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Summer Edition 2011

NEWSLETTER OF THE COMMISSIONING SPECIALISTS ASSOCIATION

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CSA INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP GRADES 1 to 6 DISTANCE LEARNING COURSES A, B & C CONFUSED? YOU WON'T BE!

Some of you are still confusing the CSA Grades 1 to 6 with the Distance Learning Courses (DLCs) A, B and C. I hope that after reading this, you will fully understand that the Distance Learning Courses A, B and C are NOT the CSA Individual Membership Grades. Many students and Managers are under the impression that if, for instance, they pass DLC B course & test and receive a certificate to say that they have passed this course, they automatically become a Grade 2 – this is not the case as they also need to have the required proven commissioning experience as outlined in the Path of Development.

Within the overall framework of Individual Membership Grades 1 to 6, the DLC training courses have been developed covering the technical, theory and knowledge required for Grades 1 to 3. Completion of the Distance Learning Courses will, providing other criteria are met (see the Path of Development), enable students to gain promotion to higher Individual membership grades.

Individual Membership is the only category of membership where you are graded and for this you need to complete all sections of an Individual Membership Application form and send/e-mail it to the CSA office with your current CV and photograph. This is sent to our Assessment team for approval and grading. Once approved you are then sent a membership certificate with your membership number and Grade and an ID card, again containing your membership number and grade which is valid for 1 year or until 31st December depending on when you join.

We would like to remind all Individual members that the grades we have recorded at the CSA office will be the only grades issued if requested, and therefore to avoid confusion, members should not elevate their grade without the prior consent of the CSA Assessment Committee. If you are currently an individual member and wish to apply for an up-grade you will need to send us your CV and this is sent to our Assessment team for approval. Please take time to read the Training & Career Development Handbook with Path of Development before doing so to avoid applying for a grade in excess of your capabilities.

Training & Career Development handbook, Path of Development and application forms are all available to download from our website www.csa.org.uk or you can call the CSA office 01403 754133 if you would like further information.

NEW MEMBERS

Corporate – Sutton International LLC, Dubai, Airtech Premier Ltd.

Associate – Pure Group, Gloucester.

Individual – R. Pecdasen Jr, Edgardo Gatpo, R. Daulat, C. Boughton, J. Brown, M. Simons, P. Fennings, A. Fletcher, A. Burgoine, P. Hunt, C. Dhillon, A. Pillai, B. Subramaniam, E. Kasim, S. Delahunty, K. Goshima, K. Drake, A. White, J. Hill, L. Hayes, M. Prichard, G. James, K. White, F. Tuck, C. Smith, J. Henderson, J. Franks, A. Kouli, H. Rahman, J. Farmer, A. Knellare, M. Bennett, A. O'Connor, C. Schofield, M. Saba, G. Davies, R. Jupp, E. Goard, D. Grimes, N. Farmer, W. Little, M. Richards, G. Campbell, R. Dinnage, R. Gilligan, M. Haveron, T. Deveney, D. Mitchell.

Individual Associate – Michael McMillan

We would like to welcome the above new members to the Association



Jules' News

Hi everyone, hope you are having a good summer and you are managing to fit in your holidays as you all seem extremely busy out there. It has also been very busy in the CSA office with lots going on and this is normally our quiet month!!

We have now lapsed those members who have not paid us this year and I am pleased to say that there were not many compared to the amount of new members who have joined since January 2011, currently at 122 and we are only in August.

(All lapsed Corporate and Associate members are reminded to take our Logo off their website and stationery and they will also be taken off our website).

There are still some Corporate members who have not adhered to our request to register all their engineers as Individual members despite receiving a massive 60% discount. A reminder letter to those Corporate members will be sent out soon.

We have a new Individual membership database in outlook and request all individual members who haven't already done so to e-mail an up-to-date electronic photograph as some of the photographs we currently have in our "mug shot" file are significantly out of date!

