

BASA Bulletin

INFORMED COMMENT FROM THE ADHESIVES & SEALANTS ASSOCIATION FOR THE UK & IRELAND

BASA Showcase 2025: Celebrating This Year's Winners and Industry Excellence

BASA, the adhesives and sealants association for the UK & Ireland, hosted its second annual Showcase on **Thursday 6th November 2025** at the East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham.

Following the success of last year's inaugural event, this year's Showcase brought together over 100 members and industry professionals to highlight the **innovation, leadership, and collaboration driving the adhesives and sealants industry**. Guests enjoyed a drinks reception, three-course meal, and entertainment from comedian Jimmy McGhie, who kept the evening full of laughter and energy.



A huge congratulations to all the winners and highly commended companies across this year's categories. This year saw an exceptionally high standard of entries, resulting in a record number of highly commended recognitions.

See the winners on Page 4!

Welcome

We would like to introduce our new BASA members for 2025. You can view the full member directory here: <https://members.basa.uk.com/activememberdirectory>



The UK chemicals sector is vital to the economy.
Read more on on Page 14.

Members AGM & Annual Conference

BASA is set to host its **first-ever conference**, held alongside the **AGM on 3 March 2026** at the **Kents Hill Conference and Training Centre, Milton Keynes**, and it's shaping up to be a milestone event for the adhesives and sealants sector.

Continued on Page 3.

Lorna's Leadership Lens



Lorna Williams,
CEO of BASA
secretary@basa.uk.com

As a sector built on innovation, the adhesives and sealants industry is no stranger to change. Yet today we face an unprecedented deluge of legislation, across chemical management, sustainability, product stewardship, and manufacturing standards, that demands constant vigilance. Both the UK and EU are now signalling ambitions to “simplify” regulatory frameworks. While simplification is welcome in principle, in practice it means further waves of change, and with them additional cost, uncertainty, and the need for businesses to repeatedly adjust systems, formulations, and supply chains.

Nowhere is this tension clearer than in the drive toward net-zero. Our industry is fully committed to that transition, but policy often treats individual aspects of sustainability in isolation. Decisions made to hit narrow targets, such as recyclability or reuse quotas, risk undermining broader carbon-reduction goals. Focusing on a single piece of the jigsaw can unintentionally distort the entire picture, leading to outcomes that are neither sustainable nor economically viable.

What we need is a holistic, evidence-based approach: regulation that understands the full life cycle of materials and recognises the enabling role adhesives and sealants play in lightweighting, energy efficiency, and durable design. With clearer, more coherent policy, our industry can continue to deliver solutions essential to a genuinely net-zero future.

BASA continues to work with other Associations through our membership of the Alliance of Chemical Associations (ACA) and direct engagement with government departments to try to influence the future direction.

Transport Webinar – Shipping chemical mixtures

Free webinar for BASA & BCF members to help anyone who ships packaged chemical mixtures from their sites.

Caroline Raine (BASA) and Kathryn Tearle (BCF) will host a joint member webinar on **Monday 8th December, 14:00–15:00.**

The session will cover:

- Responsibilities when handling mixtures that are non-hazardous under CLP, hazardous under CLP, or classified as dangerous goods under ADR, including fully regulated goods, limited quantities, “small load exemptions,” and special provisions
- Receiving chemicals and understanding acceptance responsibilities
- Obligations under ADR for consigning, packing, loading, filling, or unloading dangerous goods
- Shipper duties when sending paints, inks, adhesives, or sealants by courier
- Responsibilities for packing, labelling, and loading goods
- What hauliers require and whether goods meet their conditions
- Information needed for each shipment
- Who prepares the dangerous goods note (DGN) and when it is required
- Vehicle checks before dispatch
- ADR derogations, including Limited Quantities, “small load exemptions,” and special provisions

The webinar link will be emailed to attendees in advance.



GOLF & SHOOTING NETWORKING EVENT



SAVE THE DATE

The next BASA Sports Day will be Wednesday 24th June 2026.



BASA Spring Conference: 3rd March 2025 – Kents Hill Park, MK

BASA is set to host its **first-ever conference**, held alongside the **AGM on 3 March 2026** at the **Kents Hill Conference and Training Centre, Milton Keynes**, and it's shaping up to be a milestone event for the adhesives and sealants sector.

We're bringing together **leading voices, big ideas and practical insight** to tackle the challenges and opportunities facing the industry right now.

Two heavyweight **keynote speakers** headline the day: **Declan Curry**, renowned business journalist and broadcaster, and **Rt Hon Justine Greening**, former cabinet minister and champion of social mobility and responsible business.

Delegates will also hear from **Gallaghers**, who'll be showcasing their latest **Cyber Defence software**, followed by sessions on **business risks in global trading** and why robust due diligence when selecting business partners has never been more essential. Sustainability will also take centre stage, with expert insights into how the sector can adapt, innovate and future-proof.



Left to Right: Declan Curry, Justine Greening

Expect focused sessions on:



AI, cyber security & risk management



Updates on UK & GB regulations: UK REACH, GB CLP, CBAM, BPR, CE/UKCA marking



Sustainability trends & innovation



Market & economic outlook for adhesives & sealants

Whether you're steering strategy, managing compliance or simply trying to stay ahead of change, this event is designed to keep your business **informed, compliant and competitive**. Network with industry peers, hear from the experts and take away practical knowledge you can implement straight away.

A must-attend date for your 2026 calendar.
Save the date – the full programme and speaker line-up will be announced soon and bookings will open!



AI • CYBER SECURITY • SUSTAINABILITY • UK REACH • GB CLP • CBAM • UKCA MARKING • MARKET OUTLOOK • RISK MANAGEMENT •

SAVE THE DATE

The BASA Conference & AGM will be held at the Kents Hill Conference & Training Centre in Milton Keynes on Tuesday 3rd March 2026.



BASA Showcase 2025: Celebrating This Year's Winners and Industry Excellence

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Following the success of last year's inaugural event, this year's Showcase brought together over 100 members and industry professionals to highlight the innovation, leadership, and collaboration driving the adhesives and sealants industry. Guests enjoyed a drinks reception, three-course meal, and entertainment from comedian Jimmy McGhie, who kept the evening full of laughter and energy.

A huge congratulations to all the winners and highly commended companies across this year's categories:

- **Apprentice of the Year Winner:** Amy Roulston, Hodgson Sealants Ltd.
Highly Commended: Adam Hewson and Phoebe Cawley-Davies, both of F. Ball and Co. Ltd.
- **Future Leader Winners:** Hayley Martin, Advanced Adhesives Ltd. and Dan Bowers, Rakem Group.
- **Excellence in Training and Development Winner:** F. Ball and Co. Ltd.
Highly Commended: UltraTile.
- **Community Engagement Winner:** Hodgson Sealants Ltd.
Highly Commended: Polyseam Ltd.
- **Innovation Initiative Winner:** Fix-A-Floor UK.
Highly Commended: Cyanotec and UltraTile.
- **Excellence in Supply & Services Winner:** Azelis UK Ltd.
- **Best Sustainability Initiative Winner:** ARDEX GROUP UK.
Highly Commended: Azelis UK Ltd and Palace Chemicals.
- **Manufacturer of the Year Winner:** Hodgson Sealants Ltd.
Runner-up: F. Ball and Co. Ltd.

