



MAKING BUILDINGS WORK

## Commissioning Management – Are You Getting Quality, Performance and Compliance Aligned?

On 29<sup>th</sup> November our CSA Chairman, Neil Burdess, Associate Head of Commissioning at Banyards Consulting spoke at the CIBSE Build 2 Perform conference. Neil shared the stage with Colin Goodwin, Consultant and CIBSE Project Manager for CIBSE Commissioning Code M, Ted Pilbeam, VolverFitzpatrck Building Services & Sustainability Director. Ted is also Chair of CIBSE Knowledge Management Committee and Chair of the CIBSE Code M Steering Group and Finally Dr Hywell Davies, CIBSE Technical Director and Code M Steering Group Member.

Ted Pilbeam covered; What is Commissioning, the overall process and regulations as well as the New CIBSE Code M, this is now available and replaces the previous 2003 version.

To purchase your copy of the new CIBSE Code M visit: <https://www.cibse.org/knowledge-research/knowledge-portal/commissioning-code-m-ccm-commissioning-management-2022>

Commissioning  
management



Commissioning Code M (2022)



- Replaces the previous 2003 version
- Takes a holistic approach
- A collaboration between:



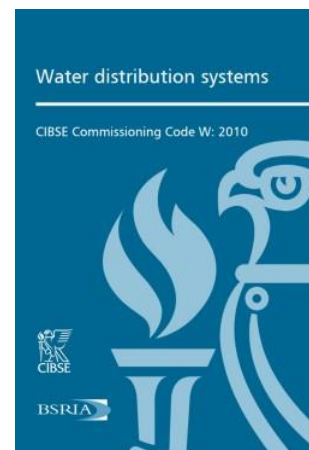
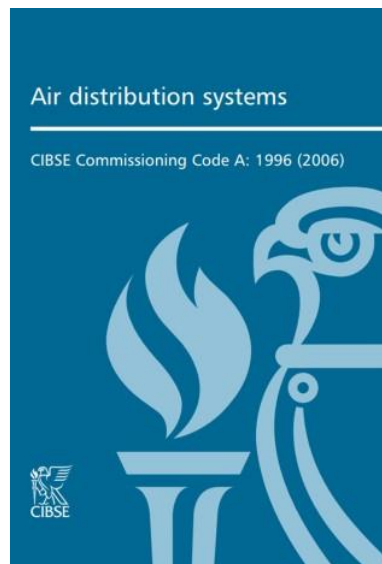
- Is cited in the Building Regulations



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Ted also announced that Air distribution and Water Distribution Systems are next for review.

➤ What's Next



Neil Burdess focused on who the CSA are, what we do for our members and our path of development and the training we provide. A reminder of Neil's delivery is as follows;

The Commissioning Specialist Association is an organisation for the commissioning industry within the construction world.

Its membership comprises of commissioning industry companies, individual commissioning engineers, commissioning managers and associated companies, whom all have a vested interest in ensuring that the commissioning function in today's complex buildings is carried out to a high standard.

The Association was formed in 1990 by several the country's leading commissioning companies. Their prime objective was - and still is - to offer anyone who utilises the services of commissioning companies and engineers the guarantee of a professional service, based on trained, qualified, and experienced field personnel, backed up by a quality of service underpinned by adherence to the CSA's aims, objectives, and code of practice.

In addition, the CSA acts as both the voice and ears of the commissioning world, putting forward the views of its members in many spheres and also keeping its membership informed



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of developments in equipment, instrumentation and legislation which affect the way in which they operate.

### **So why the CSA?**

The building services commissioning function has developed over the past 20+ years, combining elements of design review, integration of electrical, mechanical & controls systems, along with troubleshooting and the traditional air & water balancing exercises.

This organic development, however, has not been matched by parallel development in engineering standards, training systems and information distribution, despite valiant efforts by bodies such as CIBSE and BSRIA. The result is that the commissioning function has become discredited by a combination of lack of knowledge, poorly structured training, and varying approaches to the ideas of business ethics and best commissioning practice.

The Commissioning Specialists Association thus came into being, to re-dress this situation.

It is the only body in the UK aimed at developing and improving the commissioning function to provide building users, consultants, main contractors, and installation companies with a professional, quality service carried out by competent trained and experienced staff.

### **How does the CSA operate?**

The CSA is based around four different types of membership:

**Corporate membership** which is aimed at organisations whose main or only business is the commissioning of building services systems.

**Associate Membership** which is aimed at organisations that are connected with the industry, but whose main business may be outside the pure commissioning activity, e.g. installation companies, equipment suppliers, consultant engineers, etc.

**Individual Membership** which is aimed at those field engineers who are actively involved in the commissioning process. These may be from the mechanical, electrical or controls fields.

**Individual Associate Membership** which is aimed at individuals who are not undertaking commissioning in the but are affiliated to commissioning through other trades, i.e., electrical, mechanical engineers etc.

