SPRING 2019

CUTTING EDGE

UK GASKET & SEALING ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER OF THE UK GASKET & SEALING ASSOCIATION



How Members Are Planning for Brexit

The UK joined the European Economic Community (EEC) on 1st January 1973 along with Denmark and Ireland. A referendum was held in 1975 to decide whether the UK should remain part of the Community which resulted in a 67% majority in favour of continuing membership.

Source: https://ukandeu.ac.uk/fact-figures/when-did-britain-decide-to-join-the-european-union/

At 11.00pm on 29th March 2019, after 46 years of membership, the UK will leave the European Union and, at the time of writing, no clear plan has been agreed for what happens when we leave, but it is expected to have a negative impact on the British economy.

Brexit is one of the biggest issues facing the UK today, so we have asked some of our members to tell us how they are planning for this major change in the face of a lack of clarity by the UK government.

Want to share your plans for Brexit? Contact the Secretariat on 01902 283 082 or email info@ukgsassociation.co.uk

For advice and guidance regarding Brexit visit https://www.gov.uk/government/brexit

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THIS ISSUE:

Brexit Plans • New Member • Awards & Anniversaries • New Additions • New Products

REACH: What you'll need to do in a no deal scenario



The Health & Safety Executive (HSE) have provided some guidance on what will happen with the EU REACH Regulation in the event of a no deal.

Extract from HSE article:
In the event of no deal, the EU REACH Regulation will be brought into UK law by the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018. The Act replicates REACH in the UK whilst making the changes necessary to make it work outside of the EU. We will therefore retain the key principles of the EU REACH Regulation, including its fundamental principle of 'no data, no market', and its provision for Only Representatives (ORs). In this note, the EU REACH Regulation, as amended, is referred to as the UK REACH Regulation, and the regulatory system it creates is referred to as UK REACH.

In a no-deal scenario, the UK and the EU regulatory agencies would operate independently from each other. If companies are supplying and purchasing substances, mixtures or articles to and from the EU/EEA and the UK, they will need to ensure that the substances, or substances within a mixture/article, are registered with both agencies (ECHA and the UK Agency, i.e. the HSE) separately in order to maintain or gain access to both markets.

Implications for business
The role you currently undertake within EU REACH may change, in some cases significantly. It is therefore important that you undertake a review of your role(s) within the EU and UK REACH regimes. To maintain or gain access to the EU/EEA and the UK markets, there may be a number of actions you will need to take if there is no deal with the EU.

To read the full article and access further guidance which sets out actions your company needs to investigate so you are prepared for a no-deal scenario visit http://www.hse.gov.uk/brexit/reach.htm



Brexit Position Statement – J-Flex



A lot has been documented about Brexit and the potential implications for UK businesses, and whilst the picture is still very much unclear, for J-Flex it is very much business as usual.

Sam Kirk, Managing Director explains more: *"Since our formation in 1984, we have worked incredibly hard to develop business in export markets and can proudly state today that we are exporting to 57 countries around the world!*

We're certainly not going to let that hard work go to waste, and have already taken steps to mitigate the potential risks involved. In practical terms we're advising that;

- *We will continue to hold increased stock levels on our core products such as; silicone, silicone sponge and FKM.*
- *If required, we have developed a contingency plan to open a Euro warehouse to ship within the EU.*
- *We will continue to comply & actively supply European Standards where applicable.*
- *We will continue to invoice and receive payments in Euros.*

Although a great deal of uncertainty exists, we remain focussed on the factors that won't change, such as the world-class customer service our clients come to expect from J-Flex, and working together with our customers to provide the best solution".

Brexit Position Statement - MacLellan Rubber



We all eagerly await clarification from Government on longer term plans for Britain's exit from the European Union.

However, MacLellan Rubber has worked to identify the issues that could possibly arise in the event of an orderly or disorderly exit and is working to mitigate these as far as it possibly can.

RAW MATERIAL LEAD TIMES
Potential Problem: We recognise that Raw Materials delays could arise due to extended shipping times caused by additional import & export documentation and/or port backlogs and delays.

Actions Taken: Stock levels are being increased to mitigate risk. Key customers are being canvassed to understand stock requirements & forecasts.

INCREASED COSTS
Potential Problem: Costs could significantly rise due to further de-valuation of Sterling against the euro and other worldwide currencies as well as the risk of additional duties.