This year saw an exceptionally high standard of entries, resulting in a record number of highly commended recognitions.

The stunning BASA Blaze trophies, handcrafted by Ingrid Pears Hot Glass Studio, were once again a highlight of



the evening, symbolising the artistry and craftsmanship within our industry.

We are also delighted to share that **£1,887.50 was raised for the British Heart Foundation**, a cause close to BASA following the sad death of Kieran Rafferty, MD of the Rakem Group, earlier this year. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Reflecting on the evening, **BASA CEO Lorna Williams** said: *"The Showcase is a true celebration of our members and their achievements. It's fantastic to see so much innovation, resilience, and passion shaping the future of our industry. Congratulations to everyone involved."*

BASA extends sincere thanks to all entrants, sponsors, judges, and guests who made the 2025 Showcase such a success. Planning is already underway for 2026,

and we're pleased to confirm that we will be heading to **Leeds at the Met Hotel** on **Friday 20th November 2026**. Save the date and start planning your entries!



APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR 2025

Winner: Amy Roulston, Hodgson Sealants Ltd.



Image: (Left to Right) Carol Merrin, Amy Roulston

**Hodgson
SEALANTS**

INNOVATION INITIATIVE 2025

Winner: Fix-A-Floor UK



Image: (Left to Right) Lucas Johnstone, Adrian O'Coir

Fix-A-Floor®
FOR LOOSE & HOLLOW FLOOR REPAIR

HIGHLY COMMENDED APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR 2025

Adam Hewson, F. Ball and Co. Ltd, Phoebe Cawley-Davies, F. Ball and Co. Ltd



Image: (Left to Right) Carol Merrin, Phoebe Cawley-Davies, Adam Hewson

BALL

HIGHLY COMMENDED INNOVATION INITIATIVE 2025

Cyanotec Limited



CYANOTEC
CREATING BONDS SINCE 2002

FUTURE LEADER 2025

Joint Winners: Hayley Martin, Advanced Adhesives Ltd & Dan Bowers, Rakem Group



Image: (Left to Right) Carol Merrin, Hayley Martin, Dan Bowers

**ADVANCED
ADHESIVES**
&
**Rakem
Group**
Innovative Chemistry

HIGHLY COMMENDED INNOVATION INITIATIVE 2025

Ultratile



**ULTRA
TILE**

Image: (Left to Right) Lucas Johnstone, Andrew Kennedy

EXCELLENCE IN TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT 2025

Winner: F. Ball and Co. Ltd



Image: (Left to Right) Carol Merrin, Jenny Barnett

BALL

BEST SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE 2025

Winner: Ardex Group



ARDEXGROUP

HIGHLY COMMENDED EXCELLENCE IN TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT 2025

Ultratile



Image: (Left to Right) Carol Merrin, Alan Collins

**ULTRA
TILE**

HIGHLY COMMENDED BEST SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE 2025

Azelis UK Ltd



Image: (Left to Right) Dr Shannon North, Steven Hughes

azelis

EXCELLENCE IN SUPPLY & SERVICES 2025

Winner: Azelis UK Ltd



Image: (Left to Right) Jenny Barnett, Silvia Quaranta

azelis

HIGHLY COMMENDED BEST SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE 2025

Palace Chemicals Ltd



Palace

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT 2025

Winner: Hodgson Sealants Ltd



Image: (Left to Right) Carol Merrin, Charles Hodgson

**Hodgson
SEALANTS**

MANUFACTURER OF THE YEAR 2025

Winner: Hodgson Sealants Ltd



Image: (Left to Right) Carol Merrin, Gary Thomas

**Hodgson
SEALANTS**

HIGHLY COMMENDED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT 2025

Polyseam Ltd



Image: (Left to Right) Carol Merrin, Olando Selina

Polyseam.
Intelligent Chemistry.

RUNNER-UP MANUFACTURER OF THE YEAR 2025

F. Ball and Co. Ltd



Image: (Left to Right) Carol Merrin, Rob Shirley

BALL

Caroline's Compliance Corner



Caroline Raine,
BASA Regulatory Officer

Welcome to Caroline's Compliance Corner. Your go-to update on the ever-evolving world of chemicals regulation. In this issue, we're diving into four key topics you need to know about:

> Training Requirements

BASA is planning its 2026 training programme and is seeking member input to ensure future sessions remain relevant, practical, and aligned with industry needs. Please complete the short survey on the Members Info Hub.

> IATA's Key Updates for the 67th Edition DGR

IATA's 67th Edition DGR (effective 1 January 2026) introduces stricter rules for power banks, new hybrid vehicle UN entries, updated provisions, and a new appendix outlining future 2027 changes.

> Why Dust Hazards Should Be Managed Through COSHH

Dust risks are best controlled through COSHH and workplace risk assessments rather than reclassifying all dusts as carcinogenic. COSHH ensures targeted, practical controls based on real exposure, whereas blanket reclassification could add burden without improving safety.

> Why You Should Join Our Weekly Drop-Ins

BASA's Friday drop-ins give members quick updates on regulatory changes, plus insights from guests and peers. These sessions help you stay informed, share challenges, and learn from others in a supportive, collaborative space.

Stay tuned, stay compliant, and as always, get in touch if you've got questions or feedback!

Have Your Say: What Training Would You Like BASA to Offer in 2026?

At BASA, we're always looking for ways to support our members with relevant, engaging, and practical training opportunities. Over the past few years, we've run a variety of successful workshops, including sessions on sustainability and our Dangerous Goods Awareness Training, which we deliver every two years in line with the latest regulatory requirements. These events have received excellent feedback, and we want to make sure our future training continues to meet your needs.

As we plan our programme for the coming year, we'd love to hear from you. What topics would you find most useful? Are there specific areas of your business or professional development where additional knowledge would make a real difference?

We're considering a range of potential subjects, such as:



Sustainability and circular economy practices – building on our previous sessions with more detailed, practical insights.



Microplastics and environmental impact – understanding upcoming regulations,



IUCLID training – helping members navigate data entry, submissions, and compliance within the EU and UK REACH frameworks.



Emergency response and crisis management – preparing teams to respond effectively to chemical incidents or environmental emergencies.



Artificial Intelligence in the chemical industry – exploring how AI tools can support formulation, safety data management, and business efficiency.

We also recognise that our members have varied preferences when it comes to how they learn best. Some value the networking opportunities, discussion, and hands-on experience that in-person sessions provide, while others prefer the flexibility, accessibility, and time-efficiency of online workshops. Many appreciate a blended approach that allows them to tailor their learning to their schedule.

With this in mind, we'd love to hear your thoughts. Please let us know whether you would like future training to be delivered virtually, in person, or as a hybrid mix of both.