The Association is run by a Main Committee with sub committees for Training, Technical matters, and Marketing.

The Training sub-committee deals with many areas including Job Descriptions, Training Courses, Distance Learning Courses, and examinations, i.e., field staff grading and development.



The Technical sub-committee works towards the development of technical publications - The CSA Commissioning Engineers Compendium, Technical memos, and guidance notes. It has also provided much input into the recent revision of the new CIBSE Commissioning Management Code M and working with the CIBSE team on the development of Code A and BG49.

**So, what does the CSA do for its members?**

It provides a range of services and products, informs its members of product development for example new commissioning valves or new VAV boxes, keeps its members abreast of other developments, both within commissioning and in the construction industry while circulating the views of its members to other interested parties. The CSA also provides assistance to other bodies whose actions may affect the commissioning industry, such as CIBSE and BSRIA.

It also provides technical help and assistance to all members. A full training and career development framework is available, with detailed job descriptions, training courses and examinations designed to progress field engineers from first entry level through to Commissioning Managers. We assist the Corporate Members by helping them to attain the highest levels of quality service with properly trained staff, thus assuring clients the benefit of employing CSA Member companies again and again.

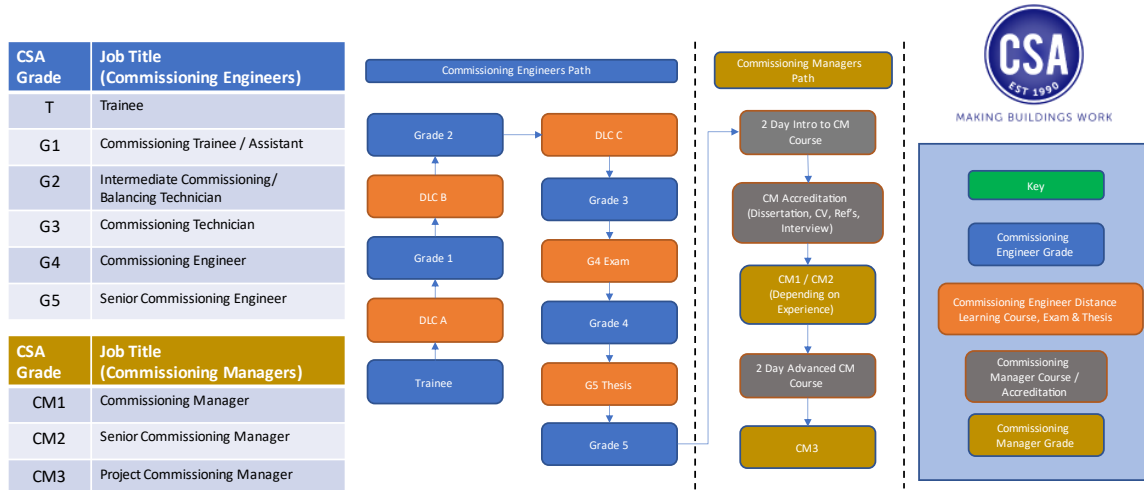
These activities are all in pursuit of the objectives of the CSA “To Make Buildings Work”.

So how does the CSA align our mission statement of “Making Buildings Work” with Commissioning competency?

The CSA has developed fully structure packages including a Path of Development for Career Progression to encourage field commissioning engineers to follow a definitive course of study which develops their academic knowledge and practical skills enabling them to fully realise their potential in the commissioning world.



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The objective is to ensure that all commissioning staff have the necessary knowledge to be able to carry out their work to the best of their ability. This has two main benefits, firstly it ensures that staff provide a consistently high standard of work, secondly it guarantees the commissioning companies are providing their clients with an excellent commissioning service.

The CSA training schemes can be broken down into a number of stages:

Firstly, starting with **Distance Learning Courses** which covers Grades 1 to 3, these are split over several modules per grade, developing the commissioning engineer's knowledge of Air & Water systems, codes of practice, QA, flowrate calculation, balancing technics, duct & pipe sizing and psychometrics to name a but a few.

Commissioning technicians can then apply to be accredited as a CSA Grade 4 commissioning engineer by sitting the Grade 4 Technical and Theory examination.

Moving onwards to a Grade 5 senior commissioning engineer through submitting a commissioning related thesis.

In the last few years, the CSA recognised that commissioning managers were not included in the CSA's training framework, at this point we developed the 2 Day Introduction to Commissioning Management course and most recently the commissioning managers accreditation system, this covers proving competency via dissertations, project experience and online interviews.



Finally, we are in the process of developing a 2 Day “Advanced Commissioning Management” course which is due to be released early 2023.

The CSA is the only body in the UK aimed at developing and improving the commissioning function with a professional, quality service carried out by competent trained and experienced staff that covers the current building regulation requirements.

Neil was followed by Dr Hywel Davies who focused on the Building Safety Act 2022 and a new, rigorous legal framework for design and construction of all buildings.