

ConsultA

ACEI Newsletter - 11 February 2021

Information and Advice for ACEI Members

ACEI Work Arrangements

The ACEI office is temporarily closed. Email info@acei.ie with queries or contact sarah.ingle@acei.ie.

Covid-19 Updates

- [ACEI](#)
- [EFCA](#)
- [FIDIC](#)

Online Resources

- [HSE](#)
- [Revenue](#)
- [Institute of Public Health](#)
- [Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection](#)
- [Health & Safety Authority](#)
- [World Health Organisation](#)
- [Centre for Disease Control](#)
- [Health Protection Surveillance Centre](#)
- [Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade](#)

Revision of Conditions of Engagement SE 9101 and ME 2000

ACEI is pleased to advise members that two Conditions of Engagement (COEs) documents have recently been revised: Agreement **SE 9101** for the appointment of a consulting engineer for structural engineering work, and Agreement **ME 2000** for building services engineering work where the engineer is not the lead consultant. The main changes to the documents relate to: BC(A)R; Health & Safety legislation; drainage responsibilities; removing the memorandum of agreement and the definition of BIM deliverables.

ACEI strongly recommends the use of the new COEs for the benefit of both clients and consultants. They clearly reflect the updated legislative requirements and will be beneficial in the provision of a comprehensive and professional service to clients. Information on how to order hard copies is available on the [ACEI Website](#).

Many thanks are due to members of the Structures, M&E and Risk Committees for their extensive and labour intensive work in making the revisions. ACEI extends particular thanks to Michael Moriarty, Donnachadh O'Brien, Ray Curran and Susan Cormican for their hard work and efforts on behalf of the association and its members.

Minister Michael McGrath to address 2021 ACEI Conference

Members are reminded to register soon for the ACEI virtual conference taking place on the morning of 3 March 2021. The conference is being launched by Michael McGrath TD, Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform. The conference theme is: *Delivery where the only Constant is Change*. New speakers have been added, and further information on these and booking details are available on the [ACEI Website](#).

Land Development Agency Bill Published

ACEI welcomes the publication of the Land Development Agency ([LDA](#)) Bill last week. The Bill establishes the LDA on a statutory basis, and sets out its core goals to undertake strategic land assembly and fully utilise state lands to build affordable homes and sustainable communities. It is welcome to note that under the Bill, the Minister for Housing will "specify an affordability requirement for the delivery of affordable homes for sale or rent on public lands. This affordability requirement can be varied on sites in different areas depending on local housing needs".

EFCA COVID-19 Update XV11

The latest [EFCA COVID-19 bulletin](#) is now available for review. Along with recent EU information and committee reports, included is an update on the temporary **S**upport to mitigate **U**nemployment **R**isks in an **E**mergency (SURE). This has been made available for member states that need to mobilise significant financial resources to address the negative economic and social consequences of the pandemic.

FIDIC Contract Users' Conference Plans

The International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC) has major plans to improve the content and quality of its [Contract Users' Conferences](#). It has been decided to renew and relaunch these events to ensure that contract users are central to the conferences to include sharing of regional experiences. The plans also include the development of a much improved contract user community along with discussion platforms and networking opportunities.

RIA Conference on Climate Action 25/02/2021

The Royal Irish Academy (RIA) is hosting a one-day online conference, [Achieving Ireland's Climate Action Ambitions](#), on Thursday, 25 February 2021. Chaired by Professor John Fitzgerald, the conference will showcase cutting-edge thinking on efficiency, decarbonisation and sustainability in electricity, transport and heating. A keynote address will be given by Eamon Ryan TD, Minister for Transport and Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications. Thought leaders from industry, academia and the public sector will present innovative ideas and discuss climate action strategies at this very topical event.

Climate Action Jargon Busting Website

A new [gov.ie](#) website has been developed to simply explain common climate action terms. The explanations are designed to help describe ideas and concepts rather than to give strict scientific definitions. Also included on the site are clear and accessible links to climate action updates, progress reports, targets and future plans. This welcome website has been developed by the Dept of the Taoiseach with assistance from Comhairle na nÓg, the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Adult Literacy Agency.

Recent Good News

- Over the course of the pandemic there have been many examples of [European solidarity](#) in protecting health workers and citizens. In Austria for example, intensive care patients from Italy and France are being cared for in hospitals there.
- The Irish branch of Norwegian renewable energy developer, Statkraft, is progressing plans for a €1bn [Irish Sea wind farm](#) stretching from north Co. Dublin to Co. Louth. A detailed consultation phase on the 500 megawatt North Irish Sea Array project has already begun.
- New technology to improve the process of [making wood transparent](#) has been identified at the University of Maryland. This moves the built environment sector a step closer to the utilisation of windows that are far better insulators than traditional glass products.
- The Built Heritage Investment Scheme and Historic Structures Fund 2021 is still accepting applications. The deadline for local authorities and direct applicants under both schemes has been extended to [Friday 12 March 2021](#).

NSAI Post-Brexit Webinar 16/02/21

The National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) is hosting a webinar at 11am on 16 February. ACEI members are welcome to [register for this event](#) where important changes for the built environment sector will be outlined. Experts from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and Revenue will examine some of the key adjustments taking place, and discuss how firms can address these in their operations. Topics to be covered include: Construction Standards, the Construction Product Regulation, Economic Operators and Customs.

Don't Underestimate the Power of a Walk

Writing earlier this month in the Harvard Business Review, Deborah Grayson Riegel extols the physiological, mental, and emotional [rewards of walking](#). She notes that as well as being effective for transportation and exercise, walking brings at least five additional benefits by providing perspective, connections, learning, gratitude and productivity. Grayson Riegel advises: "Walk when you can, where you can. Your body, mind, and soul will thank you for it."