

Press Release



Members of NSAI Construction Standards Consultative Committee

Photo of inaugural meeting of NSAI strategic oversight/advisory committee including construction standards committees at NSAI Glasnevin on 29th November 2017

Back Row- From Left to right

Ciaran O'Connor (*OPW*), **Brian O'Rourke** (*CIT*), **Dr Michael Murray**, (*Roofing Cttee*), **Gearoid Logan**, (*Roads Cttee*), **James Hubbard**, ((*A*) *Universal Design Cttee*), **Jim Mansfield**, (*Eurodes Cttee*), **Liam Hearne** (*Gas Stds Cttee*), **Michael Slattery** (*Fire Stds Cttee*), **Ralph Montague** (*BIM Cttee*), **Richard Crowe**, (*ACEI*) , **John McAuley** (*ETCI*), *Electro technical Cttee*, **Noel Larkin** (*SCSI*), **Murt Coleman** (*Engineers Ireland*) , **Dermot McCarthy** (*Aggregates Cttee*), **Norman Jackson** (*Housing Agency*), **Peter Andrews**, (*RIAI*), **Martin English** (*Sustainability Cttee*), **Pat Barry** (*IGBC*), **Liam Smyth**, (*ICF*) **John Wickham** (*DHPC&LG*).

Front Row- Left to right

Bill Robinson, (*Timber Standards Cttee*), **Noel Kane** (*Masonry Cttee*), **Kevin Sheridan**, (*Committee Chairman CSCC*), **Yvonne Wylde**, *Committee Secretary CSCC -NSAI Building Standards Manager*) **Therese Clarke**, (*Standards Officer NSAI Chemicals, Roads, Aggregates Cttees*)

Establishment of National Construction Standards Consultative Committee

At the National Standards Authority of Ireland's invitation, a strategic oversight/advisory committee was set up and met at NSAI Glasnevin on 29th November **2017**. The committee elected Kevin Sheridan, Secretary General and Past president of AEEBC (the Association of

European Building and Construction Experts) as Chairman and Sean Downey (CIF) as Deputy Chairman. This committee is drawn from all the key Industry construction organisations, utilities and national and regulatory bodies and other key stakeholders impacting on construction activities including the professional construction Institutions.

The meeting received updates from the NSAI standing committees on developments in construction standards. The CSCC agenda covered other challenges and threats in the marketplace including the possible effects of Brexit and its potential impact on trade and standards.

The Construction Standards Consultative Committee is tasked with advising the NSAI on the development of Construction standards, resources and priorities and in developing a work programme to assist NSAI in their efforts to develop standards which will assist strategic infrastructural investment in our built environment.

This will support a number of government strategic needs to advance "*Construction 2020 A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector*" and this confirms the need for a strong and sustainable construction sector in Ireland. The strategy provides for action around housing and infrastructure provision, planning, energy efficiency and sustainability, standards regulation and training. The construction industry is also regarded as having potential for jobs growth, both through an increase in construction projects in Ireland, and the potential for export of construction product and services abroad.

This advisory body mirrors other comparable European standards groups in other E.U countries. The European Standards program for the construction sector, in which NSAI participates, includes more than 3000 work items on product standards and test methods, of which about 600 standards are or will be harmonized under the Construction Products Regulation (CPR).

In the construction area, there is further potential for standardization to better support initiatives in the sector. Areas where standards might usefully contribute include

- Provision of infrastructure e.g. flood relief, water supply, education, sustainability and conservation, design for ageing populations,
- Application of IT and technological developments e.g. Building Information Modelling (BIM), e-procurement and Smart Cities,
- Export of construction products and engineering services.

The challenges introduced by the sheer volume of new, performance based, European construction standards, which are replacing the old, familiar and often less complicated, prescriptive Irish or British standards, and requirements imposed by the Construction Product Regulation (CPR), are unique to the Construction sector, and this is particularly true for the many small companies providing goods and services for the industry.

While reliance on industry volunteers in developing these standards is well established, this committee is considered to be central to accelerating and further advancing this process and will focus on prioritising and advancing the development of appropriate standards against a backdrop of badly needed cost-effective infrastructural development.

Kevin Sheridan (Chairman) “welcomed the opportunity afforded by NSAI to establish this broad-based oversight consultative committee for construction standards development. It is particularly, timely in the light of the changing regulatory and political landscape throughout Europe, and further afield, and he is confident that this will assist in informing NSAI’s very challenging programme of standards development in the built environment area. “

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