

Workmanship Certification For 13 Different Trades

Jon Vanstone reflects on spending time at UK Construction Week and talks about why Certass offering workmanship certification for 13 different trades makes life easier for installers.

It's no surprise that there have been so many installers take advantage of the wider home improvement market over the last few years, writes Certass' Jon Vanstone.

Rather than just installing windows and doors, companies have branched out into wider areas to take advantage of the opportunities presented by jobs such as solid conservatory roof refurbishments, glazed extensions and roofline.

UK Construction Week

This was made really apparent at the Doors, Windows & Glass Show at this year's Construction UK exhibition (part of UK Construction Week). The show attracts large-scale developers and contractors as well as architects and specifiers, working on huge construction projects across the world. But it also attracts lots of local builders and home improvement companies. Talking to them on the PiGS (People in Glazing) Pavilion at The Build Show, showed us just how many of them started out fitting double glazing and have now moved onto work on whole-house renovations and larger extension projects.

Proving skills

Most installers already have the majority of skills they need to take the leap into this market. But proving their competency in these areas as well as fitting windows and

doors can become costly and admin-heavy if they use multiple certification providers.

That's why certification must move with the times and offer the service level that installers need to gain consumer confidence in all areas of their business.

'For installers who are fitting more than just windows, Certass makes life easier'

Challenging times

There's are some big changes coming in terms of Building Regulations. All installers, no matter how small, need to make sure they are keeping up with the latest information. I have a bit of an advantage here – being a part of organisations such as the Trade Association Forum – TAF, the Competent Persons Forum - CPF and RoofCert means that I often get access to the information ahead of time.

Certass Trade Association

The challenges facing installers was a big part of why Certass recently launched Certass Trade Association (Certass TA). This provides a neutral platform where the Certass team can share our knowledge and give installers real business advice. There are already more than 3,000 Certass Trade

Association members and counting, making Certass TA the largest trade association in glazing.

Insight

Certass TA also gives Certass insight in the industry which helps us to update our certification schemes well ahead of time, so no matter what is thrown at installers by the Government, Certass members are already prepared for the change, and know that they are covered.

Low-cost, high-value

The renewed Certass CQ-Assured Scheme covers 13 trades. This means that installers of windows and doors can have a membership for £23.95+VAT per month to cover their compliance and add extra scopes so that they can self-certify their workmanship on other home improvements, including solid conservatory roofs, roofing, masonry, plastering and general building work. Each extra scope is just five quid a month.

Making the switch

Having all certification in one place saves time too. Making the switch to Certass is easy through a simple online form. Once paperwork has been received, installers can register jobs in as little as 48 hours. Extra benefits include low-cost public liability and business insurance, the TrustMark Scheme and free membership of Certass Trade Association. **i**