

Minutes of BFCMA meeting on Thursday 7th December 2023 held online

Present

Dennis	Milligan	Chair	Dennis Milligan Associates
Phil	Cleaver		Federation of British Chimney Sweeps
Chris	Yates		FETA / BFCMA
John	Stone		GOMCS
Thomas	Jenkins		Midtec Products Limited
Andy	Mathews		OFTEC
Anthony	Reed-Forrester		Poujoulat (UK) Ltd
Ian	Torr		Premier Flue Ltd
Mark	Dunks		Premier Flue Ltd
Tony	Oliver		Schiedel Chimney Systems Limited
Howard	Beadnell		Schiedel Chimney Systems Limited
Jason	Lee		SFL Flues & Chimneys
Martyn	Cooper	Secretary of BFCMA	BFCMA
Mike	Duggan	Technical secretary	BFCMA

Please read these minutes in conjunction with the slide pack attached.

1 Welcome and introducing any guests.

2 To note the FETA Competition Law Guidelines

3 Minutes of the Zoom meeting held on 13 July 2023

3.1 Minutes were approved.

3.2 Matters arising not covered on this agenda.

None

Technical

4 Reports from BSi Committees

Report from Mark Culley for BFCMA Meeting 7th December 2023

GSE/30/-/15 (Gas installations)

BS 5440-1 & BS 5440-2

Chimneys, flue pipes and ventilation for gas appliances of rated input not exceeding 70 kW net (1st, 2nd and 3rd family gases) – Part 1: Design, installation, commissioning and maintenance of chimneys – Specification.

Chimneys, flue pipes and ventilation for gas appliances of rated input not exceeding 70 kW net (1st, 2nd and 3rd family gases) – Part 2: Installation and maintenance of ventilation provision for gas appliances – Specification.

Mid-November latest files for BS 5440-1 and BS 5440-2 were uploaded. This followed all the last-minute changes that were agreed after approval to publish to BSI Documents.

Standards are on track to be published by mid-December.

CEN TC 166 WG 4

Report from 59th Plenary meeting TC166 17th/18th November

The last meeting of CEN/TC 166/WG 4 took place on 19th January 2023, the focus of the meeting lying on the CEN/TC 166 SReq. There was report from the first meeting of the AHG explaining the procedure of the fast-track. The Acquis Table was filled-in for WG 4 and some questions for the AHG raised.

A meeting was scheduled for 15th March 2023 but later postponed, as the work of the AHG did not progress as quickly.

Status of WG 4 documents:

The WG 4 standards are for systematic review in June 2024. The product standard EN 14471 will have to be adapted to the content of the SReq regarding Essential Characteristics and wording of headings, etc. Same goes for EN 14241-1 which will also have to be revised to fit the content of the SReq.

CEN/TC 166 pointed out that next year 2024 for all products standards will be necessary to schedule meetings (only as from Spring) for the WG's as soon as possible to check out and discuss about the Acquis Table.

Next Meetings

Monday 22nd January 2024 - Focus of the meeting will be the discussion and checking of the Acquis table.

Monday 19th February 2024 – Continuation checking the Acquis table.

11. Any other business doc. N2296

CEN/TC 166 recommends all the NB's members, Stakeholders (e.g. ECA) to set steps, to pay attention and to be aware regarding Ecodesign, Energy labelling to avoid that space heaters currently D to F and specific fuels could be forbidden in the future. CEN/TC 166 kindly asks to inform us about any official information on this subject at the latest in February 2024 to the secretariat.

Information from CEN/TC 166/WG 1/TG “EN 1443, Table 7” — Specifications for comparison tests

ACTION Specifications for circulation within WG 1 and CEN/TC 166 mirror committees for commenting/acceptance until 31st March 2024 ♦ send feedback via email to lilian.zuege@din.de

Background (see also document CEN/TC 166 N 2269):

The task given by CEN/TC 166/WG 1 to TG “EN 1443, Table 7” is to reduce the number of test configurations of EN 1443, Table 7. The experts of the TG share the opinion that walls may have a reduced impact on the results. Therefore, the following is proposed:

- To elaborate a comparison test with a representative test assembly, to verify the impact and to confirm the influence of walls thicknesses and to give us also a tool for the transfer of results of former type tests regarding wall thicknesses (to avoid having to re-test);
- The transfer of results should be verified for the most usual installations, not the worst case scenario. The main goal for assessment methods is the CE-marking of products, independently of specific constructions or configurations (crucial point for the EC).

The transfer of the results to other temperature classes, pressure classes and installation types will be done after the results of the comparison test are available and evaluated. It was decided during the June meeting that the comparison tests should include 3 ceramic and 3 metal chimneys. 4 manufacturers/test houses have agreed to participate in test for metal chimneys, no interested parties could yet be found for testing of the ceramic chimneys.

Meanwhile, the test specifications could be fixed during the last TG meeting on 31st October 2023.

5 Report on European Standards

Howard Beadnell, from member company Schiedel Chimney Systems Ltd., updated members on European standards work he is involved in. His detailed report is copied below:

- **EN 15287-1 & 2 are now published.**
 - National Annex from previous revisions was kept with some small editorial changes regarding names & dates to referenced standards.
- **AHG “CENT/TC 166 SReq”**
 - 15 meetings have taken place.
 - Main technical points have been included in the request. Further investigation is needed on how to handle the

Environmental requirements that are now needed. (**How to prepare an EPD for Chimney products**).

