

Monday, 18 December 2017

CPA Responds to Interim Report into the Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety

The Construction Products Association has welcomed the publication of the interim report from Dame Judith Hackitt's Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety. Having consulted widely with the industry including the CPA, the Review team has singled out two overarching issues: the effectiveness of the regulations and regulators; and the culture across the construction industry.

Peter Caplehorn, CPA Deputy Chief Executive and Policy Director, said: "Dame Judith's Independent Review is right to question how the construction sector can address the effectiveness of regulations and regulators. The construction products industry has a vital role to play, leading a culture change – and in Dame Judith's own words – ensuring products are not only properly tested and certified but also marketed in a way that is easy to interpret.

"Safety in buildings will always be our top priority and following such a tragic event like Grenfell we are right to look at the current system for fire safety in buildings and ask if it is fit for purpose. Dame Judith recognises that buildings are not currently inherently unsafe but certain shortcomings need to be addressed that cover the complete spectrum, from project initiation through design, procurement and construction, to occupation and use.

"The CPA's membership represents over 85% of our industry by value; therefore our company and trade association members will play a central role in taking forward the interim report's recommendations. We are pleased to have been able to contribute to the Review and look forward to leading our sector to help deliver tangible results."

ENDS

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The Construction Products Association has been asked by the [Department for Communities and Local Government](#) to join an 'Industry Response Group' alongside Build UK and the Construction Industry Council to help "mobilise and co-ordinate the construction industry's response to the challenges arising from the Grenfell Tower fire". The Group have been asked to provide a genuinely inclusive, cross-industry response, drawing in relevant expertise and data. The group will initially:

- Provide essential advice on possible solutions for use in particular types of buildings to ensure homes, offices and public buildings are safe

- Provide advice on better ways of building and the latest methods of construction, and ensure access to the necessary technical expertise in industry when required
- Help mobilise the UK industry if any major programmes of construction work is needed, by acting as a focal point for government-industry communications
- Advise government on the relevant sub-sectors of the construction industry, their expertise and capacity to deliver work at pace.

The Construction Products Association represents the UK's manufacturers and distributors of construction products and materials. We are committed to raising the profile of our industry and members' businesses, helping grow the market and reducing regulatory risk. The sector directly provides jobs for 300,000 people across 22,000 companies and has an annual turnover of more than £55 billion. The CPA is the leading voice to promote and campaign for this vital UK industry.

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