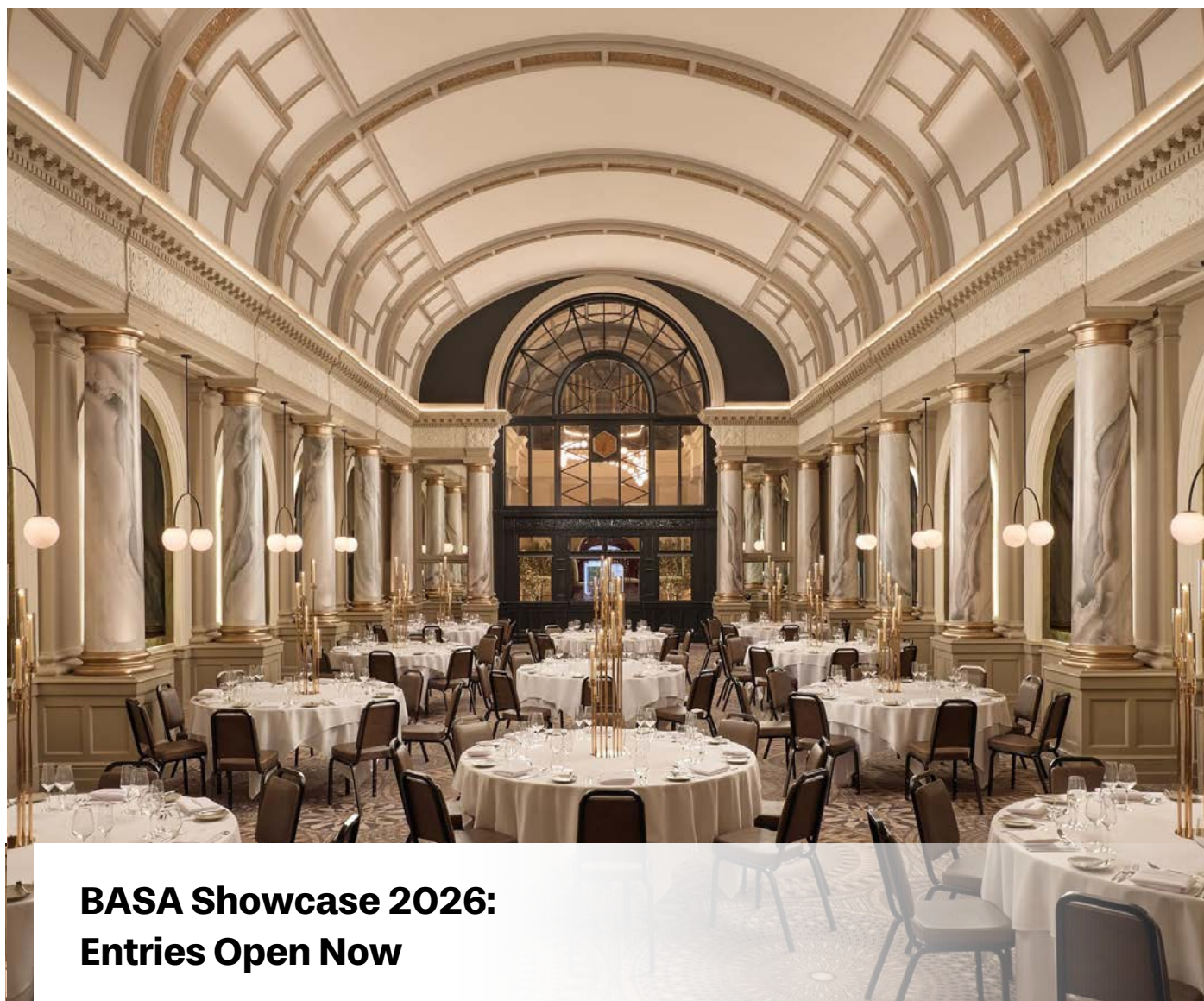


# BASA Bulletin

INFORMED COMMENT FROM THE ADHESIVES & SEALANTS ASSOCIATION FOR THE UK & IRELAND



## **BASA Showcase 2026: Entries Open Now**

*Join us at the Met Hotel, Leeds on Friday 20th November 2026*

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**2026 MEMBERS HANDBOOK NOW AVAILABLE**



## Lorna's Leadership Lens



**Lorna Williams,**  
CEO of BASA  
secretary@basa.uk.com

In my role as BASA CEO, I have the privilege of championing the UK adhesives and sealants sector, an industry that quietly enables everything from buildings and vehicles to packaged goods and everyday household products. BASA represents more than 90 member companies and, together, our membership supplies the great majority of adhesives and sealants used across the UK and Ireland. Through this network we provide a strong, credible focus on technical best practice, constructive regulatory engagement and meaningful collaboration across the value chain.

Our first BASA Spring Conference & AGM was a great success, and it was fantastic to see so many members and guests coming together to share insight, reconnect and look ahead. You can read the full write-up on page 4. If you missed it this year, please put the date in your diary now for next year: **9 March 2027**, at the same venue.

This Bulletin is published to coincide with our attendance at **ChemUK**, where BASA is exhibiting and hosting a session, an ideal opportunity to meet members and industry colleagues and to showcase the work we are doing on behalf of the sector. We will also be at Surfex, and I'm pleased to say we are hosting sessions at both conferences, ensuring BASA remains at the heart of the technical and regulatory conversations shaping our industry.

After Surfex, we have the BASA Sports Day, and, just as in previous years, it promises to be a networking event not to miss. We have record numbers of golfers signed up this year, and with shooting also on the day, we're hoping for good weather for everyone taking part. And, of course, the big question remains: who will walk away with the Glue Gun Trophy and the Glue Pot Trophy this year?

We are in the early planning stages for our Open Industry Forum, a free event for BASA members, taking place in Wolverhampton on 6 October 2026. We are also now accepting your entries for the BASA Showcase, taking place at the Leeds Met on Friday 20 November 2026. Further details are included below and on the dedicated page of the BASA website.

Finally, do take a look at the features in this issue from BASA's Technical Officer, **Jim Palmer**, and BASA's Regulatory Officer, **Caroline Raine**, who go into more detail on the technical and regulatory work underway, and on the deluge of consultations we are seeing this year. Thank you, as always, for your continued support of BASA and the wider adhesives and sealants community.

Welcome

## New members joining BASA in 2026

Please join us in welcoming the following members who have recently joined our association:



You can view their membership profiles, along with all BASA members, on the website via the Membership Directory.

Visit: [www.basa.uk.com](http://www.basa.uk.com)

## Entries Open Now – BASA Showcase 2026

Entries are open for the BASA Showcase, taking place on Friday 20 November at the Leeds Met Hotel. Now in its third year, the Showcase celebrates excellence across the adhesives and sealants sector, with a renewed focus on supporting and recognising smaller member companies.

Categories include; **Manufacturing Rising Star, Emerging Professional of the Year, Future Skills Development Programme, Product or Process Innovation of the Year, Sustainability Initiative, Community Engagement,**

### Manufacturer of the Year & Supplier of the Year.

The Showcase highlights the achievements driving our industry forward, from skills and innovation to sustainability and collaboration, helping to set new benchmarks for success. Don't miss the opportunity to raise your profile, recognise your team and celebrate your achievements.

**Enter now and be part of this growing industry event.**



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Visit: [www.basa.uk.com/showcase](http://www.basa.uk.com/showcase)

# BASA Spring Conference 2026: a day of big themes, practical takeaways

If you were with us at Kents Hill Park in Milton Keynes, you'll know the very first BASA Conference had the buzz of something new: one room, one day, and a packed programme that connected the dots between economics, regulation, digital change and the realities of running a modern adhesives and sealants business.

