

Heating and Ventilating
Contractors'
Association

Lift and Escalator
Industry Association

SELECT



The SEC Group Chairman – Trevor Hursthouse – of Goodmarriott & Hursthouse Limited – Electrical & Mechanical Engineers based in Nottingham – has announced the current agenda and activities for the SEC Group.

Corporate Qualification

To establish formal recognition of schemes for corporate qualification promoted by member trade associations

Retentions

To remove the system of retentions on public sector works by the end of 2007. In parallel, to achieve the same objective across the industry.

Leading up to 2007 to establish retention release at the point of satisfactory completion of individual work packages. During the same period to establish arrangements where retention funds are 'ring fenced' and protected from upstream insolvency.

Integrated Project Teams

To promote the use of integrated project teams where specialist engineering firms are engaged at the beginning of the construction process to play a key role in design development and cost planning. In particular, to develop this objective through membership of the Strategic Forum for Construction.

Health and Safety

To engage with the Health and Safety Executive following the SEC Group's response to the HSE discussion paper 'Revitalizing Health and Safety' in construction.

To review the Construction Design and Management (CDM) Regulations. As a part of this process to establish a link between corporate qualification/competence and compliance with health and safety standards/regulations. Further, to focus attention on the elimination of risk/ unnecessary hazards through the design process. With regard to the latter to develop guidance to avoid or minimise such risks.



Public Sector/Local Authority Construction Procurement

To investigate and, if appropriate, challenge the commitment and current state of achievement by local authorities to procuring construction work on the basis of best practice/best value in place of lowest price.

To promote the practical realisation of 'public sector clients' as 'best practice clients'.

Directive on Temporary Agency Workers

To promote understanding in Government of the affect of current proposals concerning employment terms and conditions which will apply to temporary agency workers. To amend the Directive in a way which reduces the burden upon SMEs.

VAT on Domestic Repair, Maintenance and Improvement Works

To encourage Government to reduce the level of VAT (to 5%) on domestic repair, maintenance and improvement works. By so doing, reduce the influence of 'cowboy traders' in the market sector.

Enhanced Capital Allowances

To promote inclusion of investment in energy saving equipment for business purposes not currently classified as plant and equipment.

Construction Act

To review the Act and report to Government on proposals for appropriate amendments.

To provide guidance and support to member firms in respect of all Construction Act issues.

Specialist Engineering Alliance

To foster a relationship with other specialist engineering groups within the specialist engineering supply chain and develop a joint approach to industry sector issues. By this means to confirm a commitment to teamworking and supply chain integration at every level of the procurement process. Currently the Alliance includes:

Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers

Association of Consulting Engineers

Federation of Environmental Trade Associations Ltd

Building Services Research and Information Association

SEC Group

Other organizations which represent design, manufacture and supply will be invited to join the Alliance.

For further information on all aspects of SEC Group and its activities contact:

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Adjudication

As a member of the Construction Umbrella Bodies Adjudication Task Group to provide a guide for participants in adjudications conducted under Part 11 of the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996.

Constructing Excellence

To be closely engaged in the process which will combine 'Rethinking Construction' and 'Construction Best Practice' into 'Constructing Excellence'. To achieve this through discussion with key players and an offer to play an active role in the new body.

Communication and Representation

To maintain a place at the 'top table' with the Government, clients and industry to promote the interests and well being of the specialist engineering sector.

To achieve recognition for the SEC Group as offering leadership on industry wide issues.