

Resilience 16

Workshop on Standards, Certification and Skills in Flood Resilience

The Defra formed business Roundtable has brought together key business interests and challenged them as to how they might contribute to bringing about significant change in flood resilience. The enthusiastic can-do attitude of the group has resulted in an Action Plan which sets a path for addressing the major barriers to people being able to better prepare their homes and businesses for future floods.

The Roundtable and resulting Action Plan seeks to better equip households and businesses to minimise the physical and emotional impact of flooding on their lives. It aims to do so by tapping into the unique skills, experiences and opportunities that the business world has to offer.

The roundtable included a task group on (Task group 4) - Standards, certification and skills, as follows:

- The group considered the lack of consistent standards
- Covered standards for products and certification related to property (new build, existing property and materials)
- Looked at skill needs in professionals (such as surveyors, contractors and builders)

The recommendations included the following:

- Develop appropriate training programmes for surveyors and installers of flood resistance and resilience in property.
- Develop training for insurers and loss adjusters on resilient repair, technologies and working with clients to achieve appropriate solutions.
- Develop the approach to certification of building materials, components and products.
- Promote use of existing standards, in particular, ensuring that PAS1188 products are referenced in procurement documents and that BS85500 is adopted by house builders and commercial builders in areas at risk of flooding.

This workshop will be run by the BRE Centre for Resilience. It will critically examine the recommendations and discuss ways in which they can be taken forward. It will address how gaps can be filled and which parties need to be involved in the discussions.

The workshop will encourage delegate participation in questioning an expert panel including the following:

Dr Stephen Garvin (BRE)

Steve McKeown (Whitehouse Construction)

Alastair Moseley (CIWEM)

Alan Cripps (RICS)

Alan Thornley (BIBA)

Elaine Toogood (MPA The Concrete Centre)

The workshop will last 1 hour and will conclude with a summary of key messages to take back to the roundtable / task group.