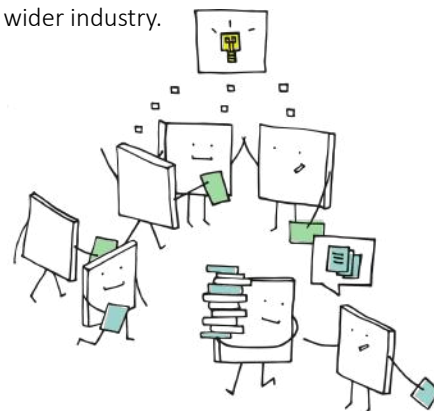
Your feedback will play an essential role in shaping our 2026 training calendar, helping us ensure that every session is timely, relevant, and aligned with the real-world challenges facing our members.

To make this as easy as possible, we've created a short members' survey and we would be extremely grateful if you could take a few moments to complete it. The survey can be found on the main page of the members info hub (you can also email us to request a direct link).

Alternatively, if you'd prefer, you can share any training ideas, topic requests, or format preferences directly with **Caroline Raine** at caroline.raine@gmail.com.

We kindly ask for responses by the end of the year so that we can begin planning early in 2026 and continue building a training programme that truly reflects your needs.

Thank you for helping BASA continue to deliver practical, high-quality training that supports both our members and the wider industry.





IATA Releases Significant Changes for the 67th Edition of the Dangerous Goods Regulations

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has now published the list of significant changes and amendments for the forthcoming 67th Edition of its “Dangerous Goods Regulations” (DGR), which become mandatory as of 1 January 2026.

The updated document is available for download on IATA’s website for all stakeholders to review: <https://www.iata.org/contentassets/90f8038b0eea42069554b2f4530f49ea/dgr-67-en-significant-changes.pdf>

These changes reflect updates originating from the latest International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Technical Instructions, the United Nations’ Model Regulations, and the IATA Dangerous Goods Board’s deliberations.

The aim is to ensure that air transport of dangerous goods remains aligned with evolving global regulatory frameworks, technologically emerging hazards and operator practices.

Key Updates to Watch

One of the headline changes relates to Section 2 – “Limitations”, particularly amendments governing dangerous goods carried by passengers or crew. Notably, the new edition introduces stricter recommendations around the carriage, use and charging of power banks and spare lithium batteries in the aircraft cabin.

For example, power banks must not be charged via in-seat or in-flight power supplies; and during critical phases of flight (taxi, take-off, landing) they must not be used to charge or power other devices.

Carriers, shippers and handlers are urged

to familiarise themselves with these operational constraints well ahead of the January effective date.

Under Section 4 – “Identification / List of Dangerous Goods”, the 67th Edition introduces amendments such as the addition of two “hybrid” vehicle entries: UN 3166 Vehicle, flammable gas powered, hybrid and UN 3166 Vehicle, flammable liquid powered, hybrid.

These entries supplement (rather than replace) the existing bold-type listing for UN 3166, enabling better categorisation of vehicles powered by combination fuel systems and thus enhancing risk assessment for air transport.

Other changes to “Special Provisions” (Section 4.4) include removals and revisions of provisions such as A226 (which became ineffective 30 June 2025) and adjustments to A1, A199.

In the Appendices, new or revised content includes:

Appendix A (Glossary) now includes an explicit entry for “SDS – Safety Data Sheet”, with a cross-reference to updated text in Appendix B.

Appendix B (Nomenclature) adds new Cargo IMP codes for vehicles, and updates its GHS (Globally Harmonised System) content to reflect more detail on the context, purpose and rationale of Safety Data Sheets.

Appendix H is a new addition in the 67th Edition: a forward-looking section listing “Impending Changes” anticipated to become effective 1 January 2027. These include amendments based on the 24th revised edition of the UN Model Regulations and ICAO’s panel agreements,

such as exceptions for blood and blood components, expanded allowances for certain sodium-ion batteries, and clarification of “personal use” intent for dangerous goods carried by passengers.

Implications for Industry Stakeholders

For airlines, freight forwarders, shippers and ground-handling agents, the 67th Edition means preparation now is crucial.

Compliance will require revising procedures, training programmes, documentation templates and risk management frameworks to reflect the updated limitations (especially for lithium and sodium-ion batteries), documentation clarifications, updated UN entries, and the introduction of impending regulatory changes in Appendix H.

The clarification in Section 8 (Documentation) that certain statements of compliance need not include all four dot-points when a regulation references “compliance with another part” is particularly noteworthy.

Additionally, in Section 9 (Handling) the amendment to Note 4 in 9.1.3 addresses “minor discrepancies” in acceptance checklists – recognising that trivial differences should not lead to blanket shipment rejections.

Users of the DGR are encouraged to download the “Significant Changes” PDF, conduct gap analyses against their current processes, update training curricula, and brief stakeholders accordingly. With the effective date of 1 January 2026 fast approaching, now is the time to act to avoid non-compliance, shipment delays or regulatory breaches.

Why dust hazards should be controlled through COSHH and work place risk assessment rather than a change to their classification (*i.e. carcinogenic*)

Controlling dust hazards through COSHH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health) regulations and thorough workplace risk assessments is a more effective and practical approach than simply reclassifying dusts as carcinogenic or more hazardous by default.

While reclassification may raise awareness, it does not, on its own, improve the management of dust exposure or reduce the risks faced by workers. Instead, a focus on robust control measures and risk-based assessments ensures tailored, evidence-based protections are implemented, ultimately offering better health and safety outcomes.

Dusts vary significantly in composition, particle size, origin, and potential health impact. Some, like respirable crystalline silica (RCS) or wood dust, are already classified as carcinogens due to their well-documented risks. However, many other types of dust, while potentially harmful at high exposure levels, do not meet the scientific criteria for carcinogenicity.

A blanket reclassification could lead to

overregulation, diverting resources from managing genuinely high-risk substances and creating unnecessary alarm without improving workplace safety.

COSHH provides a structured and adaptable framework that requires employers to assess the risks from hazardous substances, implement suitable control measures, and regularly review these controls. This process ensures that the control strategy is specific to the type and level of dust exposure in each workplace. It also encourages a culture of continuous improvement and proactive risk management rather than reactive compliance based on broad classification changes.

Workplace risk assessments complement COSHH by evaluating the actual exposure scenarios employees face, such as task duration, frequency, and existing ventilation or dust suppression methods.

These assessments allow employers to prioritise controls such as local exhaust ventilation, dust suppression, PPE, and health surveillance where they are genuinely needed, based on real-world

conditions. In contrast, reclassifying dusts as carcinogenic would primarily trigger legal and labelling obligations without guaranteeing improved on-site controls.