For anyone who couldn't make it, here's a quick, plain English run through of the day's main messages (and a gentle nudge to save the date for next year: Tuesday 9 March 2027, same venue).

We kicked off with a clear-eyed look at the UK economy from Professor Noble Francis (Construction Products Association). The headline? Growth is still sluggish, confidence remains patchy, and construction is a mixed picture. Private housebuilding is still constrained by affordability and planning delays, while public housing should pick up as funding programmes roll through. Refurbishment and fit out are holding up well (especially at the premium end), and industrial work is being pulled along by data centres, major manufacturing investment and the energy transition.

The watch outs he flagged; skills gaps, insolvencies, and building safety delays, felt uncomfortably familiar, but it was helpful to hear them set out alongside the pockets of opportunity.

From there, the focus shifted from macro to "what can I do on Monday morning?" Graeme Laws (Beyond Touch) delivered a practical session on using AI safely and strategically, less hype, more how to. A useful reminder landed early: AI works by spotting patterns in data, not by following strict rules, so it needs active human oversight. Grae walked through everyday applications, drafting technical reports and SOPs, getting first pass wording for tenders, summarising meetings, and even supporting Scope 3 work like supply chain mapping. The big caution was equally practical: keep business information out of personal/free tools, and be clear about privacy, bias and transparency when you deploy AI internally.

Cyber security then brought us back

to earth, fast. Liam Hulley (Gallagher) shared examples that will have struck a chord with anyone who has ever chased a suspicious invoice. The message wasn't that attacks are getting "more likely"; it's that they are already routine, and supply chains are a key weak spot. With so few businesses operating a truly cyber centric incident response plan, the takeaway was straightforward: treat cyber like any other business risk, know where your sensitive data sits, rehearse what happens if systems go down, and build third party risk management into supplier relationships rather than bolting it on after an incident.

Compliance was another strong theme, with IMSM outlining what's coming down the track for ISO 9001, 14001 and 45001. Revisions can feel like paperwork for paperwork's sake, but the framing here was more upbeat: used well, the updates can sharpen resilience and competitiveness. Expect a stronger lifecycle perspective and environmental risk thinking in ISO 14001:2026, and more explicit attention to risk, resilience, supply chains, cybersecurity and climate considerations in ISO 9001:2026. The encouragement to look at integrated management systems (for example combining 9001/14001/45001, and potentially 27001) resonated as a way to reduce duplication and strengthen governance at the same time.

On sustainability, Auditel made a compelling case that carbon and cost can (and should) be tackled together. Whether it's carbon footprinting, net zero roadmaps, ESOS compliance or energy audits, the common thread was measurement that leads to decisions—not reporting that ends in a spreadsheet.

That theme also fed neatly into the launch of BASA's Product Packaging Task Force, which will look at packaging sustainability in the round: regulation (including EPR and PPWR), customer expectations, practical lifecycle impacts, and where collaboration across the sector can produce guidance that's actually useful on site and in the warehouse.

Before the BASA AGM and lunch we had an excellence keynote speech from

Declan Curry, whose talk ranged from his time with the BBC and his thoughts on the current global scene and business and his work as a business commentator for Global Radio in the UK for the broadcasters ABC and LBC. He has been explaining business and the economy for more than two decades, so, with his ability to combine serious insight and rigorous analysis with a lightness of touch and approachability, we all enjoyed hearing Declan's views on the current political and economic climate and potential impacts in the chemicals sector.

After Lunch we had a second keynote session with Justine Greening on leadership, equality of opportunity and how purpose can reshape organisations and economies for the better. Drawing on her experience at the highest levels of politics, business and social reform, she shared insights on leadership and how collaboration between sectors can deliver a fairer future for everyone. She also spoke on the uncertain world of geopolitics and geoeconomics, the complex drivers of which she became intimately familiar with during her time at international development.

We followed Justine's session with Tony Hyland MBE from the Department for Work & Pensions, outlining how the DWP's Strategic Relationship Team and programmes such as the Youth Guarantee can support employers, particularly as skills shortages and regional labour market differences continue to bite. Taken together, the day reinforced what many members are living already: the pressures are broad (economy, energy, compliance, cyber), but so are the levers we can pull.

BASA's role is to make those levers easier to find, turning policy, standards and emerging risks into practical guidance, shared learning and (where it makes sense) collective action.

GW Consulting International then explored overseas trading and reputation risk, issues that are often underestimated when growth plans seem exciting. Expansion can multiply exposure to sanctions, corruption, quality issues

and ESG expectations, sometimes via partners several steps down the chain. The emphasis here was on structured due diligence: verify documents, understand the legal landscape (from the UK Bribery Act to evolving EU transparency requirements), and don't forget that "reputational risk" often shows up first as a very practical problem, delayed shipments, disputed payments, or a customer asking questions you can't answer quickly.

One of the day's most talked about sessions and the close of the conference came from Consultiv Utilities on energy, and, specifically, why AI is suddenly everyone's business even if you never plan to run a data centre.

The core idea was simple: UK electricity demand has been trending down for decades, but AI, EVs and heat pumps change the trajectory, and grid investment has to follow. The important detail for manufacturers is how those costs are recovered: not just through unit prices, but through standing and network charges that can catch sites off guard.

Their call to action was clear: check your Maximum Import Capacity (MIC) and related non commodity charges, many sites are still set to historic levels, and getting it wrong can be a material annual cost.

If you'd like to get involved in any of the follow up workstreams (including packaging), or simply want help signposting the right resources from the day, please get in touch. And if you do one thing now: put Tuesday 9 March 2027 in the diary, we'd love to see even more of you there.



# Caroline's Compliance Corner



**Caroline Raine,**  
BASA Regulatory Officer

Welcome to Caroline's Compliance Corner. Your go-to update on the ever-evolving world of chemicals regulation. In this issue, we're covering key developments across UK and EU REACH, as well as the latest consultations shaping the regulatory landscape.

## > UK REACH - Deadlines extended & ATRm update

The Government has confirmed a second extension to UK REACH transitional registration deadlines, now running from October 2029 to October 2031. DEFRA has also published its ATRm response, confirming alignment with EU decisions as the default and retaining "no data, no market." Additional GB-specific use and exposure requirements have been dropped, but hazard data and substance group collaboration will move ahead.

## > EU REACH – No full revision, PFAS remains key

The EU will not proceed with a full REACH revision, instead focusing on targeted updates. However, regulatory activity continues, with the proposed PFAS restriction remaining a major issue. Companies should also prepare for the first microplastics reporting deadline on 31 May 2026.

## > Consultations update

A wide range of UK and EU consultations are underway, including PFAS restrictions, RIDDOR reform, GB CLP changes, and UK product safety rules. We continue to support members through responses and updates as deadlines approach.

Stay tuned, stay compliant, and as always, get in touch if you've got questions or feedback!

# UK REACH – New transitional registration deadlines

Following a public consultation launched by DEFRA in July 2025, the UK Government confirmed in December 2025 that it will bring forward legislation to extend the UK REACH transitional registration deadlines for a second time. The revised deadlines have now been confirmed and are set out below.

Deadline	Registration Band
27 October 2029	≥ 1,000 tonnes per year (and high-hazard substances)
27 October 2030	≥ 100 tonnes per year
27 October 2031	≥ 1 tonne per year

## DEFRA publishes ATRm consultation response

DEFRA has published its response to the 2024 consultation on an Alternative Transitional Registration Model (ATRm) for UK REACH, following 241 responses from industry, NGOs and other stakeholders.

## Key decisions

The government will align UK REACH with EU regulatory decisions as its default starting point, diverging only where there are compelling reasons — a significant shift from the previous government's approach.