GRADE 4 EXAM RESULTS (May 2011)

Congratulations to those listed below who have passed their Grade 4 Exam:

- Brian Edwards
- Andrew Somerville
- John Given
- Firas Hakim
- Habeeb Rahman

The Next Grade 4 Exam is Saturday 15th October 2011 and costs £50. Anyone wishing to take this exam, please e-mail me at the CSA office (office@csa.org.uk) as soon as possible and I will do my best to make sure you take the exam locally in your area. Please note that we require 2 weeks cancellation notice or you will be charged the full amount.

DLC TEST RESULTS

Congratulations also to those listed below who have recently passed their DLC A and B tests and DLC C course:

DLC A

DAVID GRIMES
MATTHEW THOMASON
WILL EATON

DLC B

THOMAS DUNN
JOHN WILLIAMS

DLC C

DEAN WILSON
ROBERT BROWN

NVQ LEVEL 3 – INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING

We currently have 6 students taking the on-line CSA NVQ Level 3 in "Installation & Commissioning" – This qualification is recognised nationally and throughout Europe and we are pleased to be able to offer this at the same price for 2011 (members £1,200.00 and non-members £1,300.00). For further information go to our website www.csa.org.uk to download an Information sheet and Enrolment form – so don't delay!

Julie Parker CSA Secretary



Graham Freeman

Born: 18th April 1962 passed away: 12th May 2011

It is with great sadness that I am writing this, and I feel my words cannot do justice to what Graham meant to his family, friends and work colleagues over the years.

Graham had been involved within our industry for nearly 25 years – he joined Commtech in June 1988 where he worked, before becoming a Director of Elite Commissioning Services in 1993 for 5 years, before returning to Commtech in 1998 up until its closure in late 2010. Graham then became a founding Director of Airtech Premier Ltd, before his untimely passing in May 2011.

Despite his battle with illness, he always remained extremely positive and always committed to his work and friends. His family were overwhelmed by the attendance at his funeral and would like to send their thanks to everyone who could make it.

Graham will always be remembered for his straight talking, no nonsense approach to work and life and he will be greatly missed but never forgotten.

Dave Tye, Steve Ashcroft & Andrew Watkin - Airtech Premier Ltd

CHAIRMAN'S RANT

Firstly, on behalf of the CSA I would like to offer our condolences to the family and friends of Graham Freeman. As Andrew has stated he was an extremely popular guy within our industry and that was borne out by the huge attendance of those wishing to pay their respects at his funeral service.

Programming Chaos

How many articles have been written on the need for proper programming and realistic time periods for our membership to carry out the commissioning process diligently, in accordance with the programme and on budget? I have lost count, but I truly believe this lastminute.com culture is getting worse.

I cannot tell you how many telephone calls, emails and even text messages we have received over the summer from other corporate members, M & E sub-contractors and Main Contractors asking if we have any spare or additional labour to supplement project commissioning requirements. In 99% of these requests it is simply the late running of a project that is the cause and the effect is instead of a realistic duration and labour resource to carry out the commissioning process our Industry is being asked to perform miracles.

One example of this was a project that originally had a 12 week commissioning programme with a resource requirement of 6 to 8 personnel suddenly had to be completed in 3 weeks and the commissioning specialist on the project (not my company thankfully) was bluntly told, "bring in 30 guys to complete the works and if you cannot resource it we will and the costs will be offset against your account." How on earth can that attitude result in a successfully commissioned project with all documentation in place, it is beyond me!

We have all got to take responsibility here guys, from the client who funds the project, the main contractor, the services contractor and ultimately us, the commissioning specialist. We are all guilty of saying yes when we should be saying no! To commission buildings in accordance with the Building Regulations, CIBSE, BSRIA and BREEAM takes time and unless that time is afforded corners will be cut and things missed.

It would have been nice to have ended on a positive note but this week's rioting and looting reminded me of a dinner conversation I had in January 2008. I had attended a 4 day "steep and deep" skiing performance course in the French Alps (anybody who has seen me ski would be aware that it was a complete failure!). I had attended on my own and got chatting to a guy who had been an economist and must have been reasonably successful as he had retired to Jersey in his early 50s; that and the fact he had an MBA from Harvard convinced me that he knew his stuff! Anyhow the subject moved on to the recession that probably started in Autumn 2007 and he was informing me of various facts and figures, even comparing it to the Great Depression but what has stuck in my mind is that this chap was absolutely convinced that it would ultimately end up with anarchy on the streets due to the vast gulf in our society between the 'haves' and the 'have nots'. How right he seems to have been!