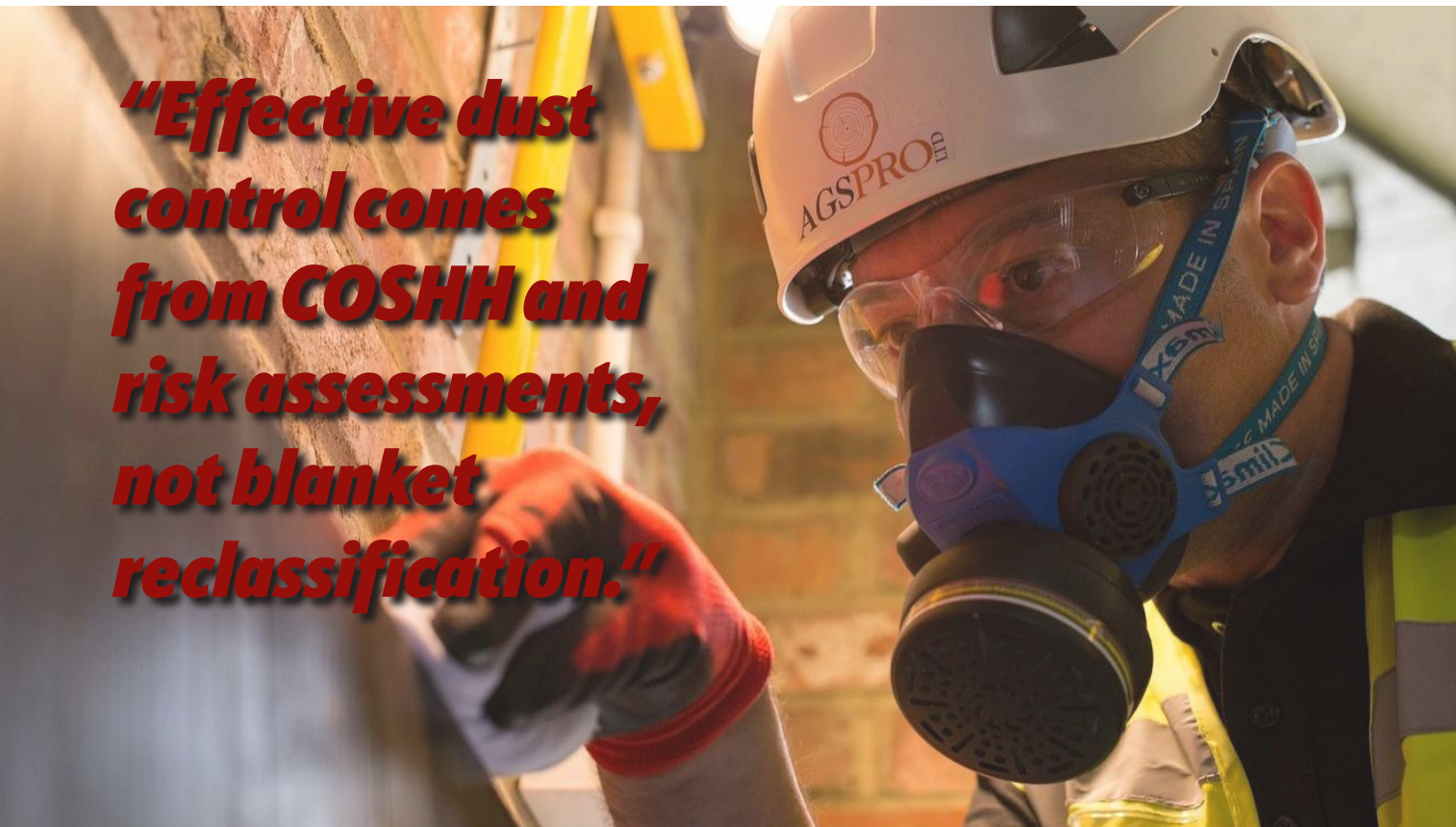
It may also result in confusion or regulatory fatigue, where employers focus on compliance with classification rules rather than effective control strategies.

Furthermore, classifications do not capture cumulative exposure, task-specific risks, or effectiveness of existing controls — all of which are central to actual health outcomes.

In summary, effective dust hazard control lies in the application of COSHH regulations and workplace risk assessments, which offer a targeted, flexible, and scientifically grounded approach. These tools promote practical control measures tailored to specific risks, ensuring better protection for workers than a broad reclassification of dusts would provide.

Caroline Raine, BASA Regulatory Officer

“Effective dust control comes from COSHH and risk assessments, not blanket reclassification.”



Why You Should Join Our Weekly Drop ins

In today's fast-paced and ever-evolving regulatory environment, staying informed and connected is more important than ever. Our weekly drop ins provide a valuable platform for members to come together, discuss key regulatory challenges, explore topical issues, and gain insights from industry experts. These sessions are not only informative but are also designed to foster collaboration, encourage dialogue, and support professional growth.

Each week, we tackle current regulatory developments, emerging risks, and changes that could impact our work, organisations, or industries. Whether it's a new policy framework, evolving compliance expectations, or changes in international standards, our meetings help you stay ahead of the curve. By participating, members can share their own experiences, raise concerns, and collectively explore how to best navigate these complex issues.

What truly sets our weekly meetings apart is the diversity of perspectives. We regularly invite external guests, subject matter experts, regulators, academics, and industry leaders to share their knowledge and practical insights. These guest sessions provide firsthand perspectives on real-world challenges, case studies, and best practices. They also offer a unique opportunity for members to engage directly with leading voices in the field, ask questions, and broaden their understanding beyond their immediate day-to-day.

The meetings also serve as a space for peer-to-peer learning. By connecting with others who face similar challenges, members can exchange ideas, test new approaches, and build relationships that support professional collaboration long

Weekly Drop-Ins:

Your Friday Fix for Industry Updates & Member Support



10:00 am,
every Friday
via Teams

after the meetings end. The value of these shared discussions often extends beyond the session itself, fostering a community of practice that is informed, engaged, and ready to respond to change.

Joining these weekly discussions is not just about receiving information it's about becoming part of a forward-thinking network committed to continuous learning and proactive problem-solving. Whether you're an experienced professional or new to regulatory affairs, you'll find something of value each week: timely topics, thoughtful discussion, and access to people who are shaping the future of our industry.

We encourage all members to attend and contribute. Your voice matters, and your participation strengthens the collective understanding and impact of our community. Let's learn together, grow together, and lead together.

Kerry Knowles, Group Regulatory Affairs Manager, Tremco CPG UK Limited says ***"The Drop-In Clinics are a great way to quickly and regularly touch base with the BASA community to get updates on current topics affecting our industry offering an opportunity to ask any questions within a like-minded forum."***



CHEMUK2026
GROUP OF EVENTS

20TH & 21ST MAY 2026 NEC, BIRMINGHAM, UK



BASA

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Jim's Technical Takeaways



Jim Palmer,
BASA Technical Officer

Welcome to this special edition of the BASA Bulletin published in hardcopy to coincide with this year's Open Industry Forum (OIF). The OIF is held once per year in face-to-face format to enable and encourage our technical community to meet and network. I hope many of you took advantage of the opportunity to meet colleagues and discuss together the issues and potential solutions facing our industry.

This year we have tried to give the OIF a consumer focus and I hope you will agree that we had a broad, interesting programme of speakers covering issues such as labelling challenges as GB regulation diverges from the EU and challenges and opportunities created by the advent of artificial intelligence (Ai).