Actions Taken: Increased Stock Levels purchased prior to Brexit will allow for notice to be given to customers of a need to increase pricing. Whilst we make significant purchases from the European Union, alternative world-wide sources exist for most product lines where duties are already absorbed. Active discussions are already taking place with European Partners over future trading relationships, and whilst this will not allow for us to avoid duties, we do believe an active discussion will ease the transition. We cannot, however, rule out price increases in the medium to long term.

CHANGES TO STANDARDS & APPROVALS
Potential Problem: Doubts remain about medium and long term adoption of European Standards into UK Law.

Actions Taken: As with many discontinued or expired Standards, MacLellan will retain the ability to manufacture to Standards from all around the world including BS, EN, ISO, DTD, Mil and ASTM. MacLellan will also be at the ready to manufacture to any new Standards that may be throughout the world. MacLellan Rubber intend to stay compliant with REACH Regulations for the foreseeable future.

PERSONNEL
MacLellan Rubber are not exposed to any risk related to EU withdrawal.

MacLellan rubber

Brexit Position Statement – William Johnston & Company Limited



Scottish based William Johnston & Company Limited share their view on how they are planning for Brexit.

How is availability of goods / services impacted by changes in demand or supply risks?
Customs activity and border controls will increase in the event of a no deal Brexit which will lengthen lead times for imported raw materials and finished products to an extent which cannot be gauged at present.

Is the availability of goods / services impacted by the wider economic risk - i.e. could you move elsewhere?
Varying economic forecasts make this difficult to assess, but we will not be moving out with the UK.

What is the forecasted impact of a Hard Brexit on the availability of your labour force?
As we employ mainly local UK domiciled labour there will be little or no impact.

What is your risk mitigation strategy? Do you have plans in place to support additional stock-holding?
Our main focus is working with our customers to understand their requirements for 2019 post Brexit and, subject to space and funding availability, increasing stock levels as required.

Do you currently export any products?
Exports of gaskets, seals, joints and related products amount to about 7% of turnover.

Are there any other Brexit risks that could impact on customers?
Any Brexit deal is likely to devalue Sterling against the Euro, USD and other global currencies which will increase our costs for imported raw materials and finished products to an extent which cannot be gauged at present.

WILLIAM JOHNSTON
& COMPANY LIMITED

Message from the Chairman



Simon Winfield
Chair, UKGSA
Director, MacLellan Rubber

As we move into 2019, the media storm that surrounds everything Brexit, the uncertainty, the doom and gloom, continues unabated.

However the commentary from within our industry is that in many cases companies are booming – especially those operating within the automotive sector – an area of special attention for many commentators.

When I hear comments like record January sales and strong forward order books, we have to acknowledge that the UK is still very much open for business and, despite the best efforts of many in government, still a competitive and world class manufacturing location.

I think we have to recognise that there is a Brexit premium for many businesses, as major operators stock up ahead of any anticipated problems post 'B' day. But equally there appear to be many new opportunities as companies push forward plans for new products, introduce new technology and develop new supply chains.

The UKGSA continues to improve its support for members, promoting their strengths, supporting their marketing and encouraging co-operation. To this end we will shortly be launching a new website that will further improve the visibility of members and promote their capabilities to a wider audience.

With new members bringing further diversity in the materials and products represented within the association, and an increase in the technical events programme for education and networking, we aim to attract more global interest in our members.

I look forward to meeting those of you attending our visit to Clwyd Compounders in March, and for those not able to make the journey I look forward to seeing you on my travels.



Welcome to New Member

We're delighted to welcome Kem-tron Sealing Ltd as the latest new Member to join the UK Gasket & Sealing Association.

Based in Birmingham, Kem-tron Sealing is a new company in the UK, but has deep roots in the sealing industry and forms part of a larger group of companies with offices in Ireland, New Zealand, USA, South Africa, Namibia, Mozambique and Swaziland, giving them a unique perspective and approach to sealing solutions and the challenges the industry faces.

