

IBB Builders Merchant - Construction Material Supplier of the Year 2017

Business Excellence Awards 2017

The 2017 Business Excellence awards display recognition of some of the world's most prestigious firms. This year's winners have shown great commitment to striving to achieve the best results, which is backed by great client feedback collated during the nomination process. We are proud of each and every winner and we hope they continue to display excellence for the coming years.

The Awards team at Corporate Insider are honoured and extremely proud to publish a full list of winners and celebrate the accomplishment of the firms. Arianna Smith, Head of Corporate Awards is simply elated with the stature of this year's winners. Commenting on the vigorous level of competition this year, Arianna said: "We were simply overwhelmed with the volume of nominations received for this

year's Business Excellence awards. The judging panel had no easy task in selecting the winners, and I personally am very proud of each and every winner. It is always delightful to see how firms all over the world have developed and grown. And it is with great confidence to publish the 2017 Business Excellence Award Winners Guide. I look forward to visiting some of the winning firms on my travels in 2018."

IBB Builders Merchant is amongst the winners like Gearty & McIntyre, LLP, CPA, ColonialWebb, KBS Corporate, Bank of Cyprus, Fleet Source, EnvAero-space and many more.

*The full winners guide can be found at:
www.corp-insider.com/business-excellence-2017-awards/*





UK minimum wage rights and self-employed

The think tank, Resolution Foundation, makes proposal to the chief Matthew Taylor that Britain should extend the minimum wage to self-employed workers who cannot control their rate of pay easily. The Resolution Foundation is an independent research and policy organisation, which concentrates on developing policies to help those on low and modest incomes. According to Resolution Foundation, approximately half of 4.8 million self-employed workers are low paid or earn less than £310 a week. Such workers should be classified as self-employed and offered wage protection.

Matthew Taylor was asked by Prime Minister Theresa May to conduct the review on the UK's employment. The proposal of the Resolution Foundation is designated for construction workers, minicab drivers, hairdressers etc.

Conor D'Arcy, a policy analyst at the Resolution Foundation, said: "The UK's labour market has been very successful at creating jobs in recent years. However, far too many of those jobs offer very low pay and precious little security.

"This is especially true of the growing army of the self-employed. While many are higher earners who benefit from significant flexibility, around half fall below the low pay earnings threshold of

just £310 a week. The government can start by extending minimum wage protections to those self-employed people whose prices are set by a firm. This would mean that self-employed people in the gig economy would be given protection against extreme low pay for the first time ever."

Recommendations to support the self-employed

- Extending Statutory Maternity Pay at a cost of up to £82m and Statutory Paternity Pay at a cost of up to £18m;
- Extending contributory Jobseekers' Allowance to those who have paid Class 4 NICs at a pro t level of £25,000 for two years, at a cost of around £50m;

- Reopening plans to equalise NICs up to the 12% rate that employees pay, saving £1bn;
- Extending employer NICs to price-setting firms that take on self-employed contractors, possibly through a new levy; and,
- Reducing the tax advantages associated with self-incorporation by scaling back Entrepreneur's Relief and the Annual Exempt Amount, which together cost £6bn.

For more details download Resolution Foundation's publication here www.resolutionfoundation.org/app/uploads/2017/07/The-minimum-required.pdf

(Source: resolutionfoundation.org)

Submit-a-Plan

Submit-a-Plan is the LABC (Local Authority Building Control) national portal for making electronic and offline Building Control applications to any Local Authority in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The online platform has been designed as a single location for both the general public and professional users to submit Building Control applications directly to their intended Local Authority. Users can also track the progress of their application online via our dedicated portal DataSpace Live

The key features of Submit-a-Plan at a glance:

- Free of charge to use
- Works with all CAD applications and paper scans
- Eliminates sending multiple paper plans (when submitted electronically)
- Saves time and money
- Send an application at any time (available 24/7)
- Environmentally friendly
- All you require is web access
- Track the progress of your application online (when submitted electronically)
- Local Authority funded service
- Free of charge application assistance.

Here are few things that makes submit-a-plan a great tool:

- The platform makes applications easy by offering the option to save, print and download if necessary for future reference.
- The platform allows to add additional or revised documents to the already submitted application. The authority will be notified of the new addition/revision and can then check the application online in their own Submit-a-Plan Authority Account to view it.
- Once you have submitted an electronic application to an authority subscribed to Submit-a-Plan, you can keep eye on its progress in your Submit-a-Plan

account. Your authority should update the status of your application every time they complete a stage of processing it, and any time they view or download one of its documents, the activity is logged in the "activity" tab, bringing you some peace of mind that your application is both receiving attention and making progress. Please note only authorities subscribed to accepting full electronic applications with documents through submit-a-plan use these tools.


