

The Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity

IBB Polish Building Wholesale supported this year edition of the well known fundraising event the Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity to raise funds to save lives of children in paediatric wards and to provide dignified medical care for patients in geriatric wards. The family event was held in Birmingham at Mama Roux on the 15th January and the attendance and generosity of the local community proved it highly successful.

The Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity is the Polish event with attractions and concerts organised all over the world with an international audience. Event takes place every year in the second Sunday of January.

IBB Polish Building Wholesale supported also The Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity lottery during the fantastic fundraising event in Watford on the 14th January organised by the Watford Polish Community Association as a part of The Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity London final.



CRO Cards Withdrawal

The Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) is reminding the industry to get ready for the withdrawal of the Construction Related Occupation (CRO) card. CRO cards were introduced in 2005 for occupation without nationally recognised qualifications. The construction industry requires nowadays fully qualified workforce and the CRO card is no longer fit for purpose. CRO cardholders must take steps to replace their CRO cards before they expire.

- CRO cards will cease to be issued from 31st March 2017
- CRO cards issued since 31st March 2015 will expire on 30th September 2017

The removal of the CRO card affects over 230,000 CRO card holders. In many cases CRO card holders will be required to register for existing or newly developed qualifications. In others, card holders will be asked to move to one of CSCS's Partner Card Schemes that are more appropriate for their occupation. For some, where their occupation is not construction related or no suitable qualifications exist, a CSCS card will no longer be issued.

CRO cardholders can find out what steps they need to take by inputting their occupation into card finder and following the steps on the screen. CRO card holders who do not take the necessary steps to



replace their cards will find they will be unable to obtain another CSCS card. The withdrawal of the CRO card is seen as a practical step towards achieving the Construction Leadership Council's requirement of ensuring nationally recognised qualifications are in place for all construction related occupations.

CSCS Chief Executive Graham Wren added: "Together with our key industry stakeholders we have been preparing for the eventual withdrawal of the CRO card since 2015. This development is fully in line with the industry's desire to ensure a fully qualified workforce and a lot of work has taken place to

ensure CRO card holders know which qualifications are available and to make their transition to appropriate alternative arrangements as smooth as possible. "The withdrawal of the CRO card is a practical step towards achieving the CLC's requirement of ensuring nationally recognised qualifications are in place for all occupations. By certifying construction workers have the correct training and qualifications CSCS can play its part in improving standards and safety on UK construction sites."

For more details visit: www.cscs.uk.com/cro

(Source: CSCS)



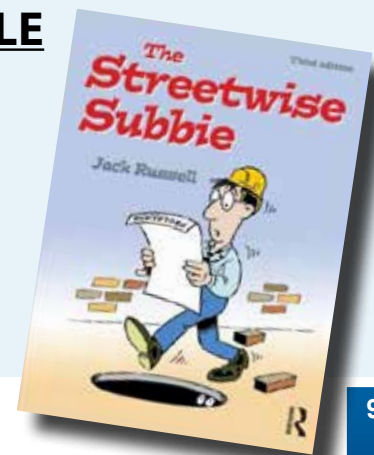
BOOK REVIEW

The Streetwise Subbie, Third Edition: HOW TO SURVIVE THE CONTRACTS JUNGLE

by Jack Russell

Jack Russell is an independent contractual contractor and the author of a regular column in Electrical Times. He presents in this book the routines which should be implemented at every construction site. Written in an easily readable form, this position gives advice how to run the construction business. Construction is not only about building but also about risk and the

author by the means of cartoons and anecdotes propose simple principles how to manage this risk and survive in the contracts jungle. It is a must read for anyone involved in the building process from the foreman, subcontractors, labourers to company directors. Highly recommended.





NAPIT

Keep Members Busy Scheme

NAPIT has launched the Keep Members Busy Scheme powered by Quotatis- a nationwide home improvement service provider. It is designated to secure the extra work for NAPIT members (electricians) and give access to various business tools like Smart Leads and the Smart App. It was run as a trial in 2016 and is now available nationwide. Users have access to Smart Leads on any device like mobile or PC and can contact customers and send them quotes directly. The Smart App enables members to handle jobs from a mobile phone, tablet or desktop with options to manage workload, send quotes, check payments, etc. Payments can be taken via the Smart Dashboard, and all payments are securely recorded and stored.

The NAPIT Keep Busy scheme fee is £25 per week + VAT what gives members the access to the electrical customer enquiries in the local area via

Quotatis. There are no contracts, and the service is on month by month basis with a FREE 30-day trial to try all the features of the Keep Busy Scheme.

The NAPIT Keep Busy scheme allows member to:

- connect with customers who are in need of an electrician
- choose jobs
- use the Smart App
- create the online profile with references, reviews, etc.

Michael Andrews, the NAPIT Group Chief Executive, said: "As a business, we are constantly striving to ensure that our members thrive in every aspect of their everyday work through our various support packages. We have produced the NAPIT Keep Busy Scheme with Quotatis as an extension to this to give them the best possible chance of having a prosperous 2017. The 30-day free trial also allows

our members to give the service a try and discover its benefits, before committing to it."

NAPIT is the membership scheme authorised by Government and United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) accredited for operators in the building services - electrical, heating, plumbing, ventilation & air-conditioning, microgeneration and building fabric trades. NAPIT operates Competent Person Schemes in support of self-certification against the Building Regulations in England and Wales. For more information about the NAPIT, visit www.napit.org.uk

The Keep Busy Scheme allows NAPIT members to focus on providing the high quality work that they're known for, while Quotatis focuses on running the scheme to handle NAPIT members' advertising and getting them jobs. More details or to sign up for free trial visit www.napit.keepbusy.co.uk

(Source: NAPIT)



British Cable Association CPR Guidance to Specifiers

From 1st July 2017, there are new rules coming into life for cables specifiers. The British Cables Association (BCA) has issued a Construction Products Regulation (CPR) to make the rules clear for architects, designers, contractors and local authorities for cables selection. It will be compulsory for all cables with a Reaction to Fire performance, intended for permanent installation in buildings and construction works to be provided with a manufacturer Declaration of Performance and CE marking.

Currently, there is no legislation in the UK with regards to the performance level required for a particular cable in relation to fire. The CPR guide specifies the cable selection available on the market and the level of their performance on the parameters and requirements.

In many EU countries, the national authorities are introducing legislations to match certain cables applications with adequate CPR classes of cable. Such documents might be equivalent to the UK Wiring Regulations. In the UK the low fire hazard cables (LSHF, LSOH, OHLS, etc.) are in use, but there are no statutory requirements for their use, with some provisions in building regulation BS 7671.

BCA recommendations:

Taking account of all the above factors, and recognising that CPR embraces a very wide range of buildings and construction works, BCA recommends that specifiers should adopt the following guidance for the use of cables under the regulation:

1. Always specify that cables must have the CE marking according to CPR, accompanied by a Declaration of Performance;
2. Specify cables of class Eca or higher;
3. Preferably use cables described as low fire hazard or equivalent (LSHF, LSOH, OHLS, LSNH, etc.), in particular where fire safety requirements are high or very high;
4. Ensure that low fire hazard cables above class Eca include the additional classifications for smoke, acidity and, for particular applications, flaming droplets;
5. Avoid cables classified as Fca, as they are likely to burn uncontrollably in a fire;
6. In the case of doubt, consult the manufacturer.

(Source: www.Bcauk.org)