We were also pleased to welcome representatives from several branches of UK government, to present their thoughts about the progress and development direction of GB regulations post Brexit. I am sure they were keen to learn about the challenges faced by industry in compliance with multiple regulatory regimens in trading in the UK, EU and world-wide.

In this edition you will find short summaries of the current status of the work being undertaken in each of our technical working groups and there was additional details on each of the poster boards displayed on 27th November (will be made available as a booklet on the publications page after the event),

I am grateful to the working group chairs and members for their contributions. Members from each working group were present on the day, for members to take every opportunity to discuss what is going on and raise any additional issues they would like to see addressed.

Membership of working groups is open to all member company employees and it is a great way to get involved and further the interests of our industry.

Our regulatory affairs officer Caroline Raine was also present on 27th November and has written several articles in this edition. We, at BASA, are keen to learn how else we can support our members and are conducting a brief survey on any possible training needs with which we might assist, please complete the survey on the homepage of the BASA InfoHub.

I hope those attending enjoyed the OIF on 27th November and found it useful and will encourage colleagues to attend future events. I hope I managed to speak to as many of you personally as possible.



What's New in the BASA Working Groups



The BASA **Construction Working Group** met on 9 June 2025, with the meeting chaired temporarily by Lorna Williams. If you would like to act as Chair for this group, we would love to hear from you. It is a straightforward job, with secretarial support provided

by Jim Palmer so no agenda and minutes to write!

Key discussions at the last meeting included confirming group membership and rotating chair responsibilities due to lack of volunteers. Updates covered limited current activity across several standards committees (CEN, ISO, BSI) and ongoing representation issues, particularly for wood adhesives and fire performance standards.

The group noted FEICA's discussions on the future of Model EPDs and uncertainty under the new EU CPR, including Digital Product Passports and emissions declarations. BASA is engaging with the Code of Construction products Information, (CCPI) to support member compliance and is forming a task group to assess product packaging sustainability issues related to the UK's new EPR regulations.

Other topics included indoor air quality, substance restrictions, and circular economy challenges. The next meeting is scheduled for 8 December 2025.



Key discussions at the recent meeting focused on evolving EU and UK **Chemicals Legislation**, including the implications of Omnibus VI, ongoing REACH revisions, and updates to the CLP Regulation.

Members reviewed the latest proposals for new hazard classes and harmonised classifications, noting potential impacts on product labelling, safety data sheets, and downstream user obligations. The group also discussed ongoing advocacy work through industry associations, highlighting alignment challenges between UK REACH and EU REACH, and the need for clear transitional guidance.

Updates were provided on the European Commission's progress toward a "one substance, one assessment" approach, as well as on national enforcement trends and data submission requirements. BASA is engaging with DEFRA and HSE to ensure members' views are represented in future consultations, and we will support members in preparing for Omnibus VI implementation.

Other topics included substitution pressures under the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability, microplastics restrictions, and communication along the supply chain. The next meeting is scheduled for 24th March 2026.



The Working Group met on 14 October 2025 to discuss current regulatory and technical challenges affecting **Packaging Adhesives**. Updated calculations confirmed adhesive content on typical packaging is minimal: hotmelt usage on a 500 g box was estimated at 2 g (<1%), while water-based

adhesive use was even lower at <0.1%. HMRC has clarified that adhesives are classed as plastics under UK legislation (see the article in Resources on the BASA Info Hub for the legal references), but manufacturers are not liable to pay the tax. Packaging converters must however use the polymer content of the adhesive when calculating their liability for the tax. A guidance paper explaining this and why requests for recycled content in the adhesive are not functionally sensible will be looked at.

Regulatory discussions centred on UK food contact legislation via BASA's membership of the Food Packaging Value Chain Alliance. Key concerns include limited FSA resources and the lack of alignment with EU regulations. Topics such as BPA, PFAS and wider UK regulatory updates remain under review.

From the EU side, FEICA reported on the 'Quality Amendment' to 10/2011, introducing NIAS migration limits as low as 0.15 ppb, a level currently deemed analytically unfeasible. FEICA's active position is that adhesives should not be classified as plastics under EU law, and there is legal text available to support this (unlike UK law).



The **Sealants WG** met virtually on 23 October 2025, with detailed updates on both building and road sealant standards. A key focus was the new EU CPR 24, effective January 2025 and applying from 2026, which introduces sustainability and Digital Product Passport requirements. Sealants

and joints now sit at priority rank 17, meaning revisions to harmonised standards will likely wait until after 2030. Dual CE/UKCA compliance is now avoided after new legislation passed on 11 November amends the UK CPR to recognise both 'old' and 'new' EU CPR (see BASA website for more information).

ISO and CEN standardisation activity remains high. Concerns were raised about conflicts between ISO 25345 and EN 15631-3, and potential adoption of ISO 16938 on substrate staining. Road sealant standards (CEN TC 227 / B510) show active development, with several EN test methods recently published or under revision, particularly for hot-applied joint sealants.

Technical substance matters included the removal of titanium dioxide classification in the EU, upcoming GB BPR deadlines for biphenyl-2-ol, and an ISOPA webinar on implementing new diisocyanate OELs. Packaging waste legislation and EPR costs were identified as key circular economy challenges.



The group met on 13 October 2025 to review current **Environmental & Sustainability** activity impacting the adhesives and sealants industry. FEICA's Public Affairs Committee update covered the Green Claims Directive, Advanced Materials Act, and growing negative publicity around A&S

products. Increased visibility of "good practice stories" was encouraged to counter this.

Carbon Net Zero was the core technical focus, with a detailed presentation on CBAM (EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism), available via the BASA website. Discussions also covered deforestation-free product rules, noting limited progress from UK government so far, and potential implications for bio-based feedstocks such as palm oil.

Waste legislation remains a key driver: digital tracking of waste has been delayed to April 2026, while mandatory food waste separation will apply to both businesses and the public sector.

EPR fees will become modulated from 2026/27 to incentivise recyclable packaging. Updates were also given on the EU Omnibus Simplification package, ESPR, and Digital Product Passports.

Tony's Sustainability Snapshot



Tony Bingham,
BASA Sustainability Officer

Progress & Next Steps

Since the previous Bulletin feature, sustainability pressures on the adhesives and sealants sector have continued to intensify, but so too has industry engagement. While the core challenges remain familiar, momentum is building in several key areas.

Raw Materials & Formulation

Reliance on fossil-based feedstocks is still a major barrier, but increasing commercial interest in bio-based polymers and mass balance approaches is creating new pathways. Performance parity and availability remain hurdles, yet R&D investment is rising, supported by collaborative EU and UK projects.

VOC & Regulatory Shifts

VOC reduction continues to drive reformulation. The focus has shifted toward performance-optimised low-VOC and solvent-free technologies, with digital product passports and lifecycle assessments expected to become part of compliance strategies.

End-of-Life & Circularity

Debond-on-demand and chemical recycling compatibility are gaining attention, particularly in construction and automotive applications. However, durability must remain central as shorter-lived “recyclable” adhesives risk undermining sustainability objectives.

