

Meeting between FPS members and Prefabricated reinforcement cage suppliers

Meeting held in London on 25th June 2018

Present:

Philip Hines	FPS Chairman	Robert Holton	CELSA
Andrew Hall	Keltbray	John Lester	CELSA
Roger Cox	Central Piling	Dave Sheedy	AMCS
Yvonne Ainsworth	JRL Civ Eng	Gustav Jahnert	Bauer
Seamus Keane	Lowry Piling	Mark Snell	Keller
Jamie Bains	Roger Bullivant	Jon Hall	Keller
Andy Street	Roger Bullivant		

Apologies:

Paul Holland – Thames Reinforcement

Introduction

PH explained the aims of the meeting:

- Improve H&S and quality standards of reinforcement cages and improve the working relationship between suppliers and FPS members where possible removing duplication of effort.
- The aim of this meeting was to identify the issues and look at potential ways forward.

Issues tabled by reinforcement suppliers:

- Lead-in times too short, notice of intent to accelerate, having to start fabrication before designs finalised. It was accepted that these issues are often outwith the control of the piling contractor but that improved communication would assist greatly.
- Using lengths longer than 12m – recognition that 15-16m long bars ideal
- Designing cages for piles with helicals not rings to tie in with automated processes
- Formalise start-up meetings
- CARES Appendix 11 & 12 requirements for welder certification standards much stricter. All welders to be re-tested on all welds every 6 months!
- Designers varying cut-off levels for wall cages for every pile/panel even when differences small. Much more efficient to standardise cages where possible.
- Clients wanting different types of lifting bands – inside/outside/triple wrap but then different sizes, welding requirements etc.

Action: Jon Lester will produce a draft of a “specifiers” guide with the aim of setting out guidance on specifying/detailing reinforcement cages with the aim of driving more standardisation from the FPS members improving quality & H&S.

- Audits and inspections of cages – better communication regarding organisation of these. Could paperwork be standardised?
- Audits and inspections of suppliers facilities are common and often duplicate. Could they be standardised. PJH explained thoughts that perhaps FPS could undertake audits on behalf of members so that at least the suppliers did not have 18 different member audits.

Action: PH to obtain TTT inspection checklist and circulate to establish if this could be adopted as a standard for FPS.

Issues raised by FPS members

- Bars and objects falling out of cages. Minimum expected standards requiring tool boards, painting tools, inspections prior to lifting etc are generally in place. Incidents still occur – consider specifying minimum bar length as these are easily missed during fixing & inspections.
- Both CELSA and AMCS recognised importance of safety culture and developing that in their businesses.
- Sonic pipes – H&S hazard (post meeting note – there are at least two accidents in the last 5 years where operatives have sustained hand injuries resulting in >7 day injuries whilst installing sonic pipes). Impact brackets installed but issues still occur. Advice to not use Dextra tubes as they are too thin and buckle too easily. FPS members to do more work on alternative testing such as TIP testing.
- Splicing systems – users have their preferences and suppliers consider them as their intellectual property. There are risks with the systems especially in relation to tolerances and limitations. Methods should be risk assessed.

Action: YA to check if she can use a review that was produced by BBGE three years ago looking at the different systems on the market and update it.

Action: All reinforcement suppliers to issue latest information of splicing systems to YA to be included within the report.

- We tend to have repeats of accidents/issues across the industry. Reinforcement suppliers to consider sharing of incidents between themselves. FPS to do same with their safety alerts related to reinforcement.
- Poor loading arrangement of deliveries especially with small cages not being safely loaded enabling safe unloading and use.

Action: AS to prepare a “what good looks like” type document for small cage loading/transport

- Varied procedures for control of webbing slings – could these be standardised? Safest solution is to treat all slings as single use but this then has an environmental impact that is not acceptable so more thought required.

Action: PH will add into the “what good looks guide” a proposal about control and use of webbing slings

FPS Associate membership

- PH explained how it worked currently and how he might see it working going forward. CELSA have already expressed an interest in becoming an Associate member.

Action: PH to set this vision out and discuss with members

PH thanked Arup for provision of the room and all for attending and participating.