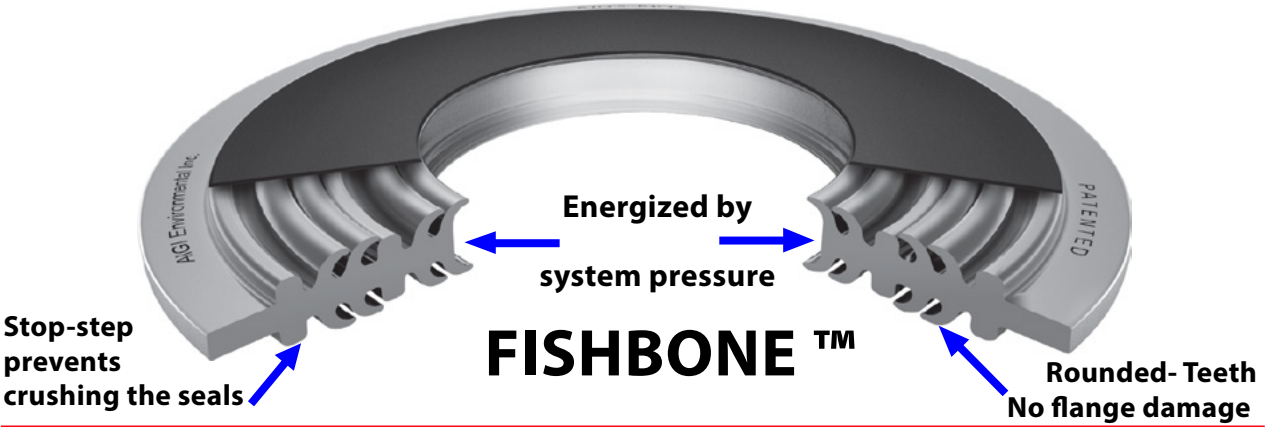
Kem-tron Sealing select only the most progressive and pioneering products to supply their customers, and are continually seeking new products to add to their portfolio. Product ranges include gaskets, hydraulic seals, mechanical packing, mechanical seals, PTFE seal tape and anticorrosive / anti-abrasive coating.

For more information visit https://www.kemtronuk.com

Kem-tron SEALING

T: 0330 113 4924
E: info@kemtronuk.com
www.Kemtronuk.com

FISHBONE GASKET is the latest and most advanced metallic gasket on the market today and is a direct replacement to Spiral wound & Camprofile gaskets, it has overcome all the design flaws of these older technologies. Fishbone gasket has the ability to self-energize from system pressure which means it seals better and can handle thermal cycling.



Visit our website or contact us for more information

UBA Certified Drinking Water Approval



MacLellan Rubber have added an Umweltbundesamt (UBA) approved EPDM to its range of technical materials for Drinking Water applications.

Whilst UBA approval is essentially a German certification, it encompasses many of the requirements being established for a harmonised testing and hygienic suitability standard under the Four Member States (4 MS) collaboration program between the United Kingdom, Germany, France and the Netherlands. These requirements includes adopting a common practice for the testing of materials and acceptance levels, the specification of tests to be applied, reviewing factory production controls and setting audit testing requirements. The 4 MS Common Approach is intended to be adopted under Directive 98/43/EC when it is reviewed and updated in the near future.

Our UBA certified compound has also been approved to the French Sanitary Conformity Certification (ACS) standard thereby enabling gasket and seal suppliers to use one material to service both of these significant European markets that currently will not accept a WRAS certified product.

For more information on our range of European manufactured, fully batch traceable Drinking Water application materials contact our sales team on 01902 307711 or visit https://maclellanrubber.com/product/q138-uba-acs-drinking-water-approved-epdm

James Walker invests in global gasket strategy

Following hot on the heels of successful introductions of new CNAF, PTFE materials and a range of high-specification isolation gaskets, James Walker is set to further strengthen its gasket service offering with investment in new equipment and personnel.