On registration, the "no data, no market" principle is retained, but the proposed additional GB-specific use and exposure requirements have been dropped following strong industry opposition over cost and burden. The hazard baseline approach and changes to chemical safety assessments will proceed. Registrants must submit hazard conclusions and join substance groups (similar to EU SIEFs) to agree conclusions and share data. The government has committed to bringing forward legislation in good time for industry to meet updated registration deadlines.

## What respondents said

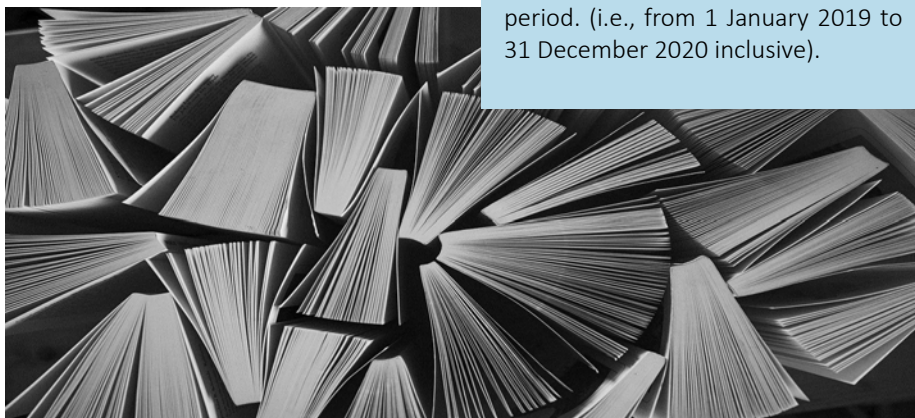
- ~90% of large/medium businesses agreed removing detailed hazard requirements wouldn't compromise protections; most NGOs and charities disagreed
- Most respondents opposed additional use/exposure data requirements, citing cost — and estimated registration would take ~100 hours or 16 months
- Transitional evaluations were broadly welcomed as pragmatic
- 59% had concerns about a shortened restrictions consultation period
- 55% favoured a non-legislative approach to reducing animal testing
- Trade impacts were widely anticipated to be negative

## What this means for members:

While the deadline extensions provide welcome breathing room, members should continue to monitor DEFRA and HSE communications closely for the finalisation of ATRm requirements.

We will keep you updated as the legislative process progresses through 2026.

It is worth noting that UK REACH remains fully in force: the obligation to register substances on the GB market continues to apply, and Downstream User Import Notifications (DUINs) remain available for businesses supplying substances that were on the GB market prior in the 2 years leading up to the end of the transition period. (i.e., from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2020 inclusive).



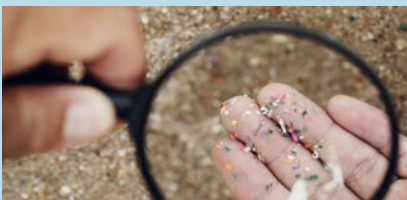
# EU REACH – full revision shelved & simplification approach confirmed

In a significant development, the European Commission has officially confirmed it will not proceed with a full legislative revision of EU REACH. Instead, the Commission will pursue a 'simplification and modernisation' approach using comitology a process that allows amendments to REACH Annexes via secondary legislation without full involvement of the European Parliament. This means that far-reaching changes such as the inclusion of polymers in registration requirements, or significant modifications to authorisation procedures, are now considered off the table in the near term.

However, members should not view this as regulatory standstill. ECHA's scientific committees continue their work, the Candidate List of Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC) is updated twice yearly, and Annex XVII restrictions continue to expand. Of particular note: the PFAS restriction proposal remains one of the most significant live dossiers in EU chemical regulation, with ECHA's scientific opinions due to be submitted to the Commission in late 2026. A final EU-level decision potentially the broadest restriction ever adopted under REACH is expected thereafter. Members using PFAS in any form should be closely monitoring this process (see also our consultations update to the right).

## Microplastics reporting reminder:

Under EU REACH, manufacturers and industrial downstream users of synthetic polymer microparticles (pellets, flakes, powders) used as feedstock must report 2025 emissions data to ECHA by 31 May 2026. This is the first reporting window under the microplastics restriction exemption framework.



# A busy period for UK & EU regulatory consultations

Recent weeks and months have seen a significant volume of regulatory consultations affecting businesses across the UK and EU, spanning a wide range of environmental, chemical, product safety, and workplace health topics, and we continue to work hard to support members through this busy period.

It has not just been a busy period for open consultations, we have also been active in submitting responses on behalf of members to a number of recently closed consultations. These include responses to consultations on biocides, phytosanitary regulations, and extended producer responsibility (EPR) for packaging, as well as commenting directly to a request from the House of Lords, all of which are areas of significant relevance to many of our members. We will continue to keep members informed of the outcomes of these processes as they develop.

Among the most significant open consultations is ECHA's proposed restriction on PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), with a 60-day consultation currently open until 25 May 2026. PFAS are used widely across industry and the proposed restriction has potentially far-reaching implications for many sectors, making it one of the most important consultations of the year.

On the domestic front, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has launched a consultation on a major overhaul of injury and disease reporting rules, open until 30 June 2026. This could represent a significant change to how businesses record and report workplace incidents under RIDDOR, and we would encourage all members to consider engaging with this one.

HSE has also opened a survey on the costs of complying with GB Biocidal Products Regulation (GB BPR), closing 18 May 2026, as well as seeking views on potential changes to the GB CLP Regulation, with that consultation closing 30 May 2026.

Elsewhere, the Government is consulting on a major overhaul of UK product safety rules and enforcement powers, both closing 23 June 2026, while ECHA is seeking evidence on workplace exposure limits for key chemicals and has opened

a separate consultation on occupational exposure limits for lithium compounds, closing 1 June 2026.

We continue to monitor all of these consultations closely, providing members with suggested responses and, where appropriate, submitting responses directly on their behalf. If you have an interest in any of the consultations listed in our forums, or would like support in preparing a response, please do get in touch with the team — several deadlines are fast approaching!

## KEY UPCOMING CONSULTATION DEADLINES

### 18 May 2026

HSE survey- Costs of complying with GB BPR

### 25 May 2026

ECHA- PFAS restriction consultation

### 30 May 2026

HSE- GB CLP Regulation consultation

### 1 June 2026

ECHA- Occupational exposure limits for lithium compounds

### 23 June 2026

UK Government - Product safety rules & enforcement overhaul (x2)

### 30 June 2026

HSE- RIDDOR overhaul consultation





## B-510-3 Committee Meeting Highlights

The B-510-3 committee met on 22 April 2026 for a constructive session focused on standards oversight, committee representation and wider developments affecting the sector. Chaired by John Booth, the meeting also included contributions from Simran Lamgani (SDM), Paul Winter (RSTA) and Neil Taylor (BASA), with apologies received from Dog Strang and Tom Green.

While no new members joined the committee at this stage, there was clear recognition of the need to strengthen representation, particularly from Britpave and ICT. Actions were agreed to encourage greater engagement from both organisations, underlining the committee’s continued commitment to ensuring broad and balanced industry input.

Committee members also reviewed conflicts of interest and intellectual property rights in line with BS 0:2021, before confirming the minutes from the previous meeting held in November 2025.

In terms of liaison activity, there were no new reports presented. Lorna Williams was unable to join the meeting due to an IT issue experienced by the BSI Secretariat. Members also noted that there had been no recent meetings of the relevant European working groups, although the Construction Product Aquis process is now under way, with member states beginning to submit requirements for materials.

On the national standards front, the committee confirmed that BS 10948:2020, the Code of Practice for the use of sealants in concrete roads, will remain in use until at least 2030 — providing continuity for the sector.

