

GUIDANCE AND GOOD PRACTICE

Construction Glassfibre Manufacturers Association



Who should read this: Technical and construction directors and managers, architects, designers and site managers.

INTRODUCTION

Glass-reinforced plastic (GRP) products have become increasingly common. To maintain standards, a new trade association has been formed - the Construction Glassfibre Manufacturers Association (CGMA).

GUIDANCE

Standards Extra 44 (April 2009) included an article on the selection and use of GRP dormers and chimneys. The article highlighted some of the problems that can occur with these products through poor quality of design and manufacture or inappropriate site handling and installation. The recommended action was, wherever possible, to purchase dormers and chimneys from a manufacturer who had a third-party assessment for their product or use reputable manufacturers who had products that addressed the issues highlighted in the article.

Discussions have taken place with individual GRP manufacturers about how best to meet NHBC Standards and, in November 2010, NHBC held a meeting with manufacturers of GRP dormers and chimneys to discuss the need for third-party assessments and agree a collective way forward.

As a result of that meeting, GRP manufacturers have formed a trade association, the Construction Glassfibre Manufacturers Association (CGMA). The Association was officially launched on 1 March 2012 and is open to any manufacturer of GRP products, including dormers and chimneys.

CGMA members are required to have their products tested for performance and quality of manufacture.

The manufacturing of the product is also regularly audited to ensure quality is maintained.

Part of the assessment will check that installation instructions for those on site are adequate. Once a product has successfully passed the required testing, the manufacturer is issued with CGMA certification for that product.

GRP products that have a third-party assessment or CGMA certification are acceptable to NHBC and, from January 2013, GRP dormers and chimneys should have either a third-party assessment or CGMA certification. NHBC inspection staff will be checking for this.



YOU NEED TO...

From January 2013, ensure that GRP dormers and chimneys have a third-party assessment or CGMA certification. If you currently use GRP dormers or chimneys, check with your suppliers to see if they have third-party assessment or are CGMA members who are putting their products through the testing regime.

For technical advice and support, call 01908 747384 or visit www.nhbc.co.uk