

FIT Cancelled – New Dates Announced

The FIT Show organisers have announced the September 2021 exhibition will be abandoned with the event moving to May 2022, in response to the ongoing uncertainty surrounding Covid-19.

Anyone registered to attend the September event as a visitor will be contacted by the organisers to move them to the new dates. There will be no need to re-register.

The fenestration industry's flagship UK event will return to the NEC.

Tuesday 10 – Thursday 12 May 2022.

The announcement follows a lack of clarity regarding restrictions for large-scale events and ongoing disruption to international travel alongside the poten-

tial for another rise in UK cases.

Nickie West, event director of the FIT Show said: "We have been monitoring the ever changing situation in relation to Covid-19 and after careful assessment, we believe that it is best for our exhibitors and visitors if we postpone FIT Show until May 2022. The recent sharp rise in positive cases, coupled with the ongoing ambiguity surrounding what restrictions would need to be in place by September, created too much uncertainty. We have worked closely with our stakeholders and the NEC to create a new timeline that we believe is both safer and provides greater certainty for the market."

This coupled with the stresses on supply chain and a sense that many visitors might not want to

attend a large event created a feeling that a postponement would be for the best. The organisers have worked tirelessly to consult with exhibitors and with the NEC to come to a positive conclusion.

West added: "We will, however, be delivering our CPD approved learning programme virtually in September as a key touchpoint in our campaign, to engage with our FIT Show community between now and May."

The majority of the brands who signed up to exhibit at FIT Show 2021 will move over to the postponed May 2022 timeline. Following the postponement, FIT Show will maintain its biennial frequency, returning for its scheduled dates in May 2023 onwards. [f](#)

Post-Lockdown Boom Boosts Expansion

Ultraframe has announced plans to expand its workforce and cited 'exciting new opportunities' as the driver, along with the post-lockdown boom that shows no signs of slowing down.

The Clitheroe based company is also expanding its operations, with the addition of a 60,000sq.ft facility close by to its 350,000sq.ft Ribble Valley HQ. Commenting on the expansion plans, Ultraframe Operations Director, Andy Crowe, said: "Our growth plan for the next few years will see Ultraframe working on some ex-

trremely exciting opportunities and we're looking to build our team across the business, as well as expanding our infrastructure.

"As an employer of choice in the Ribble Valley, we offer many benefits to job seekers and our existing loyal staff, and of course, we offer this same stability and security to our customers.

"We've been engineering and manufacturing roofing systems from our Clitheroe factory for over 35 years and there are already over two million Ultraframe roofs on homes across the

UK. Over the coming years, that number is set to rise greatly."

Crowe adds: "This latest phase of our company development allows fabricators and installers to see that partnering with Ultraframe offers great stability to their business, along with the chance to offer our constantly evolving product range.

"There are many opportunities in the marketplace right now and we believe that Ultraframe customers are best placed to prosper and build strong, sustainable business for the future." [f](#)

GGF Urges Resolution Of Product Marking Crisis

The Glass and Glazing Federation has written to three different government departments urging a resolution to the looming crisis over product compliance, namely UKCA marking and CE marking.

The marking of products is required to comply with the Construction Products Regulation in the UK and in the EU respectively.

After 31 December 2021, CE marked products will no longer be compliant in the GB market (England, Scotland and Wales) and products will require to be UKCA marked to be UK CPR compliant.

Simultaneously, products exported from the UK and placed into the European Union market will have to be CE marked for EU CPR compliance.

In the UK from 1 January 2022 products that fall under Construction Products Regulation will have to legally be UKCA marked.

The UKCA marking cannot be used for goods placed on the Northern Ireland market. If an EU27 notified body has been used for CE marking for goods placed on the Northern Ireland market then the manufacturer can continue to place product in NI using the CE mark. If the manufacturer uses a UK body for CE marking services and they are a UK Approved Body then the product must display the CE and UKNI marks. From 1 January 2022 Northern Ireland manufacturers can only place goods in the GB market which are UKCA marked and supported by a UK Approved Body unless they meet qualifying Northern Ireland goods status in which case they will qualify for unfettered access. For UK companies that have been complying with the CPR and have had their products tested by a UK Approved Body (Test House), it means they will be able to continue to place those products on the UK market

as they will comply with UKCA. However, products that have been tested by an EU Notified Body will have to be re-tested at a UK Approved Body to comply with UKCA standards.

It leaves UK companies with a huge headache and three obstacles to overcome with regards to product compliance. Firstly the costs can range from £500 to £5,000 per product. Secondly, the time involved in testing and compliance through to certification can take three months or longer. Thirdly, there is currently a severe lack of testing facilities in the UK.

On the critical situation, John Agnew, GGF Group MD said: "On behalf of our members and industry it is incumbent upon us to do all we can to resolve this situation before the deadline at the end of the year. We have written to the key ministers in government, outlined the pressing issues and asked for a meeting as soon as possible to find solutions." 

Will Changes To The CIS Affect You?

Changes to the Construction Industry Scheme came into force at the start of the tax year in April which have the potential to impact on contractors and subcontractors who work within the scheme.

David Redfern, tax preparation specialist and director of DSR Tax Refunds says: "These new measures close a few of the existing loopholes. Changes to CIS set-off amendment powers and the cost of materials measures are the changes most likely

to impact on CIS subcontractors. The first change allows HMRC to make real time changes to a subcontractor's CIS deductions while the second change ensures that only materials which have been purchased directly by a contractor are allowed as a legitimate expense.

"Subcontractors must ensure that they have directly incurred the cost of the materials which they are claiming as an allowable expense – this is, of course, something that should always

have been the case. The new measure just makes that explicit.

"As for amending a subcontractor's CIS deductions in real-time – this should have little impact where subcontractors and their contractors have been sticking to the intention of the rules. Whilst the changes will help to prevent errors or omissions in real-time CIS reporting, HMRC can also use the rule to prevent employers from abusing the CIS to make erroneous claims." 