There were no upcoming ballots to report under other business, and the date of the next meeting is still to be confirmed. Overall, the discussion highlighted steady progress in maintaining standards, widening participation and monitoring relevant European developments.



## Alignment on REACH bans, authorisations and restrictions alone won't save UK-EU chemicals trade without full recognition of EU registrations

The government’s position in respect of the ATRm does not adequately acknowledge that it is possible to operate successfully under a default policy of regulatory alignment with EU chemicals legislation, known as “autonomous adaptation.”

Under this approach, a country can independently choose to keep their chemicals frameworks aligned with EU REACH. Crucially, this policy is unilateral, not contingent on broader trade agreements, and it preserves the sovereign ability to diverge where genuinely necessary. In practice, divergences are rare, narrow in scope, and are often introduced to offer greater protection for public health or the environment.

A key benefit of autonomous adaptation is that it does not require companies to resubmit or recreate detailed chemical safety data for substances that are already registered under EU REACH. Instead, the system recognises that the data already exists, has undergone robust evaluation, and remains fully valid for regulatory purposes.

From an industry perspective, this approach avoids duplication, unnecessary costs, and wasteful administrative burdens, with no loss of protections for workers, consumers, or the environment.

Given these advantages, it is difficult to understand why the UK cannot adopt this pragmatic policy of alignment, one that maintains high standards while avoiding disproportionate costs for manufacturers and formulators.

Moreover, the government’s proposed ATRm does not address the major structural problem facing UK downstream users: many would be forced into the role of first-time registrants, despite lacking the data, resources, and market leverage to obtain the information required.

These companies, often SMEs, would bear significant costs simply to recreate data that already exists in the EU system. This creates no additional safety benefit and risks putting UK formulators at a competitive disadvantage.

The ATRm, as currently designed, fails to alleviate these pressures, meaning downstream users still face an expensive, duplicated registration burden that offers no tangible gain for human health or environmental protection.

BASA has co-signed a letter from the Alliance of Chemical Associations sent to DEFRA on 22 April outlining these concerns. **The full letter can be read on the BASA website at: [members.basa.uk.com/news](https://members.basa.uk.com/news)**

# GB BPR: A Growing Challenge for Adhesives and Sealants Manufacturers

The Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) current survey on the costs of complying with the GB Biocidal Products Regulation (BPR) highlights an important issue for UK industry. While much of the regulatory focus is on authorisation costs borne by biocide manufacturers, for the adhesives and sealants sector the real impact lies elsewhere.

Members of BASA are predominantly downstream users of biocides. This means they have limited visibility or influence over whether suppliers will support registrations in Great Britain. Increasingly, BASA members report uncertainty about the continued availability of key biocidal products, making forward planning difficult and, in some cases, commercially unviable.

Where a biocide is withdrawn, substitution is rarely straightforward. Unlike commodity chemicals, biocides are highly formulation-specific, and direct replacements are uncommon. Reformulation can involve

substantial research and development, along with performance revalidation, often at significant cost. For many construction-related products, reformulation also triggers mandatory re-testing and certification.

The impact can be severe. For example, manufacturers of fire-rated sealants report delays of up to one to two years to complete testing and regain certification following formulation changes. Even for less critical applications, testing requirements can be costly and time-consuming, placing additional strain on products that are often already low-margin and low-volume.

In theory, downstream users could seek authorisation themselves where suppliers withdraw support. In practice, this is rarely feasible. Access to technical data is limited, regulatory expertise is scarce, and consultancy costs can be prohibitive. As a result, product withdrawal is often the only realistic option.

Market dynamics add further pressure. The UK accounts for roughly 15% of the EU market, and suppliers question whether it is commercially viable to maintain separate GB and EU registrations. BASA members are already seeing evidence of product withdrawals, particularly for niche or specialist biocides.

GB BPR may unintentionally place UK manufacturers at a competitive disadvantage and there are concerns about whether non-compliant imported products will be effectively controlled, potentially creating an uneven playing field.

While BASA members cannot easily quantify regulatory costs, the indirect impacts (reformulation, testing, supply disruption, and lost business) are substantial. Ensuring that the GB regime remains both robust and workable will be essential to maintaining a competitive and innovative UK adhesives and sealants sector.

## UK REACH: Defra Sets New Course on Substances of Very High Concern

Defra published its new strategic approach to the UK REACH Candidate List of Substances of Very High Concern (SVHCs) on 24 February 2026, replacing the interim principles in place since the UK's exit from the EU in 2021.

The policy signals a significant shift toward closer alignment with EU REACH. Substances added to the EU REACH candidate list since 1 January 2021, and further EU additions, will be reviewed and added to the UK REACH candidate list where appropriate, an approach intended to provide greater certainty for industry and reduce business complexity by keeping the two lists more closely in step.

The move is broadly welcome. SVHCs, including substances with carcinogenic, mutagenic or reprotoxic properties, or those especially persistent and bioaccumulative in the environment,

pose genuine risks to human health and ecosystems. A UK list that mirrors EU additions removes the anomaly of divergent hazard classifications across closely integrated supply chains and supports substitution of hazardous substances with safer alternatives. Defra's aim to encourage a move away from particularly hazardous substances where effective alternatives exist reflects responsible stewardship of the framework.

A note of caution is warranted. UK REACH already places considerable demands on industry: registration deadlines, substance evaluations, and an accelerating candidate list combine to create a regulatory landscape that is both complex and costly.

For smaller downstream users, many previously exempt from direct obligations under EU REACH, the cumulative

weight is especially acute. Unlike their EU counterparts, GB businesses face a standalone registration regime with no reciprocal recognition, meaning duplicated effort and expense for those trading across both markets.

These businesses are not resistant to robust chemical regulation - far from it. But the pace and volume of obligations under UK REACH risk outrunning the capacity of smaller operators to comply meaningfully.

Defra and HSE must ensure proportionate guidance, realistic timelines, and genuine support mechanisms are in place, particularly for those furthest down the supply chain, if this framework is to deliver meaningful protection without becoming an undue barrier to doing business in Great Britain.



**Jim Palmer,**  
BASA Technical Officer

Welcome to this special edition of the BASA Bulletin, published in hard copy to coincide with CHEM UK 2026. Since the last edition, BASA's technical team has remained very active, and the following notes summarise some of the key issues, developments and discussions.

### **BASA Product Packaging Task Force**

BASA has established a Product Packaging Task Force to address the growing regulatory and sustainability challenges facing adhesives and sealants packaging. Driven by UK Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) reforms and the EU Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR), the initiative recognises increasing pressure to improve recyclability, while highlighting the risk that single metric approaches can lead to unintended consequences such as higher carbon impacts, reduced shelf life or increased product waste.

A key concern for the sector is that packaging solutions, which appear favourable from a recyclability or fee modulation perspective, may perform worse when assessed across the full product lifecycle. For adhesives and sealants, functional performance, dosing control and product protection are critical, meaning that robust lifecycle assessment data must underpin any meaningful transition.

A questionnaire has been circulated to member representatives who have volunteered to support this work, seeking anonymised evidence on packaging

# What's New in the BASA Working Groups

formats, regulatory readiness, lifecycle assessments, trade offs between cost, performance and sustainability, and barriers to change. Members interested in joining this important group are encouraged to make contact.

### **Sealants Working Group**

The Sealants Working Group met virtually in March, covering a wide ranging agenda focused on regulatory developments, standards activity and emerging industry issues.

Updates were provided on CEN TC 349, where sealants have been placed at a lower priority under the new EU Construction Products Regulation acquis process, delaying revisions until at least 2029. Activity within ISO TC 59 SC8 continues through a systematic review of standards, with the next plenary scheduled for October 2026. UK committees BSI B547 and B/510 also reported largely procedural progress.