Packaging & Waste

We are seeing some manufacturers piloting alternatives to single-use cartridges, including refillable systems and recyclable bulk formats. Lifecycle thinking is proving essential in evaluating trade-offs such as shelf life and waste generation. It is essential that regulations are developed that don't penalise technical/functional packaging, providing sensible routes to avoid landfill without affecting net zero targets can be developed.

Transparency & Data

Supply chain data remains limited, but pressure from regulators and OEMs means ESG reporting and carbon accounting are rapidly becoming business-critical.

BASA and FEICA continue to promote the role of adhesives and sealants as essential enablers of sustainable innovation, not barriers. Progress is being made, but continued collaboration across the value chain will be vital to accelerate the shift toward a truly sustainable sector.



From Innovation to Inaction: The DUIN Drag on UK Business

The DUIN system under UK REACH was intended to support UK chemical importers after Brexit, but industry groups including BASA say it is now limiting innovation and growth. Only companies that imported a substance within two years before 1 January 2021 qualify, leaving anyone wishing to import a new or previously unused substance facing the costly and complex NRES route, which many feel is disproportionate for smaller volumes or low-risk materials.

This has effectively locked UK businesses into pre-2021 substance portfolios and restricted access to newer or greener chemistries.

As **SC Johnston** explains:

“This means importers who wish to import substances for the first time after the end of the Brexit transition period are unable to do so, despite the substances legally being on the market (and used by other Downstream Users). ...It inhibits innovation at a time when it should be supported.”

The British Coatings Federation echoes this concern, warning that the NRES system is “freezing the UK market” for many manufacturers.

NRES requires extensive data, long preparation times, and high costs, creating significant barriers for SMEs and slowing product development. BASA is calling for DUIN to be extended to substances already registered under EU REACH, helping level the playing field, encourage investment, and maintain the competitiveness of a sector critical to UK manufacturing—without reducing safety.

Read the full article on the BASA website News page: <https://members.basa.uk.com/news>

Caroline Raine, BASA Regulatory Officer

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The UK chemicals sector is vital to the economy

The UK chemicals industry is one of the country's most critical manufacturing pillars – integral not just economically, but socially and strategically

This article has been funded by the Alliance of Chemical Associations

All goods – used every day, by everyone, everywhere – rely on chemicals in their production processes one way or another. The sector generates £70bn turnover each year, with a GVA of £22bn. It directly employs over 150,000 people, and its supply chain another half a million. Moreover, it makes £7.8bn in business investment each year and contributes £55bn in exports – making it the second-largest manufacturing exporter by value of exported goods.

Delivering growth and anchoring the UK Industrial Strategy

The chemicals industry is integral to the success of the government's growth mission, providing materials, formulations and technologies used across everything from cars and aircraft to energy infrastructure and utilities; from food, packaging and healthcare to pharmaceuticals, construction and civil engineering; and from cleaning and hygiene to cosmetics and personal care products. A healthy chemicals base multiplies value throughout the economy. Without it, there would be no economy.

More specifically, the government's Industrial Strategy leans heavily on "foundational" industries, without which its "high-growth" sectors would

not succeed. The chemicals industry is a prime example. Advanced manufacturing, life sciences, green energy, defence: all rely on chemicals and their derivative formulations and products.

But it is more than that. A strong domestic chemicals sector builds national industrial resilience and security, underpinning the country's critical national infrastructure. Recent global supply chain shocks have demonstrated how important this is. Equally, many parts of the sector are net exporters, helping deliver the government's Trade Strategy.

Employment in the industry is distributed across the UK but particularly strong in regional clusters, supporting regional growth. A whole range of employment opportunities are offered, not just on the factory floor, but in R&D, sustainability and AI, as well as many other high-skilled, technical roles. The workforce earns on average 32 per cent more than the rest of manufacturing and around 41 per cent more than the economy-wide average.

What's more, the industry is a major R&D performer, responsible for 19.7 per cent of all UK R&D spending, at £9.6bn. Importantly, this means the chemicals industry plays a central role in achieving the UK's net-zero and environmental ambitions, with constant innovation enabling improved sustainability in other sectors through the



development of new formulations and technologies, from improved batteries to longer-lasting and more reusable products and packaging.

How can the chemicals sector thrive further?

So, what does the chemicals sector need from government to continue



to positively impact and support UK economic growth?

- **Production costs:** The sector faces numerous uncompetitive production costs, not least on energy, which has been especially punishing. Pricing closer to that of international neighbours is vital.
- **Carbon costs:** Both the amount and speed of emissions reductions are crippling competitiveness in an industry that is itself key to delivering net-zero solutions. A more predicta-

– especially those downstream users like formulators making adhesives, lubricants, paints or printing inks – face immense challenges under frameworks like UK REACH, CLP and BPR regulation. There is no need for unnecessary and costly UK REACH registration requirements for substances already registered under EU REACH, for instance. Ultimately, a proportionate, clear, consistent, and internationally compatible chemicals regulatory regime will reduce trade friction and compliance costs while maintaining high environmental and health standards.

- **Business regulations:** The cumulative impact of regulation heavily reduces competitiveness. Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging and plastic packaging taxes, energy and carbon reporting and schemes like CCA and CCL, imposition of landfill taxes, as well as changes to business taxes and employment law – to give just a few examples – are all hitting at the same time. It is good to note the Industrial Strategy highlights reducing overall regulatory burden, especially when the EU and other countries are committed to reducing regulation within their own borders.

- **Skills and training:** Support for future skills pipelines – especially in STEM subjects – in schools and universities is required to sustain the current skilled workforce that powers high-value manufacturing.
- **Innovation and R&D:** Greater support for commercialisation of R&D in fine chemicals, formulations, advanced

materials and sustainable feedstocks will further create high-value intellectual property and export opportunities.

- **Exports:** Continued support from DBT will help the industry identify and exploit more export opportunities, helping sectors that were historically net exporters, but are not any more, like cosmetic products, to become so again.

Ready to drive future growth

The UK chemicals sector is the strategic backbone of the economy, enabling downstream manufacturing sectors, providing high-quality, skilled jobs, and driving export and innovation. Investment incentives, predictable regulation, skills and training, and support for low-carbon process technologies: all have outsized returns when channelled into chemicals. Bolstering the chemicals industry's competitiveness would allow it to deliver even greater value to the country in future.

The Alliance of Chemical Associations (ACA) consists of 14 trade associations representing some 1,400 companies, the majority of which are SMEs, operating in many sectors of the chemical industry supply chain, from the manufacture and the distribution of chemicals to their use for products such as plastics, paint and cosmetics.

Learn more about the ACA and the sectors they represent by scanning the QR code.



ble and business-supportive policy framework up to 2030 is essential to compete globally.