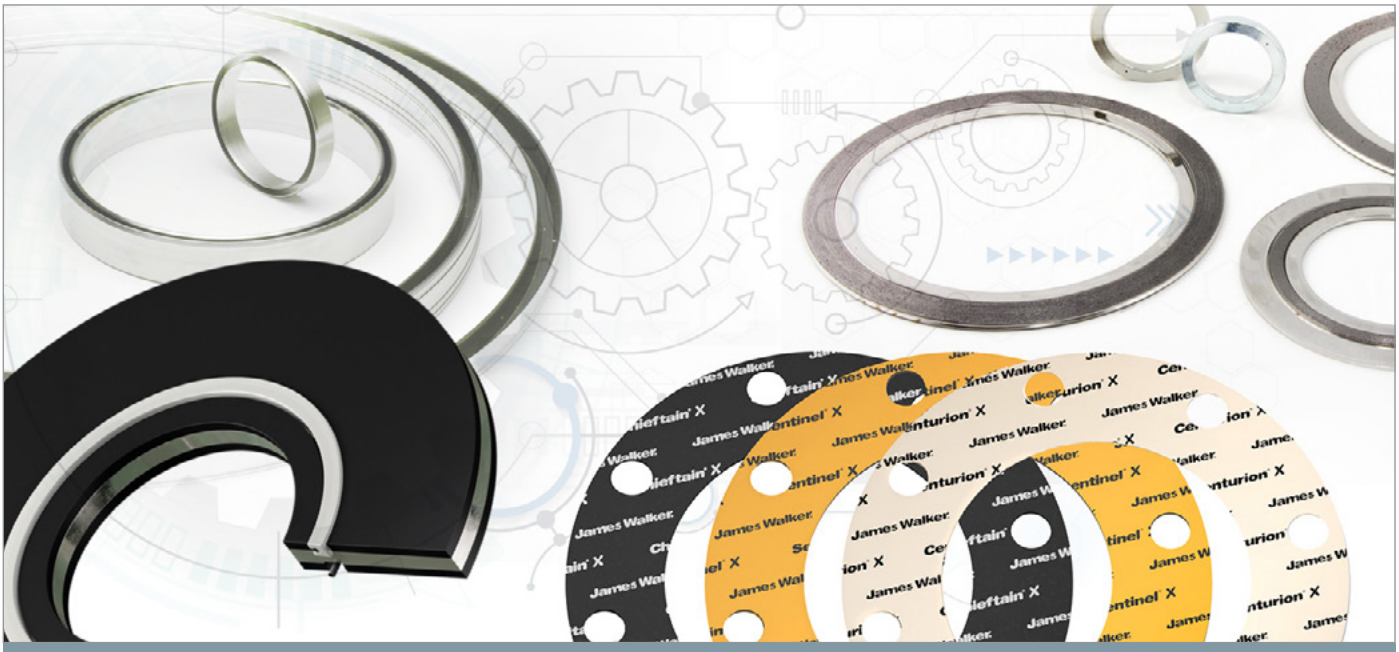
The investment in additional state-of-the-art equipment and capacity at hubs in Australia, Belgium, Singapore and the UK puts the company in prime position to meet customer demand in addition to extending its capability to manufacture non-standard items with a fast turnaround.

James Walker's gasket strategy takes advantage of the business' existing global footprint, placing a comprehensive range of soft-cut, metallic and semi-metallic gaskets and jointing materials alongside the company's established ranges of elastomeric seals and compression packings to provide an unrivalled combination of sealing options.

Product Director Andy Crowther comments on the latest investment; *'As well as investing in additional strategically located capacity, we have also brought-in significant expertise to our business in terms of technical and sales support for our gasket products through the recruitment of new key personnel with in-depth operational, commercial & technical gasket industry backgrounds, to provide world class support to our customers.'*

'This latest activity continues to strengthen our global service footprint and grow our gasket capacity to match customer demands, making James Walker more responsive and easier to do business with.'

James Walker



A comprehensive range of soft-cut, metallic and semi-metallic products plus rapid turnaround of special items backed-up by local service and technical support.

J-Flex celebrates 35 years!

Retford-based J-Flex is celebrating 35 years in business in Nottinghamshire. Founded by John and Jill Kirk in 1984, the elastomer solutions provider has grown considerably since then, employing 22 people and exporting to over 55 countries.

The company has firmly established itself as the market leading brand for high performance elastomer sheetings such as silicone, silicone sponge, FKM and EPDM plus manufactured components including; mouldings, extrusions, bellows and seals.

Having outgrown its original premises in Tuxford, J-Flex moved to a dedicated site in Retford in 1998. The acquisition of an additional purpose-built facility in 2012 – located next door – has allowed the business to expand over the last 21 years without the need to relocate or consider alternative locations outside of the region.

Although the company is 100% committed to Nottinghamshire, an established distribution network has contributed to their increased global presence, with strategic partners in Germany, France, Netherlands, Spain, India and Australia. In 2010, J-Flex India was launched with a dedicated General Manager in Mumbai and a Technical Consultant based in Bangalore, whilst 2017 saw the creation of Global Laminating Solutions, a joint-venture company in Germany, focussed on consumable products used in solar panel manufacturing.

