



Minutes of the meeting of the
Residential Ventilation Association
on Wednesday 15th November 2023
held in person at Work.Life, 20 Red Lion Street, Holborn, London and online

Present

Joe Brawn		Volution Group
Nick Howlett	Chair	Titon
Dan Hopkins		ebm-papst UK Ltd
Richard Jenkins		Nuaire
Tony Mahon		Aereco
Noel Murray		Airflow Limited
Lee Nurse		Volution Group
Richard Paine		Volution Group
Rory Percival		EnviroVent Limited
Martin Phillips		Verplas Limited
Chris Yates	Secretary	FETA

Those who attended in person are marked in **Bold**

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves.

2. FETA Competition Law Guidelines and FETA committee procedures

The Chairman reiterated the standard guidance regarding Trade Association meetings. The FETA Competition Law Guidelines and the Guidelines to FETA committee procedures are available on <https://www.feta.co.uk/members-area/competition-law-and-committee-guidelines>. Attendance via online meetings will be taken as the member's acknowledgement of the guidelines' existence.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 11th July 2023.

The minutes were approved, as amended, by the meeting and Nick Howlett signed them off.

5. Actions arising from the previous minutes not covered in the agenda

Chris Yates to circulate a draft piece on Competency for the working group of Nick Howlett, Rory Percival and Lee Nurse to consider.

Rory Percival asked what the RVA position was on using PCDB data for New Build and Retrofit. Nick Howlett advised that it could be our position, but we would need to get further clarification with members. RP felt the RVA needed a detailed discussion over the subject. There is a maximum of 20dB at 3 metres at 70% which could be a challenge for several manufacturers. NH thought the 30

watt limit would be a challenge too. NH suggested that possibly a new test for products outside of current PCDB, might be a way forward albeit that may be completely different in SAP 11.

RP to write to NH and CY on his position.

Action RP

Once received, RVA to be consulted and members to be asked what would need to happen for the PCDB results to be accepted.

Action CY

Richard Jenkins is concerned that the 20 pascal back pressure and NH believes that a new test is probably required for continuous running fans.

6. Membership

No change since the last meeting.

7. Suspense account

The suspense account balance remains unchanged at £239.12.

8. Future New Homes Standard/Building Safety

Nick Howlett advised that he and Chris Yates had met with Peter Rankin and Victoria Tinks and members had been sent notes from the meeting to members. Consultation is due out before Christmas, possibly this month.

Scotland – no developments

Wales – no developments

Northern Ireland – NH had completed a response to the consultation. No comments had been received so meeting agreed that the response should be submitted as is. Meeting noted that the consultation period had been extended to 15th December 2023.

Action CY

9. Competency

Chris Yates went through the attached presentation which summarised the discussions that had taken place with BEAMA, BESA and the ATTMA.

Rory Percival advised the meeting that they ran the NICEIC course which was very popular but very few went through to be deemed register as 'competent' through the scheme itself suggesting the badge was seen to have little value.

Nick Howlett mentioned CY's views on a manufacturer scheme that is tied into extended warranty as a requirement.

Dan Hopkins mentioned the need for it to demonstrate Skills Knowledge and Behaviours under the Building Safety Act, and Lee Nurse was of the view that the industry could not wait for government to solve the problem. All felt that the NICEIC scheme did not make an individual competent.

Lee Nurse raised the concern that a product gets conservative ratings in SAP if not installed by a competent person which also needs to be addressed so we can capture the benefit.

Dan Hopkins advised that Wendy Belfield had been instrumental in setting up the BCIA schemes and was also on the Industry Competency Committee under the Building Safety Regulator and may be a useful resource.

Nick Howlett was of the view that we may need to consider what pre-skills will be needed for undertaking a ventilation course.

The meeting agreed that two priorities needed to be addressed.

1. Manufacturer scheme to be tied to extended warranties
2. Address the conservative ratings in SAP for MVHR

Meeting agreed that it should be joint with BEAMA to cover all manufacturers and three to four meetings probably required, ideally face to face which Chris Yates offered to host in London.

- Meeting 1 – Overview to agree the direction of the Manufacturer scheme.
- Meeting 2 – Working group to develop the details of the scheme.
- Meeting 3 – Finalise the details of the scheme.
- Meeting 4 – Approval of the scheme by all manufacturers and agree timescales to implement.

Chris Yates to contact Kelly Butler to organise.

Action CY - Done

10. SAP/BREEAM Update

Currently waiting for the consultation which is likely to be open source according to Nick Howlett. It may also have the option to add modules to test new products. Chris Yates said that it is likely to be a couple of weeks after the Future Buildings Standards consultation so a heavy workload on consultation responses in Q1 2024.

11. ErP Lot 6.

Consultation likely to be out in 2024 and the meeting agreed that it would make a response as it impacts CE.

Action IA/CY

12. Retrofit - BS PAS 2030 and 2035

General view of the meeting was that the published documents were not too bad.

Nick Howlett is continuing on the subcommittee into 2024.

13. Indoor Air Quality meeting update

Nick Howlett had taken on the chair's role of the group.

Chris Yates to send out details to the group on the fact sheets and ask for comments on Fact Sheet 13 in particular.

Action CY

14. BEIS Energy-related Products Policy Framework

Chris Yates advised there was ongoing concerns over UKCA and clarity of its use, particularly in relation to products falling under Ecodesign. He was pursuing this with Government to get clarity.

15. EVIA

The meeting discussed the last update on EVIA.

The meeting agreed it would be useful to have the HEVAC Council type briefing document after each round of meetings with EVIA. Chirs Yates to discuss with Ian Andrews.

Action CY

16. Promotion of the RVA

As per Item 3. above, Chris Yates to provide a draft competency article to Nick Howlett, Rory Percival and Lee Nurse.

Action CY

17. Any Other Business

Rory Percival asked about the involvement of the OPSS in terms of ventilation. Chris Yates advised that FETA had been working with the OPSS since August 2022 on smoke and fire dampers and they were taking a risk-based approach to deciding which products to investigate. They had also run the consultation on the Product Safety Regulation earlier in the year.

Lee Nurse advised the meeting that the NHBC was updating its advice on fire dampers as it looks as if there is a gap on fire stopping. It is looking at the path between the fire damper and the extract fan to determine if is suitable for the ceiling and the ventilation. He thought NHBC might ask manufacturers to say what fire collars go with which ventilation system.

Richard Jenkins asked if FETA has and links into the NHBC to get more information. Chris Yates to discuss with Mike Duggan and respond to Richard Jenkins as soon as possible.

Action CY

18. Meeting Dates for 2024:

Meeting dates are:

- Wednesday 20th March 2024
- Wednesday 5th June 2024
- Tuesday 1st October 2024

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting.

Chairman Date