

ROOFERS ARE KEY TO SOLAR

Solar installations on roofs continue to increase – still driven by the Feed-in Tariff but more so for the need to build more energy-efficient buildings. The involvement of the roofing contractor in the process has never been more vital.

BACKGROUND

Back in 2005, NFRC participated in a European research project called Eur-Active Roofer, in which it was claimed that poorly fitted and/or inappropriate products had resulted in an estimated €2 billion of damage throughout Europe.

The main aim of the project was to examine how this damage had occurred and to ensure a better standard of installations for the future. Following on from this, NFRC, with ConstructionSkills, launched a series of solar roofing courses designed specifically for roofing contractors, in a bid to make sure NFRC members were ahead of the game.

VITAL FOR SAFETY

NFRC has always taken the view that the best people to install solar on roofs are roofers, especially as one of the most important factors in any construction project is health and safety, therefore NFRC is leading the way to ensure that roofers play a full and active role in this area.

Professional roofers can bring expertise and knowledge. They are also used to working at heights and on all types of roof structures - from small domestic pitched roofs to large industrial buildings - and carry the appropriate insurances for doing so. Many non-roofers may not have the necessary experience or the right insurance cover, and for this reason perhaps above all others, existing installers from the plumbing and heating or electrical backgrounds often seek to work with a roofer on installations.

This networking with other key professional trade associations such as NAPIT, CIPHE and NICEIC is necessary in order to achieve the optimum solar installation.

ENCOURAGEMENT & SUPPORT

NFRC's approach has always been to encourage its members to become installers or to become Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) accredited and to work with manufacturers to develop roof-friendly solar products.

This is why NFRC set up a special Solar Focus Group – an open forum made up of contractors, manufacturers and other co-opted individuals to provide help and support to all members with regards to solar installations.

In particular, this will focus on helping those who wish to become MCS-accredited and, by doing this, will create more horsepower for the industry by increasing the number of accredited installers, giving builders, developers, local authorities, homeowners and manufacturers more choice in the market.

NFRC is already working closely with other organisations with the aim of providing safe, efficient and durable solar installations and would like to invite anyone who is interested in potentially working with us to get in touch for further discussion via email at info@nfrco.co.uk.

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PTO



Media Release

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Notes to Editor:

Images and company logo are available upon request

NFRC is the UK's largest roofing trade association representing over 70% of the roofing industry by value. NFRC actively ensures that members offer high standards of workmanship and sound business practice through a strict code of practice and vetting procedure, including site inspections and adhering to the Government endorsed TrustMark standards. NFRC also offers training services, technical advice, and represents member interests to the wider construction industry and Government. For more information please visit www.nfrc.co.uk.