Enjoy what remains of the summer.

Neil White – CSA Chairman

SNIPPETS FROM THE FLUSHING GROUP AUGUST 2011

A new Grade of Membership

Following the unanimous informal vote at the AGM in April this year, a new grade of membership is now on the way. The general consensus was that inclusion of the pre-commission cleaning fraternity would only be good for the industry. Chair of the CSA Flushing Group Roger Carlin is now looking at how this could be structured, criteria for membership, fees etc. with a view to presenting this to the main committee in September. A formal vote will be required and will hopefully take place via post before Christmas. To this end, the CSA would ask interested members (particularly water treatment companies) to contact him via Julie at the CSA office.

Training for water treatment engineers is on the way

The first PCC training meeting took place at the IOD in July with all parties bringing ideas to the table. The broad outline of a distance learning course was sketched out together with a career path and grading system with the relevant knowledge and skill levels assigned. Much work had already been done by Jason Bruce of Ashford Environmental Services and John Searle of City Water which made the process easier.

An agenda was set for the coming year and all attendees left the meeting with tasks to complete by the next meeting in September. The proposal was to meet every two months so as not to lose the momentum.

Other members of the fledgling subcommittee are Elizabeth Day of Chesterfield Water Treatment Consultants and Roger Carlin (Chair) also of Ashford Environmental Services Limited. A number of individuals who previously expressed an interest will have been approached directly, however, if you want to be involved, have something to offer and are prepared to work gratis for the good of the industry, then contact Julie at the CSA who will pass on your details to the committee.

Tying this course to the Qualification and Credit Framework (replacement of the NVQ) via Sector Skills Councils Cogent or Summit Skills is still in the plan, but getting the training out there as quickly as possible was considered more important at this stage.

The New Pre-Commission Cleaning Guide BG 29/2011

With the new pre-commission cleaning guide due for publication next month, Roger Carlin, Managing Director of Ashford Environmental Services gives the cleaning specialist viewpoint and a sneak preview of what's to come.

As a director of a leading commissioning and water treatment specialist I have first-hand experience of how advances in technology and changing design practice have affected the way we clean systems and the resultant achievable water quality.

The drive for efficiency and carbon reduction with ever lower flowrates and wider delta Ts, has led to the proliferation of variable speed pumping and the attendant array of pressure independent controllers and pipeline equipment.

The importance of flushing and water treatment was brought sharply into focus in the mid nineties with a number of high profile court cases that highlighted not only the lack of understanding within the industry, but also the shortcomings of the current guidance. The industry recognised the need and in January 2001 BSRIA replaced the existing AG 8/91 with a new application guide, AG 1/2001. In late 2004 it was revised to take account of fit-out works which had been proving problematic.

The document has been widely adopted as the industry "benchmark", however, to many it has become the "bible". This dogmatic approach has become the problem. AG1/2001 is a guide and should be used as such. Unfortunately, most seem to believe it is a code of practice to be adhered to whatever the circumstances.

Problems with this approach have manifested themselves in a number of ways, consultants specifying "in accordance with BSRIA AG1/2001" for example, has resulted in contractors and ITs working to absolute values when knowledgeable discretion should be the order of the day. This leads to the question "at what stage does a new system become 'used'?" In other words, at what point does AG1/2001, which applies to "new" installations, become irrelevant?

I have personally been involved with a number of projects where PC has been over a year late. Are we seriously expecting a system that has successfully met all the criteria of AG1/2001 to be in that same condition a year down the line? This, at the commissioning stage, where all manner of defects come to light often resulting in drain downs, cut-ins and modifications. The BMS system is not yet commissioned, so any circulating regime has little chance of being carried out to the degree necessary to maintain good water quality.

This is obviously a real problem for the water treatment specialist who has had little or no control over the system since completing the flushing and cleaning process. Suddenly, he is not trusted to advise as his commercial interest in the project is deemed to outweigh his professionalism and commitment.