Central to J-Flex' success is their people - their most important asset. People development is central to the Company realising its Vision, with achievements recognised and rewarded. The inclusion of J-Flex employees (and their development) in the Vision has contributed to high levels of morale and loyalty, and as a result, incredibly low turnover of staff – over 60% of people have been with the business for 10 or more years!

J-Flex may well be an established international brand, however its family values continue to guide the company - J-Flex recruit and appraise against their values. The business remains family-run too, and is now under the leadership of Sam Kirk (Managing Director) and his trusted senior team; Lance Bradley (Commercial Director), Les Shaw (Operations Director) & Phillip Wright (Finance Director). In November 2018 the company was Highly Commended in the headline category – Family Business of the Year – at the prestigious Midlands Family Business Awards.



Commenting on the 35th anniversary, Chairman John Kirk said: *"Jill and I are incredibly proud of what J-Flex has achieved since 1984, and we have complete faith in our new leadership team to drive the company forward. We truly believe that their enthusiasm and expertise will ensure the company exceeds its Vision".*

Quality Experience by Keith Payne

In November 2018 I was very fortunate and honoured to be invited to the Chartered Quality Institute awards luncheon. I was invited by Mr Nick Wright the Managing Director of our quality compliance company NQA.

The event was held in the very prestigious Connaught Rooms in the heart of London. The cream of quality engineers from industry was also invited by their respective compliance companies.

Everybody who is anybody in the Quality Industry was there for a fantastic Lunch, Presentation and Awards. The enthusiasm of the personnel from the companies nominated was almost exceeded by the dedication and commitment of the Quality companies themselves, surprisingly!

I was chosen to attend as Keith Payne Products Ltd is now NQA's longest serving customer. We achieved BS5750 in 1989 and are number 9 on their customer register, and this year will be our 30th Quality Audit.

We, as a company, have always taken our quality matters seriously and will continue to do so, however it was good to see that quality meant a great deal to the top management of the quality industry and not just the audit fee!

Talking about the event, NQA said: *"NQA proudly sponsored the CQI awards as our motto 'Never Stop Improving' fits seamlessly with the ethos of the awards and acknowledges the importance of global quality; the International Quality Awards recognises excellence within the quality profession. This year's outstanding winners work across a range of industries and contribute to enhancing the reputations of organisations across the globe."*

Read NQA's full news article (https://www.nqa.com/en-gb/resources/news/cqi-awards)



The winner of the NQA sponsored award for Emerging Talent was Khar Voen (Carmen) Chin, PCQI, Alstom, Hong Kong S.A.R., China.

Keith Payne Products

Assessing Wear Protection Performance

In applications involving wear and friction, using a high quality material is essential to avoid premature failure from impact and abrasion of the media.

MacLellan Rubber supply Wear Resistant Rubber Sheeting with various levels of abrasion resistance to suit your application be that mining, shot blasting, transport, paper manufacture or food processing.

Wear or abrasion resistance as a physical characteristic is assessed on the volume of material that is removed from the material using a standard test method as outlined in the standard ISO 4649:2017. The results of the test are shown as quantity in mm3; critically the lower the figure the better the performance. Note that tests can be completed at a load of 5 newtons (N) or 10 newtons (N) and care should be taken when assessing results, as although the 10 N abrasion number may be higher than that of a 5 N test, they are not comparable.

MacLellan's wear resistance rubber sheeting materials range from an exceptional performance of 65mm3, used in fine particulates and powder environments in the manufacture of flexible sleeves, bellows and liner, through to the more typical 80 – 120mm3, used in mining and shot blasting environments for shot blast screening, impact pads and wear pads.

For some clients being able to differentiate between similar materials for specific applications can be challenging and for this reason, MacLellan's are able to manufacture Wear Protection sheeting in standard colours of Black, Red, Yellow and Pink; other colours are available subject to minimum batch quantities.



To discuss your application in detail please contact our sales team on 01902 307711

MacLellan rubber

James Walker Metaflex® gaskets achieveShell TAT classification



James Walker is pleased to announce a reclassification of its Metaflex® spiral wound gasket under the ASME B16.20 – 2017 standard to fully comply with the Shell MESC SPE 85/300 TAT classification achieving a 'B' emissions rating.