- Submit-a-Plan offers the option of requesting the site inspection

- The service is FREE of charge and available 24/7.

- Offline service allows applicants to: Find their Local Authority, Create and print an application for posting, Record all historic off and online applications in one account.

The Submitaplan.com service is developed, supported and hosted by Resolution Data Management Ltd and funded by your Local Authority. If you are not registered already simply visit submitaplan.com to set up the account. For more information visit resolutiondm.com (Source: Submit-a-Plan)





Recently, BS EN 131- the single British and European product standard covering all types of portable ladders has been revised. The changes that come with this revision will help improve the safety of ladders and make buying the right ladder simpler. This changes will affect all involved in ladders from builders, contractors to suppliers and health & safety professionals.

The Ladder Association has issued a comprehensive guide explaining what are the changes and it consists of :

- an insight into the features of ladders manufactured to the new standard
- guidance on the use of ladders to withdrawn standards
- advice on buying ladders

EN 131 is the Euro Norme (EN) and all CEN member countries are obliged to adopt it as a national standard. In Great Britain, EN 131 will replace BS 2037 and BS 1129 and after the transition period certified ladders will no longer be available. BS EN 131 is the UK version of EN 131 Standard. It is divided into Professional and Non-Professional Standard. The changes implemented requires to improve the safety of ladders:

- Dimensional changes will improve stability
- Increased strength test requirements
- New requirements for ladder durability
- All ladders have now the same minimum capacity of 150kg

In case you will need to replace your existing ladders due to their damage always shop with the reputable company, check the specification for the EN 131 Standard. Note that during the transition period you will be able to buy ladders compliant with previous standards.

What is the LadderCard?

The LadderCard is the effective way of showing proof of training for work at height from ladders. Ladder Association provides the training scheme which provides the knowledge and skills on how to safely work at height. The completion of the course allows for the LadderCard to be issued what confirms the competence required by the Work at Height Regulations.

Visit the Ladder Association for more details on available courses. If you need more details download the comprehensive guide at www.ladderassociation.org.uk

Changes to ladder standards

#iBuiltThis2017 Campaign

FIS Skills, the specialist skills delivery capability of Finishes and Interiors Sector (FIS) have announced the launch of their flagship #iBuiltThis2017 campaign. A visual campaign, image led and run completely on social media utilising the Instagram and Twitter platforms for a period of three weeks, with the submissions opening from the 4 September and closing on 24 September and winners announced at the UK Construction Week Exhibition between 10 – 12 October 2017.

The campaign is designed to get young people, the construction industry and the public to participate and show how proud they are of their contribution to the UK built environment in a fun, exciting and light-hearted way. The campaign would like to showcase construction as the exciting and diverse sector it is with its huge breadth of disciplines and career opportunities to help attract new entrants.

Helen Yeulet director of FIS Skills said "this is a part of FIS Skills' ongoing vision to drive change and a better understanding of the industry and the opportunities within it. The competition aims to utilise the pride in an individual's achievements to assist in improving perceptions and image, increase careers awareness and engagement nationally".

To encourage young people to get involved, the competition has been divided into three age groups: 13 years and under, 14-18 years and 19

year and over with some great prizes lined up. FIS Skills would like entrants to share a picture of themselves with an image of a completed project they have built, or helped to build, using the hashtag #iBuiltThis2017 on the FIS Skills social media platforms of Instagram (@fisskills) and Twitter (@FisSkills) or alternatively you can enter by visiting their website. Entrants need to insert their details in the comments section, answer their relevant age group question and submit.

Encouraging photos of new buildings of any type, whether they're made from Lego, Meccano, sand or even chocolate. Images of iconic buildings and breath taking fit-out and interiors will be used to inspire people to see construction as a career of choice. The entries received will be diverse in both built environment images and the roles involved in their construction and images will be used to educate new entrants afterwards.

Support for this campaign has been phenomenal across the industry with UK Construction Week as media partners. Other sponsors and partners include Construction Industry Council (CIC), Building Heroes, Home Builders Federation (HBF), Silver Trowel Ltd, Career Colleges Trust, NVQ Training Centre Ltd, Tapper Interiors Ltd, Vela Training Ltd, British Woodworking Foundation (BWF), Build UK, the Civil Engineering Contractors Association (CECA), Construction Products Association (CPA), Federation of Master Builders (FMB), Hire Association Europe (HAE), Thermal Insulation Contractors Association – Best Practice in Asbestos Control (TICA-ACAD), Yourfeed.com and Encon NevillLong.