Fire safety remained a key focus, with updates on CEN TC 127, BSI FSH 22 and the draft PAS 9970, currently out for consultation. Regulatory updates confirmed continued acceptance of CE marking in the UK, alongside uncertainty regarding adoption of the new EU CPR. Substance regulation, circular economy challenges and updates to the BASA guide to BS EN ISO 11600 were also discussed.

### **Chemicals Legislation Working Group**

At its March virtual meeting, the Chemicals Legislation Working Group reviewed regulatory developments, workplace safety topics and industry actions affecting the adhesives and sealants sector.

A key focus was workplace safety, following a "Safety Moment" presentation on slips, trips and falls, emphasising good housekeeping and spatial awareness. The group agreed to develop this topic into a BASA drop in session later in the year.

Regulatory updates included uncertainty around the EU Chemicals Omnibus initiative and the "Stop the Clock" delay, which has pushed CLP labelling changes back to January 2028. The status of the REACH revision remains unclear. UK specific updates covered REACH deadline extensions, CLP amendments, PFAS, candidate list updates and forthcoming legislative changes progressing through Parliament.

Transport of dangerous goods was also discussed, with concerns raised about safe storage associated with increased stockpiling of hazardous materials due to geopolitical uncertainty. A related article appears elsewhere in this issue of the BASA Bulletin.

## Environmental and Sustainability Working Group

The Environment and Sustainability Working Group met virtually in March to review regulatory, sustainability and policy developments affecting the sector. Continued engagement with FEICA was confirmed, including updates on the newly established Strategic Impact Policy (SIP) group and forthcoming guidance to support PPWR compliance from August 2026.

A major focus was carbon and Net Zero policy, including the EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) from January 2026 and the UK equivalent from January 2027. Broader legislative updates included the Environmental Improvement Plan 2025, deforestation free product requirements, the UK Forest Risk Commodity Regulation, the ban on wet wipes containing plastic, digital waste tracking and EPR for packaging. Environmental reporting obligations such as CSRD, ESOS Phase 4 and the revision of ISO 14001 were also reviewed.

## Construction and Adhesives Working Group

Among the current plethora of EU and UK Government consultations are those on the Construction Products Reform White Paper and the General Safety Requirement (GSR) for Construction Products supplied in UK, both closing shortly.

BASA's responses to both consultations supports the objective of improving construction product safety, while emphasising the need for clarity, proportionality and practical implementation. Guidance should be clear, concise and written in plain language, with a clear definition of what constitutes a "product critical to safe construction". Simple, step by step guidance, supported by flow diagrams and searchable databases for standards, test methods and third party certification, would support consistent compliance.

The response stresses that regulation should recognise the existing framework of harmonised standards, third party certification and manufacturer declarations of performance, and clearly define which essential characteristics must be declared in the UK. A particular

concern has been raised regarding proposals for risk assessment, where there is a risk of conflating product installation safety with overall building safety. For chemical products such as adhesives and sealants, the established COSHH and Safety Data Sheet-based approach remains appropriate.

BASA also supports the creation of a national testing and research facility and stronger whistleblower protections. On environmental reporting, BASA strongly advocates recognition of EN 15804+A2 model Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) as a practical and proportionate solution, particularly for SMEs. Across both consultations, BASA has highlighted the need for realistic transition periods—typically a minimum of 24 months—to avoid unnecessary waste, cost escalation and market distortion.

## Packaging Adhesives Working Group

The Packaging Adhesives Working Group met virtually on 14 April 2026 to review regulatory developments, FEICA activity and emerging issues.

Key discussion focused on food contact legislation in both the UK and EU. Updates from the Food Packaging Value Chain Alliance highlighted delays in UK implementation compared with the EU and concerns around potential "dynamic alignment". At EU level, FEICA's Packaging and Paper Task Working Group continues to monitor developments under the "One Substance, One Assessment" framework and the introduction of Health Based Limit Values.

The group also reviewed substance specific issues, including mineral oil restrictions in France, proposed toxic classification of rosin and recent amendments to BPA restrictions. The evolution of SRAPPA and preparations for PPWR guidance entering into force in August 2026 were discussed, including the need for consistent customer communication on Declarations of Conformity.

**Further details of these and other issues are available on the BASA website. I cannot emphasise sufficiently how beneficial involvement in BASA working groups is for both employers and employees, and, as always, I encourage members to get involved.**



# CEN/TC 33/WG 6 – Curtain Walling Meeting Summary

April 2026

This document summarizes the recent online meeting of CEN/TC 33/WG 6, focusing on standardization efforts for curtain walling products within the CPR acquis, including progress on draft specifications and assessment methods.

This is covered under the BSI mirror committee B/538/6 Curtain Walling, where Lorna is BASA's representative.

## Main Topics and Developments

- The European Commission official Oscar Nieto discussed the status of standardization requests, noting that the curtain walling family is a lower priority compared to windows and doors, with draft SReq expected for completion by June 2026 and review in late 2026, leading to feedback around spring 2027.
- The EC's reluctance to alter assessment methods for essential characteristics was highlighted, including the need to detail the release of over 250 hazardous substances, which will significantly extend the Declarations of Performance and Conformity.
- The ad hoc group reviewed the draft SReq, clarifying that the term "structural" depends on product use and consequence class, and adding examples of hybrid glazing systems. They discussed the potential use of Eurocodes as assessment methods, noting that while they cannot be directly referenced in standards, calculation results and methods can be included in declarations.
- Specific product considerations

included the incorporation of Building Integrated Photovoltaics (BIPV) into curtain walling, with notes on laminated glass standards and the impact on thermal performance. Resistance to impact, downward loads, slip, wind, and seismic activity were discussed, with proposals for testing methods, including impact resistance using steel balls and sandbags, and the need for validation by notified bodies.

- The group agreed to include details such as glass thickness, configuration, and profile inertia in product declarations, with some performance aspects to be referenced from existing standards like EN 12179 and EN 13116. The durability of insulated glass units and bonding strength standards are also under development.
- The next ad hoc meeting is scheduled for May 2026, aiming to finalize the draft SReq for submission by June. Anne Minne, retiring from Saint Gobain Glass but remaining as TC 129 Convenor, will continue to oversee standards development. Anne is also involved in CEN TC349 WG2 Glazing, and so the Sealants committee has some visibility here as well.

Overall, the report details ongoing efforts to develop comprehensive, harmonized standards for curtain walling, emphasizing assessment methods, product safety, and integration of new technologies like BIPV, within the evolving European regulatory framework.

**Written by: Lorna Williams, BASA CEO**

# Tony's Sustainability Snapshot



**Tony Bingham,**  
BASA Sustainability Officer

Over the past year, FEICA has reviewed its working group and task force structure in the areas of sustainability and environment to ensure it is well positioned to meet industry and member needs in the years ahead.

FEICA's former overarching group for the Association's technical activities, the European Technical Board, which directs the work on the working groups and task forces, is now called the 'Regulatory and Sustainability Board' (RSB) which better reflects its role developing a structure for prioritisation and alignment with the working group topics.

A higher focus on raising the profile for the adhesive and sealants industry with regulators, along with consumers and stakeholders across the supply chain, is has been prioritised and this is reflected in this new structure. It also makes the reporting lines clearer with all restructured groups reporting into the Board of Directors (BoD) via the Regulatory and Sustainability Board (RSB).

Some 15 or so years ago FEICA set up a Sustainable Development Committee to look at the increasing interest regulators and NGO's were showing towards a 'circular economy' approach as opposed to the 'linear economy' most commonly in use. Terms such as 'Life Cycle' and 'Cradle to Grave' were being introduced to the business vocabulary. The FEICA SDC worked on topics such as EPDs (Environmental Product Declarations) for various product groups and the FEICA 'Good News Stories' demonstrating examples where adhesive

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and sealant products can bring both environmental and sustainability benefits to both direct customers and end users of our products.