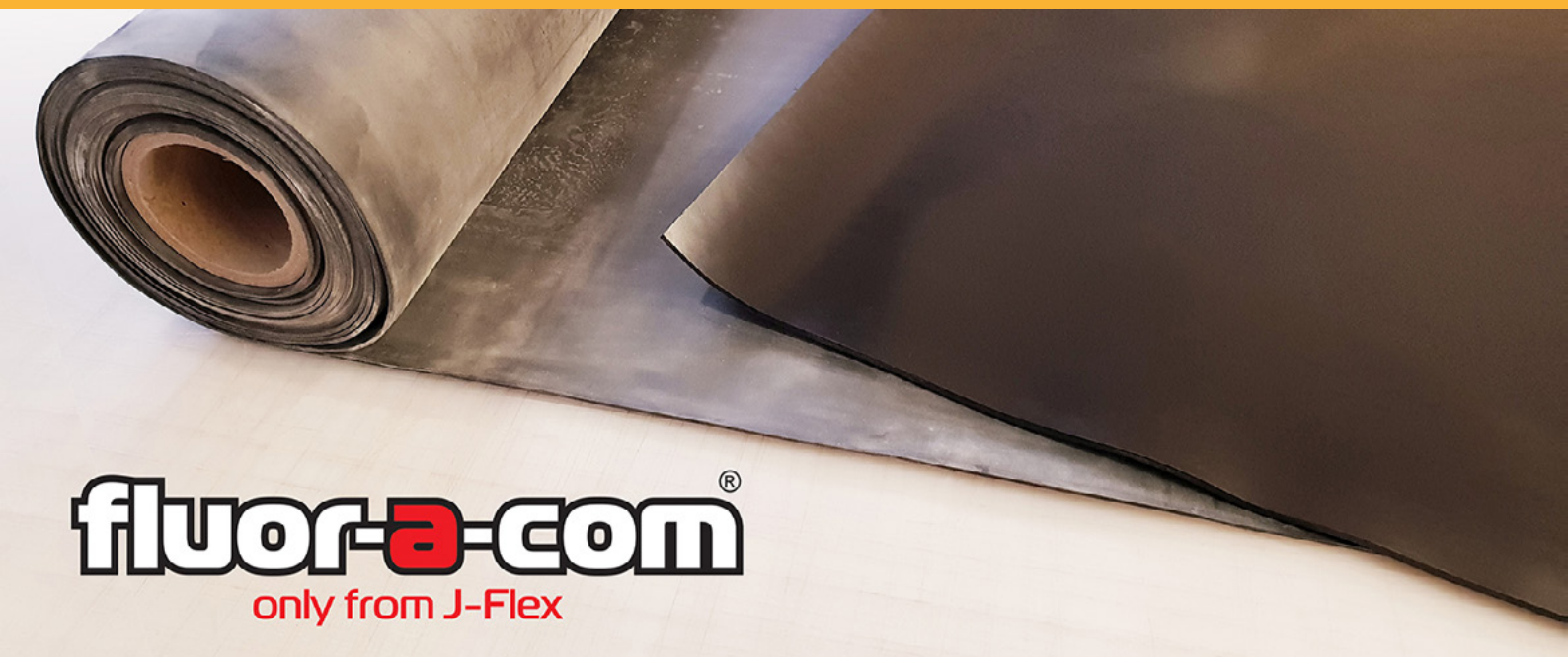
The company's 2-STAR rating in the Shell Global Solutions Technically Accepted Manufacturers and Products (TAMAP) database gives reassurance to clients that James Walker Metaflex® gaskets are at the forefront of quality, performance and reliability for a wide range of piping and pressure vessel applications.

Metaflex joins a number of other James Walker products, including the company's Insolion flange isolation gasket systems, which have achieved Shell TAT classification. The InsoLion® FS fire-safe flange isolation gasket being the first such product from any manufacturer to gain Shell TAT approval.

The Shell Certificate of Acceptance for James Walker Metaflex® gaskets was issued in January 2019

James Walker

J-Flex to cease use of Talc Powder on Fluor-A-Com®



Following trials J-Flex are stopping the use of using talc powder as a release agent on their market leading 'Fluor-A-Com' FKM Sheet Products. This will be a positive step forward for everyone involved, and for the environment.