- **Green technologies:** Investment and support is needed for the green transition, decarbonisation, and circular-chemistry technologies like hydrogen, carbon capture, and sustainable feedstocks.
- **Chemical regulation:** The sector



MEMBER NEWS

Azelis strengthens partnership with SI Group as new distributor of plastic additives

Azelis, the reference innovation service provider in the speciality chemicals and food ingredients industry, is pleased to announce a sole distribution agreement with SI Group for its plastic additives portfolio, effective 1 January 2026. Under this agreement, Azelis will cover the Nordic Countries, Baltic States, much of Western Europe (excluding DACH and Iberia), and the Balkans, as well as Cyprus, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Poland, and Slovakia.

This new partnership expands the collaboration between the two companies and reinforces SI Group's commitment to advancing polymer solutions across the region.

- Azelis's customers will gain access to a complete portfolio of SI Group's performance additives

for polymers, creating a one-stop shop for advanced solutions across all plastics sectors.

- SI Group will extend its market reach through Azelis' strong local presence, proven track record, and commitment to customer growth.
- Azelis reinforces its commitment to best-in-class service by expanding its polymer solutions portfolio and supporting plastics manufacturers with innovative, sustainable solutions in demanding sectors such as aerospace and mobility.

This agreement strengthens SI Group's distribution strategy while supporting Azelis's ambition to bring innovative, sustainable solutions to plastics manufacturers worldwide.

Robert Kaiser, Vice President of Polymer Solutions at SI Group, comments: "Partnering with Azelis marks an important step forward in our plastics

additives strategy. Azelis has consistently shown the agility, expertise, and customer-first approach that align with SI Group's mission to deliver extraordinary value and high-performance solutions for the plastics industry."

Christian Pflesser, Market Segment Director Advanced Materials & Additives at Azelis EMEA, said: "We are honoured that SI Group has chosen Azelis as its distributor for plastic additives. This partnership broadens our polymer solutions portfolio and strengthens our ability to serve customers with advanced, sustainable solutions. Building on our successful track record in other markets, we are excited to support plastics manufacturers with the innovation, technical expertise, and service they need to thrive."



Chemique Adhesives celebrates 40 years of excellence in adhesive manufacturing

This year marks the 40th anniversary of Chemique Adhesives, a leading UK manufacturer of high-performance industrial adhesives and adhesive application equipment.

For four decades and across three generations, Chemique Adhesives has proudly remained a family-owned business built on ingenuity, quality, and exceptional service. Founded in 1985 in Aldridge, West Midlands, UK, from the vision of former CEO Mick McMullen, the company has experienced significant growth and emerged as a leader in industrial adhesive solutions.

Over the years, the company has expanded its portfolio of specialist adhesives, now providing advanced bonding solutions to a diverse range of industries, including artificial turf, foam, furniture, panel lamination, and raised access flooring. Additionally, its toll manufacturing service has established partnerships with many leading international adhesive companies, allowing for the delivery of quality products across the UK, Ireland, Europe, the Middle East, and the USA.

Stuart Francis, managing director at Chemique Adhesives comments, "From our humble beginnings to becoming an industry leader in the adhesives market, we have remained dedicated to developing cutting-edge bonding systems tailored to the evolving needs of our customers. This anniversary is a testament to our customers, old and new, and the dedication of our exceptional team, whose efforts have been instrumental in our growth and continue to shape our vision for the future."



Image: McMullen Family: Three Generations

Throughout the decades, the company has achieved several key milestones. The 1990s saw a site expansion, the introduction of Solfre - a revolutionary range of one and two-part polyurethane adhesives and the launch of ProAqua - a breakthrough in water-based adhesive technology.

During the 2000s, the company achieved ISO 90001 and ISO 14001 certifications, strengthening its commitment to quality and environmental responsibility. Building on a successful period of growth in the US market, Chemique Adhesives Inc. was founded in Atlanta, Georgia, in 2005. Now celebrating its 20th year, the company continues to uphold the same proven techniques and principles from its UK origins.



MEMBER NEWS

AdCo celebrate two milestones

For over a decade AdCo (UK) Ltd has been the leading distributor in the UK for the full range of adhesives manufactured by the specialist adhesive manufacturer AkzoNobel based in Blackburn.



With a portfolio of products for such diverse applications as veneering, cabinet making, general joinery and structural timber beam construction. The AkzoNobel products are the most comprehensive available, and with AdCo's knowledge of the market and distribution facilities all users regardless of size can get access to the complete range.

Being at the forefront in the technology of adhesives for timber bonding products, AkzoNobel has championed the use of environmentally friendly adhesive systems for interior and exterior wood bonding applications, and has recently introduced ultra-low and formaldehyde-free systems within its LignuPro™ product line.

With the backing of AkzoNobel technicians and product developers, specialist adhesive company AdCo is able

to offer a full and comprehensive range that includes UF, MUF and PRF systems, EPI and PVA adhesives, as well as hot melts, PUR and contact adhesives.

Last year AdCo (UK) Ltd celebrated their twenty-fifth birthday. For most business celebrating such a milestone is an achievement in itself but 2024 was an extra special year. Michael Climpson, managing director of AdCo UK Ltd celebrated 55 years within the adhesive industry and as such he felt it was time for him to step down from the day-to-day running of the business.



Michael adds: *"The business is still in good hands! My son Stuart, who I set the business up with in 1999, has taken over from me as MD, my other son, Christopher, has joined the business to focus on the commercial side of the business whilst my other son, Matthew, focuses on the e-commerce side."*

"Knowing that the business is being run by my three sons' fills me full of pride. I can enjoy my retirement to the full and watch them grow in an industry that I dedicated my whole life to."



Pictured here in his lab in 1969, Michael Climpson celebrated 55 years working in the adhesives business in 2024.



Did you know that around 200 million m² of vinyl flooring is installed in Europe every year?

Today, thanks to innovative adhesive systems, these floors can be removed cleanly and recycled, turning renovation into a circular opportunity.

This FEICA good practice shows how adhesives enable sustainability:

- Residue-free removal for easier recycling
- Adhesive with 75% bio-based content
- Packaging made from 35% post-consumer recycled plastic

This is how the European adhesives and sealants industry is delivering circularity now, making construction smarter and more sustainable.

Explore the full story: <https://www.adhesives-enabling-floor-recycling-1>



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Obituary: John Beasley

BASA have recently learnt that a former colleague in the sealants standardisation world, **John Beasley**, sadly passed away on 7th July 2025 after a long battle with cancer.

John Beasley is credited as author of a BRE digest on selecting building sealants with ISO 11600 and other standard-setting activity and was acknowledged in 1998 symposium proceedings on "Durability of Building Sealants" for his support in organising it. John was active on B/547, the UK BSI Sealants mirror committee to CEN TC349 and ISO TC 59 SC8 and is referenced in many academic and technical reference lists for his work on sealant durability and testing.

He will be missed by his former BRE colleagues, and BASA current and former sealants working group members have good memories of working with John in sealant standardisation, particularly work on high movement capability sealants.

What's the Current Status of the CPR Acquis Process?