This often results in conflict, particularly between the specialist and his employer, who immediately refers to the specification clause "in accordance with BSRIA AG1/2001" and instructs re-flushing and cleaning to meet the guidelines with little intention of paying for the additional works.

Cont'd ...

What was needed here was a re-think, a change in the construction process to accommodate the perhaps unnecessarily stringent targets or more realistically, a review of the guidelines to allow a more pragmatic approach to what can be a very difficult process in large complex buildings.

As the outgoing Chairman of the CSA, I participated in a lively debate at the AGM in April 2009. Discussions developed around flushing issues that are having a significant detrimental effect on the members and their projects. Some strong opinions were voiced from both commissioning and water treatment members in respect of what should be addressed and who should be involved, but the overwhelming consensus was the quickest way to effect change and acceptance within the industry was to revise the BSRIA Guide. This would be our ultimate aim.

An initial group of some 40 delegates, representing commissioning specialists, water treatment companies and independent consultants met in September 2009. The meeting took the form of a workshop where groups discussed the issues of concern to them and then related this to the whole group. This worked well, with the same issues popping up time and time again. All of these issues, numbering some 40-odd were collated into a schedule and subsequently put forward to BSRIA for consideration.

Key recommendations include suggestions such as:

- a clear statement that the document is a guide and by its nature could be adapted to suit the specific job requirements
- define where the pre-commission cleaning process stops, and maintenance begins
- provision of clear advice on how to deal with prolonged delays between completion of PCC and PC
- the involvement of a water treatment specialist during the design development
- better and more timely management of the whole process including system inspections and 'ownership' of the whole process
- greater awareness by consultants and contractors of the pre-requisites of the PCC process
- the removal of vulnerable pipeline components during flushing process
- clarification and enhancement of sampling requirements - what should be sampled, where, how and how often – standardisation effectively.
- a more scientific basis to what is and isn't acceptable in terms of water quality and interpretation of sample results
- things like pre-treatment of fill water, system thermal shock and biocide wash to become standard practice

There were also new innovative ideas on re-circulation of water rather than flushing to drain and the benefits of installing additional equipment such as UV and side-stream filtration.

In 2010 two groups were established: the "Pre-commission Cleaning Guide" group whose remit was to update AG1/2001 taking account of changes in industry practice and feedback from the consultation; and the "Water Sampling Standard" group who were to formalise the sampling methodology for closed circuit water systems in buildings through the life of the building, in particular to improve the consistency of results at the pre-commission cleaning stage. The water sampling group would operate under the BSI committee EH/3/6 Water Quality, Sampling and produce BS 8552 to cover sampling. This would include: where and how to sample, preservation and transport of samples, recommended methods of analysis, expression of analytical results and statistical interpretation of those results. It would also support the pre-commission cleaning guide and water treatment programmes and would be applied throughout the whole life of the building. It would not set criteria or guidelines. The pre-commission cleaning guide group would concentrate on the design of pipework systems to enable correct pre-commission cleaning. It would allocate responsibilities, provide methodology for pre-commission cleaning, list criteria for success and provide guidelines for water quality.

In the next issue of Index, Roger will discuss the main changes to AG1/2001.

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Just For Laughs...



My flight was being served by an obviously gay flight attendant, who seemed to put everyone in a good mood as he served us food and drinks. As the plane prepared to descend, he came swishing down the aisle and told us that "Captain Marvey has asked me to announce that he'll be landing the big scary plane shortly, so lovely people, if you could just put your trays up, that would be super".

On his trip back up the aisle, he noticed this well-dressed and rather Arabic looking woman hadn't moved a muscle. "Perhaps you didn't hear me over those big brute engines but I asked you to raise your trazy-poo, so the main man can pity-pat us on the ground".

She calmly turned her head and said, "In my country, I am called a Princess and I take orders from no one". To which (I swear) the flight attendant replied, without missing a beat, "Well, sweet-cheeks, in my country I'm called a Queen, so I outrank you. Tray up, bitch.".