A simple interleaved liner in the roll will provide a more than adequate solution.

Over the years many good improvements have been made in production techniques and it is no longer necessary to use talc in the process. Talc appears to add no value to valued customers and in most cases is a very welcome move.

Sam Kirk, Managing Director at J-Flex, said: *"J-Flex hold one of the largest stocks of FKM Sheet Products in Europe and plan 4 months ahead with W.I.P. Sheet, so hopefully by April / May 2019 we will begin to clear all talced FKM stock.*

Obviously for a period of time we will have both variants available and whilst it is our intention to sell the talced stock first, we will always respond to customers' requirements to satisfy demands."

For further information please contact J-Flex.

Succession Planning, by Keith Payne

On a daily basis I have been getting quite a few letters in gold embossed envelopes and on high quality watermarked parchment paper.

They have been very nicely worded suggesting that if I wanted to sell my company that they were just the right Chap's to do business with. There were instant valuations available and I would be surprised by how much my company was worth and how quickly that they could sell it. In fact they had a long line of competitors queuing up around the corner, much like fans buying tickets to a Take That concert.

A definition quoted of succession planning:
"Identification and development of potential successors for key positions in an organization, through a systematic evaluation process and training. Unlike replacement planning (which grades an individual solely on the basis of his or her past performance) succession planning is largely predictive in judging an individual for a position he or she might never have been in."

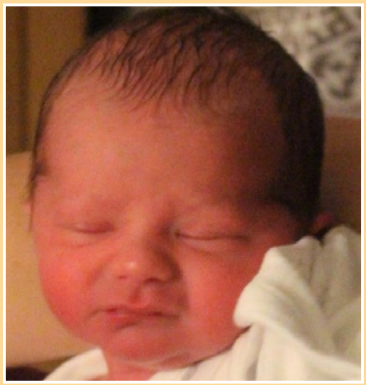
"A hansom fee for us to do this for you Sir! It will be a pleasure!" Yeah, yeah but basically it's all about planning a route out, an exit for the owner / major shareholder.

To sell my "BABY" to the highest bidder is not an option. Some years ago I was approached by a competitor on the basis of an acquisition take over. "Take over" meaning taking over the order book, some of the machinery and closing down as the business was moved northwards. We are in Surrey so most places are northwards. The staff – well, they could be paid off! No Way! The people who work with me have helped grow the company and have added to its wealth- they are not just numbers that can be trashed by new owners in pursuit of a better bottom line.

My workforce has been very loyal and benefited themselves by good salaries and pension schemes. My staff have been with me for a long time, some left school at 16 and they are now 47. Some have even been employed for longer.

I was 24 when I started the business and wet behind the ears. I still am! I hear you say. I served an apprenticeship in a precision engineering company who manufactured hydraulic cylinders for testing stress and strain on electric pylons and auto–pilots for submarines. There were lots of Swarfega and Trichloroethylene, boiler suits for the apprentices, lots of pranks and even a hardening shop that had an open furnace of Cyanide for special case hardening. There were no facemasks or body protection and most of us survived.

It was at the GCA golf days that I discussed the matter with Paul Neale, the previous secretariat who was very worldly in these matters. You either take a crock of gold or are hand cuffed to the business for a few years or you do something else. My business! My Baby! My something else hopefully will work. My son Simon and Warren Saville who joined us after his father Dennis retired, are quite able to continue and carefully grow and nurture this successful business. I was able to draw a salary for the last three years far in excess of a handcuff arrangement and I have still been able to hold onto the company shares. A new 15 year lease has been arranged which gives everybody involved in the company reassurance that we are here to stay. The staff might not see as much of me, however My Baby is alive and kicking!



Talking of My Baby! Here is a picture of my thirteenth Grandchild, Austin who was born on Sunday 4th November about 15 hours old. 6lb 11oz.