1. New CPR Adopted

- o The new Construction Products Regulation (CPR 2024), formally Regulation (EU) 2024/3110, was published in the Official Journal on 18 December 2024.
- o It entered into force on 7 January 2025.
- o Most of its provisions apply from 8 January 2026, though some (like penalties) have different timing.

2. Transition Period (Old → New)

- o There is a 15-year transition period built into the regulation to allow for migration from the old regime (2011 CPR) to the new CPR 2024 framework.
- o Specifically, the old Regulation (EU) 305/2011 is fully withdrawn by 9 January 2039, according to transition rules.
- o During transition, current harmonised standards (hENs) remain valid until replaced by new harmonised technical specifications (hTS) under CPR 2024.

3. Acquis Review & Prioritisation

- o The European Commission is actively reviewing the existing CPR acquis (i.e., the suite of harmonised standards, EADs, etc.) to align them with the new CPR.
- o They have set criteria to prioritise which “product families” should be tackled first.
- o As of Q4 2021, work had begun on some of the top priority product groups, including:
 - Precast concrete products (normal/lightweight/autoclaved)
 - Metallic structural products and their ancillaries.
- o In Q4 2022, further subgroups started for: reinforcing/prestressing steel, post-tensioning kits, doors/windows, and a subgroup on

environmental sustainability of construction products.

- o In Q3 2023, even more subgroups: cement and other hydraulics, thermal insulation products.

4. Fallback / Fail-Safe Mechanism

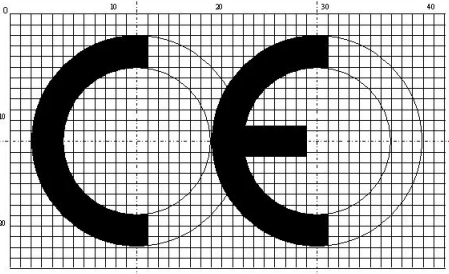
A key change in the new CPR: if standardisation via CEN/CENELEC fails or is blocked, the European Commission can adopt harmonised technical specifications by itself (through implementing acts) under certain conditions.

This “fallback” is intended to speed up the process and avoid gridlock. As FIEC (European Construction Industry Federation) noted, this may help clear the backlog.

5. Sustainability & Digitalisation Built In

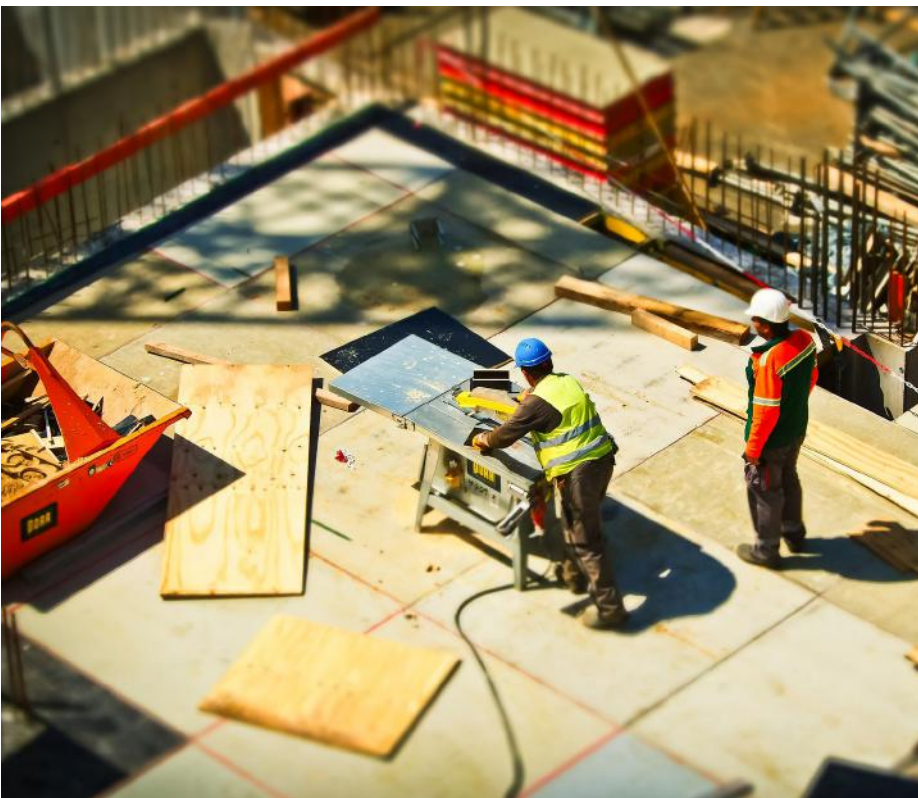
Under the new CPR, sustainability (e.g., environmental footprint) becomes integral. Manufacturers will need to declare environmental performance, and EPDs (Environmental Product Declarations) will be more embedded into the system.

There is also a strong digital component: digital product passports, structured data, etc.



6. Standards Backlog & Industry Concerns

- o There's already concern from some in industry that the speed of revising EADs (European Assessment Documents) and harmonised standards won't keep up with the new requirements.
- o For example, Construction Fixings Europe has pointed out unpredictability around the publication timeline for new or revised EADs, which is critical for CE-labelling for innovative products.
- o There is also uncertainty over how fast new hENs (or hTS) covering sustainability and digital aspects will be developed, given the historical slow pace.



How Quickly Are Old Harmonised Standards Likely to Be Converted?

Putting the above together, here’s a realistic outlook + risk assessment:

Not Overnight:

The 15-year transition to 2039 means this is a long-term process. Current harmonised standards are not being deprecated immediately, many will co-exist with new specifications for years.

Phased Conversion:

Because the revision is being done in product-family clusters, some areas will transition sooner than others. Priority product families (e.g., precast concrete, structural steel) are already being addressed.

Risk of Bottleneck:

Despite the fallback mechanism, there's a non-trivial risk that some standards/ EADs could lag, especially in more technical or sustainability-heavy areas. Industry stakeholders have voiced concerns about the pace.

Regulatory Certainty Gains:

The fallback clause should mitigate the risk of “stuck” product families. Over time, that could accelerate the conversion of the most critical standards.



My Assessment: Likely Scenarios

Optimistic Case:

Key product families will have their harmonised specifications updated in the next 5-10 years. By mid-2030s, most widely-used product groups could be aligned under the new CPR framework.

Conservative Case:

Some niche or complex product groups may only fully convert by the late 2030s, right before full repeal of the old regime in 2039.

Risk Areas:

Innovation-heavy products (requiring EADs), or products with stringent sustainability requirements, may face delays if committees or CEN/CENELEC don’t keep pace, even with fallback.

Bottom Line / Implications for Industry

- If you're a manufacturer or supplier: you should track the standardisation subgroups relevant to your products. Engage early, because transition timelines differ by product family.
- Continue to use existing harmonised standards for now, but plan for migration: technical documentation, testing, DoP (Declaration of Performance) updates, etc.
- Be aware of the environmental reporting obligations: new CPR makes sustainability data more central, and your future compliance strategy can’t ignore that.
- Use the fallback mechanism to your advantage: if standardisation is blocked, there may be implementing acts coming in your product space.



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