Reuse and recycling of packaging came under the spotlight as well as developing EU legislation such as PPWR (Packaging and Packaging Waste) Regulation led, in 2019, to the FEICA Sustainability and Recycling of Adhesives in Plastics and Paper Applications (SRAPPA) Task Force being set up. This task force reported directly to the Paper and Packaging Working Group (PPWG), whose primary role was addressing food-contact issues. SRAPPA is now a working group independent of the PPWG and reports directly to the Regulatory and Sustainability Board (RSB).

In recent years, adhesives and sealants have increasingly been perceived as barriers to recycling. In response, FEICA established the Public Affairs Committee (PAC) to engage with regulators in Brussels and promote the industry's role as a key enabler of circularity.

FEICA announced its objectives and priorities in a webinar on 9 April. The PAC has been disbanded and a new Strategic Impact and Policy (SIP) WG has been set up, extending its advocacy role to include development of the Future of Adhesives and Sealants (FAS) project. The SIP WG reports to the RSB. The webinar presentation slides can be found on the FEICA website.

The new organogram can be seen here: <https://www.feica.eu/about-feica/organigram>

FEICA's strategic objectives for 2026 are to:

- Increase FEICA visibility with EU top-level decision-makers
- Ensure adhesives and sealants are explicitly positively referenced in at least one major EU document or legislative initiative
- Secure FEICA's seat at the table in legislative and technical discussions
- Secure the removal of negative mentions of adhesives and sealants in legislative discussions
- Ensure that chemicals legislation is beneficial for downstream users
- Develop issue-based alliances with like-minded associations on key legislative files.

BASA will continue to work closely with FEICA to support and represent the views of its members in the UK and Ireland.

## UK EPR and Cost Recovery: A Structural Problem for Producers

The UK's Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging fundamentally shifts the full net cost of managing household packaging waste from taxpayers to producers. According to the UK House of Commons Library, under the revised scheme introduced in April 2025, producers must now cover all costs of collecting, sorting, recycling, and disposing of packaging waste, replacing the older system in which producers paid only a small proportion of these costs.

This cost recovery model is designed so that local authorities (LAs) are reimbursed for their operating costs, using payment calculations based on tonnage, operational data, and local characteristics. Importantly, these payments are not designed to fall if producers reduce packaging volumes. Instead, LAs receive a basic payment covering their estimated costs, which are largely fixed because waste collection systems (vehicles, staffing, depots) cannot easily scale down when packaging is reduced.

This creates a structural tension: producers are incentivised to innovate to reduce packaging, as EPR fees are closely tied to material weight and recyclability. But because local authority waste management costs remain broadly fixed, reductions in packaging do not reduce the overall funding requirement. Instead, the fee base shrinks, forcing fee rates upward

the following year to meet the same total LA cost.

The 2026 operational guidance confirms that fees will increasingly be eco modulated under the Recyclability Assessment Methodology (RAM), meaning producers must redesign packaging annually merely to maintain cost parity. This is really challenging for adhesives and sealants where the packaging has a technical function.

This can create a "spiral of innovation": each reduction in packaging weight results in a recalibration of fees that may erase the cost savings producers expected, because local authority costs are constant and must still be recovered. This dynamic is reinforced by the fact that the scheme is expected to raise over £1 billion annually for waste management costs, a figure driven by LA requirements, not producer behaviour.

### Is the UK EPR/ RAM Framework Fatally Flawed?

If the aim is environmental improvement, EPR may work; but if the aim is a fair cost signal that rewards genuine producer efficiency, the current fixed cost structure undermines that purpose and may indeed push producers toward unsustainable packaging minimisation purely to offset rising fees.



# Through Thick and Thin –

Those of you who picked up Bulletin 111 at our first-ever BASA Conference in March (and then read it later, ideally with a cup of tea and minimal interruptions) may remember my previous rummage through the earliest BASA Bulletin archives. Having survived issues 1–14 of the original run, the Bulletin then did what all sensible organisations eventually do: it had a rebrand, took a deep breath, and started again at Issue 1 in 1988.

So, for this Bulletin, I'm taking you on a brisk (and occasionally bizarre) tour through the next fourteen issues to Winter '92, when membership numbers were proudly counted, standards were passionately debated, royalty popped in for factory visits, and somewhere, somehow, an "ancient" Papermate pen became a minor mystery of the age. Consider this your guided walk through four-and-a-bit years of BASA life: the serious, the practical, and the wonderfully human.

## **Issue 1 (Jan 1988): Big ideas, bigger responsibilities**

We set off in Jan '88 with ambitions that sound remarkably familiar: a proposal to form a National Council for Adhesives, plus the evergreen question of responsibility, this time in the form of imported hazardous products and the need for labelling in English (a reminder that "it came from overseas" has never been a compliance strategy). And then, because BASA has always had a knack for mixing the important with the illustrious, HRH The Princess Royal visited the Evode Group as part of its 25th anniversary celebrations, proof that adhesives can be quietly glamorous when they want to be.

## **Issue 2 (Jul 1988): Counting members and filling seminar rooms**

By Jul '88, the Bulletin had the satisfying feel of an association finding its stride: 24 associate members, 64 full members, and enough momentum to appoint a new BASA Secretary, David Williams (ex Loctite). A BASA seminar with the wonderfully direct title "Facing Your Responsibilities" drew over 100 attendees, which suggests either excellent marketing or that everyone suspected the paperwork was about

to get more interesting. There was also a very local thrill for the Fens: Swift Adhesives Ltd announced a 30,000 sq ft aqueous plant at Chatteris, industrial news with just the right amount of "look at the size of it!"

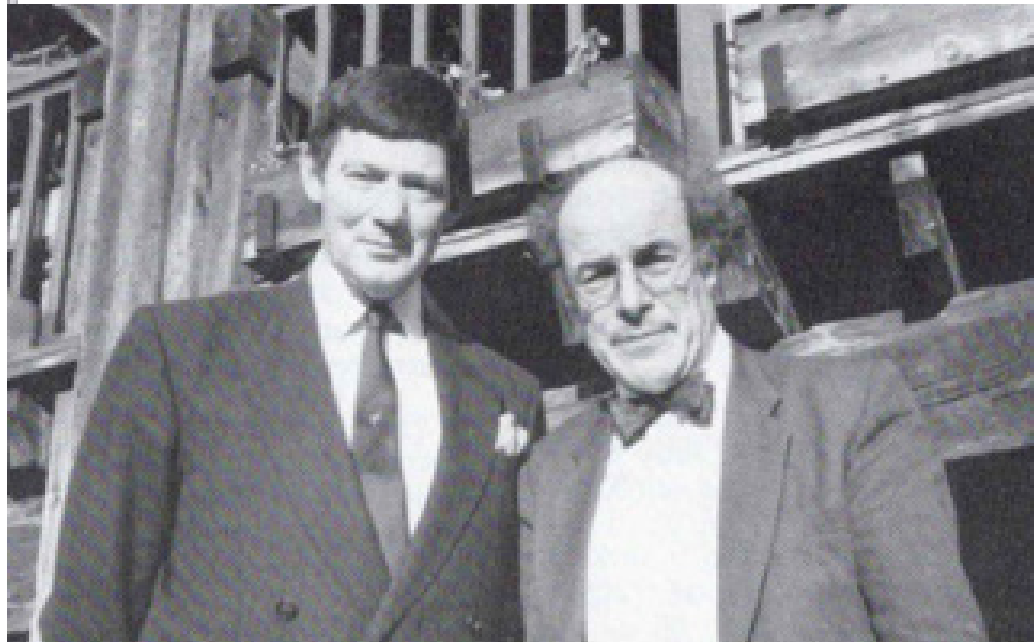
## **Issue 3 (Dec 1988): Lunches, law, and a dinner dance for 350**

Dec '88 delivered the first industry lunch, featuring guest speaker Professor Heinz Wolff, an impressive booking and an early sign that BASA events would happily combine networking with serious brainpower.