- *Preparation of an EPD to EN 15084 should be prepared by the manufacturers for the products that are placed on the market within the EU.*

- **It is expected to take 12 months to finalise the SReq.**
- Once SReq is accepted by the EC all the necessary work on the standards must be completed within **5 years**.
- **The biggest concern relates to the resources needed to prepare all the standards within the timeframe.** Generally, it is the same people who participate in each working group.
- Most work needed will be WG6 (Concrete/Clay/Ceramic Standards).
- The intention is to develop a model standard (Possibly EN 1856-1 & 2) as a basis for all other standards to follow. The risk is that the time it takes to finalise the model standard we may not have enough time to complete all the other standards.
- The expectation is that we will need to increase the number of meeting days over the next 5 years to complete the standards.

My Workload: I will need to reduce some of my workload spent working within the groups.

Working groups I will continue participation with:

- **BFCMA** - Representative of Schiedel UK
- **B/506** - Chair of UK Mirror Committee
- **ECA** (European Chimney Association) - Representative of BFCMA (UK Chimney Federation)
- **TC166** - General
- **TC166/SC2 WG2 & WG3**
 - EN 1856-1 & 2
- **TC166/WG1** - General
- **TC/166/WG1/TG4** - Chimney Accessories standards
 - (EN 16475 Series Part 1 -> 7)
- **TC/166/WG1/TG6** - Design & Installation Standards
 - EN 15287-1 & 2 (Work Complete)
- **TC/166/WG1 Adhoc Group "EN 1443 table 7"** - Need to be involved as the UK is one of the main drivers for change.
 - EN 1443

Working groups - I will remain a stakeholder but will cease active participation.

(The reason we need 5 countries involved otherwise we would not have the mandate to maintain our product standards).

- **TC/166/WG1/TG5 - Testing**
 - (EN 13216 series Part 1 -> 3)
- **TC/166/WG6/TG1 - Clay/Ceramic**
 - EN 13063-1, 2 & 3.
 - EN 1806
 - EN 13069
 - EN 1457-1 & 2
 - EN 13502
- **TC/166/WG6/TG2 - Concrete**
 - EN 12466
 - EN 13069
 - EN 1457
 - EN 16497 -1 & 2
 - EN 1857
 - EN 1858

6 Scottish Consultation on Planning

- Consulted by the Scottish Government.
- Responded to Scottish Government consultation on removing permitted development rules for domestic flues.
- Advocated that the current permitted development rights should continue.
- A separate planning application for the position of the flue is not necessary
- Consultation closed on 29th August.

7 RHE/13 Liquid fuel firing

- The BSI standards committee, RHE/13: Liquid fuel firing, is responsible for the development and maintenance of national standards for liquid fuel burning equipment and for the UK input to the work of the European and International committees covering domestic & industrial applications.
- RHE/13 is looking for input from flue manufacturers.
- Anyone interested?
- Talk to Andrew Mathews

5410 standard. RHE/13 is involved in **BS**

AM said they needed some input from the chimney & flue industry and asked any volunteers to contact him.

8 Defra Air Quality Campaign

<https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/library/burnbetter/>

The poster says **Check it regularly/ Sweep it professionally / Feed it the right fuel**

- Aimed at existing users.
- Picking up on the need to use a stove correctly.
- Left out checking the flue when being swept by a trained chimney sweep.
- Doesn't distinguish between an open fire and modern stove.

9 Recommending NVQ Qualified sweeps and installers.

- Would the BFCMA members be willing to include within their manufacturer's instructions the inclusion of recommending NVQ Qualified sweeps and installers similar to the SIA's support.
- Example taken from SIA's social media posts:

Your wood burning stove installation should be inspected, serviced and maintained annually. We recommend choosing an NVQ qualified sweep to do this as they have been trained and assessed by a CITB approved training organisation so you can be assured that they have the experience and skills needed.

- Dennis Milligan felt this is a bit premature, as the numbers of qualified NVQ sweeps is still low and there will be more sweeps with the required skills who do not have an NVQ.
- The BFCMA could use social media to say: *The NVQ qualification is designed to develop chimney sweeps' skills to inspect, service and maintain flues & stoves. Consider getting the NVQ.*

Plenary

10 Social Media (see slides 11-13)

BFCMA are now posting weekly themed posts on LinkedIn.

AR-F suggested re-posting other information from HETAS, Chimney Sweeps etc

ACTION: Secretary to speak to Keystone

AR-F also highlighted an article on LinkedIn

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/unlocking-potential-wood-fuel-sustainable-solution-uk-onsbe>

12 Liaison with External Committees (see slide 15)

FIA last meeting minutes have been circulated.

13 Any other business

Peter Harris, the chair of *Association of Professional Independent Chimney Sweeps* (APICS) has invited DM to give a presentation at their EGM on 19 Jan 2024 near Bristol to discuss flues and chimneys with them.

AR-F noted that a heat pump installer local to him adds a wood burner to every install.

HB noted that the EU is reclassifying energy levels for solid fuels.

14 Next meetings

Tues 19 Mar, Thurs 11 Jul, Tues 10 Dec

Meeting format – continue with the hybrid format

Members meeting update – at approx. 4pm (members only)

1 Latest expenditure report.

Balance £4,100

The forecast to the end of the year about £1000 under budget.

2 Fund payments 2024.

6% increase in fund payments. This was approved by the meeting.

3 Increase in FETA subscription & DM fees

4 Financial decisions to be minuted.

Agreed 6% budget increase

Agreed 2.5% to FETA & 6% to DenMil

Budget and expenditure were accepted

5 A.O.B.