A great line-up of judges is being proposed for the competition that will reflect the industry and will be announced in the coming week along with the prizes for the competition.



David Frise CEO of FIS said: “the only way to close the skills gap and improve industry perceptions is through strong collaboration and working together. This campaign provides the partnerships to join the dots across the industry with educators and potential new entrants and engage with young people in a fun and exciting new way”

How will the #iBuiltThis2017 campaign work?

Submissions will be accepted over a three week period for all age categories.

1. Entrants are requested to take a picture or selfie of themselves with the image of their completed project they built or helped to build using the hashtag #iBuiltThis2017. The hashtag must be included in the picture they submit for the entry to be valid.

2. Entrants are requested to submit their entries to the FIS Skills social media platforms of Instagram (@fisskills) and Twitter (@FisSkills) or alternatively they can enter by visiting our website when the platform is ready. Answer their relevant age category question and insert their details in the comments section (name, site/location and what they did on the project in the comments section)
3. Entrants must like and follow the FIS platform they submit to.

What are the #iBuiltThis2017 campaign timescales?

- Entry submissions for all age categories will run simultaneously from the 4th September to the 24th September.
- Voting period for all age categories will run from the 25th September – 2nd October.
- The judging panel will select the winners from the finalists selected from the public vote on 3rd October.
- Winners will be announced between 10th – 12th October and prizes awarded in November 2017.

For more information about #iBuiltThis2017 campaign or if you would like to get involved email: skills@thefis.org or visit the <https://www.thefis.org/skills-hub/i-built-this/>

(Source: www.thefis.org)





Skills Shortages hit the industry

Skills shortages in the construction industry is not a hot news. Warnings about the lack of the qualified and experienced labour have been issued long before the referendum vote. According to the recent research by the Federation of Masters Builders (FMB) the access to skilled workers is spreading through building trade, from bricklayers and carpenters to other key trades.

The FMB's latest State of Trade Survey for 2017 shows that:

- 60% of construction SMEs are struggling to hire bricklayers
- 58% are struggling to hire carpenters and joiners
- 45% are struggling to hire plumbers

Brian Berry, Chief Executive of the FMB, said: "We've been experiencing a severe shortage of bricklayers and carpenters for quite some time - these latest statistics show that skills shortages are now seeping into other key trades such as roofers and plumbers. Indeed, of the 15 key trades and occupa-

tions we monitor, 40% show skills shortages at their highest point since we started to feel the effects of the skills crisis in 2013 when the industry bounced back post-downturn. This growing skills deficit is driving up costs for small firms and simultaneously adding to the pressure being felt by soaring material prices linked to the weaker pound."

The Government White Paper aims in building million homes by 2020 and businesses have to ensure they have skilled labour for the new contracts. The Investment in training and apprentice is a win-win option as it will bring home grown skilled labourers into the market. Since years far too few apprentices are entering the sector and situation is worsened by the fact that approximately 500,000 current construction workers are expected to retire over the next decade.

All these means that the construction industry currently offers fantastic opportunities for young people. Salaries are increasing according to the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) which reports that workers in construction saw their wages increase by more than 6% in 2015 - a growth rate three times larger than the rest of the workforce.

Currently one in three construction businesses employ migrant workers, while half of London construction firms are owned by foreigners. Unfortunately, shortages in skilled migrant workers are expected to rise due to Brexit.

Moreover, the possible migrant caps might put even more pressure. Migrant workers have comparable or better skills than British workers while they are more readily available and have better work ethic. Most of businesses who employ workers from outside the UK say they do so because there are not enough skilled applicants from the UK, rather than for cheaper labour.

Also professional side of the construction industry is suffering with surveyors, architects and engineers demanded. The construction sector is loosing to other industries where graduates with quantitative skills prefer to apply due to better working environment, more stable conditions and competitive salaries.

Young people prefer a career in medicine, law or finance. But what about engineering, project management, quantity surveying, town planning and office management? How to design and build adaptable places that will grow and flex with a changing community and climate, in already crowded spaces, needs bright ideas and clever thinking.

Also, The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) recently released a report about the skills shortages which predicts that up to 27000 construction projects might be affected by a lack of qualified workers. The report states that the skills shortage has reached its highest level since 1998, with the highest demand being for bricklayers and quantity surveyors.

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Al, Jon
& Sophie

Planner, Architect
and Site Manager

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