## **Issue 4 (Jul 1989): A new Chair and a not-so-subtle nudge on waste**

Jul '89 brought a change at the top, with Harry Werrel taking over as BASA Chairman.

Alongside that was an article on waste management apathy, written at a time when "environmental responsibility" was becoming less of a slogan and more of a requirement. The tone reads like a friendly-but-firm tap on the shoulder: we can do better, and we should.



**Image (1988):** Right; Professor Heinz Wolff, head of Bio Engineering at Brunel University, Left; Alec Crighton, Chair of BASA's Promotion Steering Committee, outside the Dickens Inn after BASA's first Industry Lunch for members.

The Bulletin also carried an article on revisions to the Health & Safety at Work Act, focusing on the transfer of information from supplier to recipient (in other words: tell people what they actually need to know, in a way they can use).

And then, because we shouldn't pretend our industry is powered by regulations alone, we learn that 350 members and guests attended the Nov 1987 dinner dance. If anyone still has the playlist, the archives are open.

## **Issue 5 (Nov 1989): The constitution gets a tune-up**

By Nov '89, attention turned inward with an update to the BASA constitution. Not the most headline-grabbing topic, until you remember that constitutions are the bits that stop everything wobbling when circumstances change. Think of it as preventative maintenance, but for governance.

# A Look Back at Archive BASA Bulletins (1988 -1992)

## Issue 6 (Apr 1990): Environmental bills... and an ancient pen

Apr '90 included an article on the new Environment Protection Bills, legislation that helped shift environmental topics from "good practice" into "must do". And then, in a moment of pure Bulletin charm, there's mention of an ancient Papermate pen found at the Autumn OTF. The question posed back then still echoes today: did it ever get claimed? If it's in a drawer somewhere, it deserves a caption and a retirement party.

## Issue 7 (Jul 1990): A tough year, and a telescope

Jul '90 didn't sugar-coat it: there was an article on just how bad 1989 had been for the industry, and a sobering note on the rise in solvent-related deaths, reminding us that health and safety messages are written in real lives, not just policy documents. And yet, alongside the hard truths, there was a flash of pride: Dunlop Adhesives used on the Hubble Telescope. From difficult markets to outer space in the same issue, BASA has always contained multitudes.

## Issue 8 (Dec 1990): Standards, waste, and a centenary visit

By Dec '90 the Bulletin was deep into the world of ISO and CEN standards, topics that can appear dry until you remember that standards are how we make sure "good" means the same thing to everyone. Waste management responsibility returned too (clearly not a one-and-done conversation). And for a ceremonial flourish, HRH The Duke of Gloucester visited Caswell as part of its centenary celebrations, another reminder that long-established businesses, and the industries around them, have stories worth marking.

## Issue 9 (Sep 1991): Good practice, and sporting surprises

Sep '91 announced a revised version of the Manual of Good Practice in Sealant Application, the sort of publication that quietly lifts standards across an entire sector. Then, in a sudden change of pace, we learn that Sports Day featured shooting (clay pigeon) for the first time. The Bulletin notes it didn't seem to have

been advertised in previous issues, which raises several questions, not least: was it a surprise on the day, or simply assumed that everyone keeps their kit in the boot "just in case"?

## Issue 10 (Spring 1992): New Chair, famous speaker, and a poem about adhesives

Spring '92 brought another new BASA Chairman, Paul Jones, and an Industry Lunch at the National Motorcycle Museum with guest speaker David Lloyd. (One suspects the Q&A was lively.) Best of all, this issue also featured an "Ode to Join", a ditty on adhesives. If anyone ever claims our industry lacks romance, we can point them politely (but firmly) to the poetry section.

## Issue 11 (Summer 1992): Keeping going when conditions bite

In Summer '92, the Chairman's report reflected continued industry struggles in light of the economic conditions. It's a familiar theme to anyone who has steered a business through uncertain times: keep communicating, keep sharing good practice, and keep showing up for each other, especially when it's hard.

## Issue 12 (Winter 1992): Regulations, statistics, and Black Wednesday

Winter '92 captured a very particular blend of the early '90s: confusion over the Construction Products Regulations; Prodcom (European statistics collection) making its presence felt; and a Chairman's message that included "Black Wednesday". It's a snapshot of an industry navigating regulation, reporting, and economic shock, while still doing the day job of making products that work.

## And finally...

Reading these issues back, what stands out is how constant the BASA "mix" has always been: practical guidance, a watchful eye on regulation, pride in member achievements, and the occasional moment of pure Bulletin whimsy. Next time, I'll carry on the archive tour beyond 1992, so if you have a favourite forgotten snippet (or any intel on that Papermate pen), do send it in.

Archive research by:  
**James Williams,**  
BASA's Membership Manager

## ODE TO JOIN, or The IMechE Rag (Apologies to Schiller and Tom Lehrer).

First you pick the finest glue  
Then must clean the parts like new  
Be sure you've got the right design  
Then weigh the parts and blend them fine.  
Apply the mix right on the space  
Where the bonding should take place  
Just clean it up before it cures  
But hold it still while it matures  
Now you go ahead and spray  
Rules all followed - needn't pray  
Do it right then have no fears  
The bond will last for years and years.

(Sung by Barry Hayes of Ciba-Giegy at the IMechE Roadshow).

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## Publications

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BASA Handbook's

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BASA Bulletin 109

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BASA Bulletin 108

BASA Handbook 2023

BASA Bulletin 107

BASA Handbook 2021

BASA Bulletin 106

BASA Handbook 2020

BASA Bulletin 105

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BASA Bulletin 104

# MEMBER NEWS

## EnviroStik has won Product of the Year

We're incredibly proud to share that EnviroStik has won Product of the Year at The Sports and Play Construction Association (SAPCA) Awards 2026 for our latest innovation, Eco-Fix adhesive.

This award is a fantastic recognition of our commitment to sustainability and developing high-performance solutions that support the evolving needs of the synthetic grass industry.

Eco-Fix was designed to help close the loop on our industry for a circular economy - and to see it recognised at such a prestigious industry event makes this achievement even more meaningful.

A huge thank you to our dedicated team and to our customers who continue to support and trust EnviroStik products across the UK and beyond.



Here's to continued innovation and raising standards across the industry.



## Sherwin-Williams Opens New Global Headquarters, Advancing Next Era of Growth, Innovation and Customer Support

*World-class campus designed to strengthen collaboration, accelerate innovation and support field teams closest to the customer*

CLEVELAND, May 11, 2026 – The Sherwin-Williams Company (NYSE: SHW) is pleased to announce today that it hosted a ceremonial ribbon-cutting celebrating the grand opening of the Company's new global headquarters located in downtown Cleveland, Ohio.

*"This grand opening marks a defining moment in the Company's 160-year history," said Heidi G. Petz, Sherwin-Williams Chair, President and Chief Executive Officer. "Our new global headquarters is a strategic investment in our people, our customers and our hometown. It reflects who we are today and how we intend to lead in the future. Most importantly, it strengthens how we support the teams closest to our customers, every day and in every market."*

The new 1,000,000 square-foot campus, part of the Company's Building Our Future project, includes a two-story

pavilion serving as a welcome center, a 36-floor office tower and an attached multi-level parking garage. Designed to bring teams together, the campus fosters collaboration, creativity and innovation to better serve customers around the world.

*"Sherwin-Williams is a longtime Ohio company with deep roots in the community, and their decision to remain and grow here reflects a strong commitment to Northeast Ohio," commented Ohio Governor Mike DeWine. "This project demonstrates the power of public-private partnership to attract talent to Ohio, encourage future investment, and have meaningful economic impact."*

The Company has created a state-of-the-art workplace to serve its customers, retain and attract employees, as well as create opportunities to celebrate the Sherwin-Williams brand and act as a catalyst for future development in and around its headquarters. Since 1866, Sherwin-Williams has called Northeast Ohio home. This investment reinforces the Company's long-standing commitment to the region and positions it for continued growth for generations to come.

*"Cleveland continues to strengthen its position as a city of choice, and the Sherwin-Williams global headquarters is a key investment in our downtown and our*

*future,"* stated Cleveland Mayor Justin M. Bibb. *"This partnership reflects the collaboration necessary to spur job creation, support local business and energize our urban core."*

In addition to Governor DeWine and Mayor Bibb, Sherwin-Williams was honored to have additional public dignitaries provide remarks in person or via video at the ceremony. They included U.S. Senator Bernie Moreno, U.S. Senator Jon Husted, U.S. Representative Shontel Brown, Ohio State Senator Nickie Antonio, Ohio State Representative Terrence Upchurch, Cuyahoga County Executive Chris Ronayne, Cleveland City Council President Blaine Griffin and Cleveland City Councilwoman Stephanie Howse-Jones.

For additional information on the Building Our Future project, please visit [buildingourfuture.com](http://buildingourfuture.com).



# MEMBER NEWS

## Power Adhesives and Antala to showcase hot melt spray technology at the Commercial Vehicle Show

Power Adhesives is teaming up with Antala at the Commercial Vehicle Show, taking place at the NEC in Birmingham from 21st to 23rd April 2026.

The company is returning to the show with its industry-leading Tecbond spray systems and Tec cordless hot melt applicators, which are positioned to revolutionise production processes, reduce costs, and contribute to a more sustainability focused future in commercial vehicle manufacturing.

Visitors to stand 5A21 will have access to live demonstrations of the Tec 7300 spray system, designed for fast and even adhesive application across large areas, and the cordless Tec 808 applicator, providing unmatched flexibility and ease of use in vehicle modification environments.

By delivering fast, even coverage across large surfaces, the Tecbond spray system is ideal for applications like insulation panels, interior linings, and heat-sensitive substrates.

Alex Zulewski, Commercial Director at Power Adhesives said: *'Power Adhesives' Tecbond spray system and Tec cordless tools are designed to deliver faster, safer, and more cost-effective solutions for commercial vehicle installation, insulation, and fit-out applications. The high-speed set and strong initial tack not only streamline processes but also give manufacturers the confidence to scale up production and take on more projects without compromising quality.*

*'We're delighted to be working with our partners Antala, who bring their depth of industry knowledge on the automotive, rail and transport markets to the show, ensuring visitors are met with the highest level of technical expertise.'*



Antala specialise in industrial adhesives, and provide customers with technical support at all stages of the specialty chemicals journey.

Their team, along with Power Adhesives, will be demonstrating its adhesive range engineered for vehicle modification, including Tecbond 440 for secure bonding in vehicle interiors with the Tec 7300 spray tool, and Tecbond 268 for use with the cordless Tec 808.

Beyond the show, Power Adhesives offers a wider range of products for vehicle fit outs and more, including Tecbond 248 for vehicle fittings and interiors, for use with the Tec 806, temperature adjustable 830, Tec 3500-43, and cordless Tec 3508-43.

Power Adhesives is currently working on two new spray adhesives offering exceptionally long open times, which it hopes to make available later in the year. These longer open times will offer users more working time and flexibility with the adhesive, which will bond a range of materials, laminated surfaces, and plastics – including polypropylene.

The Commercial Vehicle Show is the UK's premier event for road freight, transportation and logistics, with 15,000 visitors expected at this year's event.

Visit stand 5A21 at the Commercial Vehicle Show to discover how adhesive solutions from Power Adhesives and Antala can benefit production processes in commercial vehicle manufacturing.



Visit some of our members at CHEMUK 2026:



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STAND: D132



STAND: G124



STAND: J136



STAND: D120



STAND: G130



STAND: M130



STAND: M130



STAND: J120



## Trade Mission to China: Opportunities for Collaboration in the Silicone Sector

16–17 March 2026, Yongxiu County Xinghuo industrial zone, Jiangxi

In March, BASA took part in a focused trade mission to China centred on the silicone sector. I attended on behalf of the UK adhesives and sealants industry, alongside colleagues from the Department for Business and Trade (DBT), Alastair Gardner and Sam Weston. The visit provided valuable first hand insight into the structure, capabilities and ambitions of a key global hub for silicone manufacturing, and highlighted a number of potential opportunities for future engagement with UK industry.

### A well organised and ambitious manufacturing hub

The mission included site visits and discussions with a range of Chinese silicone manufacturers and stakeholders. Overall, facilities visited were clean, well-organised and professionally run, with clear evidence of investment in modern manufacturing practices. Particular emphasis was placed on emissions management at site level, with visible controls in place and strong awareness of the importance of environmental performance.

This focus reflects the growing priority placed on sustainability and environmental compliance within the Chinese silicone sector. For UK manufacturers and downstream users, this is an encouraging signal that many Chinese producers are actively aligning themselves with the expectations of international markets.

### Positive signals on VOC and emissions management

From a BASA perspective, it was particularly important to understand how VOC emissions and broader environmental controls are being addressed. Conversations during the visit demonstrated an increasing recognition of low emissions requirements and the need to manage environmental performance not just locally, but across the entire production process. While approaches and standards inevitably differ between regions, there was clear openness among Chinese partners to dialogue on emissions, process control and regulatory expectations. This creates a constructive platform for technical exchange, benchmarking and potential improvement initiatives where UK expertise could add real value.

### Appetite for engagement with the UK

Interest in working with UK companies was evident throughout the mission. Discussions largely focused on the supply of silicone materials into the UK and European silicone using sectors, highlighting China's role as a major production hub with scale, infrastructure and technical capability. Although time constraints meant that conversations were necessarily high level, the well clustered nature of the Chinese silicone industry presents clear advantages. Concentration of raw materials, processing expertise and manufacturing capacity in one location offers efficiency, consistency and resilience that could be attractive to UK businesses seeking reliable supply chains or longer term strategic partnerships.

### Quality, standards and ongoing dialogue

As with any international engagement, quality assurance and regulatory alignment remain essential considerations. The visit underlined the importance of continued dialogue on product level controls, formulation consistency and post processing, particularly for applications destined for the UK and European markets. Encouragingly, there was a strong willingness from Chinese counterparts to engage on these topics and to better understand European regulatory frameworks, including existing restrictions on certain silicone monomers. This openness suggests meaningful scope for collaboration focused on standards, compliance and continuous improvement.

### Next steps for BASA members

This mission reinforced that China represents a significant, organised and evolving hub for silicone manufacturing, with growing awareness of VOC emissions, environmental performance and international market requirements. For BASA members, this presents potential opportunities, not only in sourcing, but also in technical collaboration, knowledge exchange and longer term relationship building.

Any BASA members interested in exploring this further are encouraged to get in touch. I would be very happy to facilitate introductions and pass on relevant details to support initial conversations and next steps.

**Written by: Lorna Williams, BASA CEO**

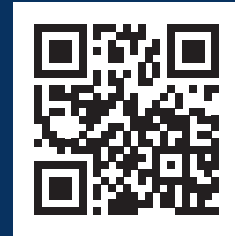
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