By Keith Payne, Keith Payne Products

New Modular Tile Added to Range



MacLellan rubber

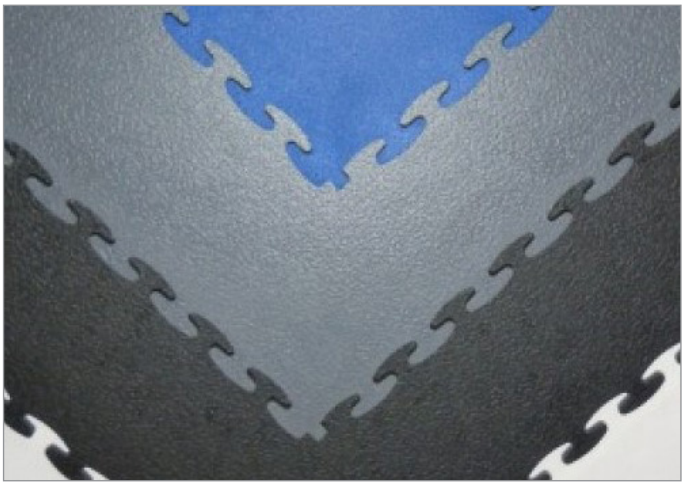
MacLellan Rubber have expanded their product range by adding a new solid Vinyl Interlocking Modular Tile.

Manufactured from high quality virgin compound and 100% recyclable, the solid Tiles are both durable (tested to 3350kg dead load per tile) and Flame Resistant, meeting both EN13501-1 and BS EN ISO 11925-2:2010 quality standards. The solid vinyl tiles are easy to lay and the tile will go over most surfaces to give the ground a smooth, level slip-resistant finish.

Simon Winfield, director at MacLellan Rubber, explains: *"This product complements our existing Checker Tile and Honeycomb Tile as it offers better resistance in heavier duty applications where fork trucks and pallet trucks are operating*. The tile is perfect for protecting floors in warehouses, factories, garages, exhibition halls and sports & leisure facilities."*

The solid Vinyl Interlocking Modular Tiles are manufactured to 500mm x 500mm x 7mm thickness with interlocking dovetails. Find out more about our solid tiles. (https://maclellanrubber.com/product/solid-vinyl-modular-tile)

**MacLellan Rubber recommends users test the solid Tile product for suitability before bulk installation.*



We've been busy working on a new website

We're delighted to be able to share that we have a new website, which we're launching in our 25th Anniversary year!

The new site, which is mobile-friendly, will enable us to improve our online presence and the easy to use content management system means we can share Members' news, promote our Events and showcase our Members.

Visit the new website when it goes live early March and tell us what you think!
www.ukgsassociation.co.uk



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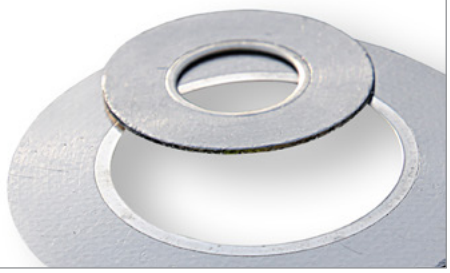
METALLIC EYELETING

V-Seal Ltd are now manufacturing in house eyelets on a range of soft cut fibre and graphite materials.

In addition to reducing chemical and gas erosion, creep, and overall compression to the gasket itself, a metallic eyelet can greatly reduce contamination of its application and potential blowouts.

This specialist service can be provided with gaskets, or fitted to your own free issue product, always with V-Seal's signature fast turnaround.

With inner and outer eyelets offered in a variety of stainless steels, in addition to specialist alloys, contact Jordon Birks for a quotation on the above number, or via email on jordon@vseal.co.uk.



J-Flex nominated at the inaugural East Midlands Business Masters



J-Flex have been shortlisted in the East Midlands Business Masters.

J-Flex, who currently export to over 55 countries, have been nominated for the International Trade award at the very first East Midlands Business Masters.

Commenting on the news, Sam Kirk (Managing Director at J-Flex) said; *"What a great way to start 2019! We celebrate our 35th anniversary this year, and we have been trading internationally since day one!*

We now have established distribution networks in Germany, France, Netherlands and Australia, have set up J-Flex India in Mumbai with a dedicated local support team, and in 2018 we launched our first joint-venture, Global Laminating Solutions, in Germany".

The winners of the East Midlands Business Masters will be announced at the black-tie awards dinner on Thursday, April 4, at the Crowne Plaza hotel in Nottingham.

J-Flex named in Top 3 family businesses in the Midlands!



J-Flex celebrates after being named in the Top 3 family businesses in the region.

The second-generation family business was one of two companies to receive a highly commended accolade at the 2018 Midlands Family Business Awards in Leicester on Thursday 22nd November.

Despite missing out on the top gong, Sam Kirk, Managing Director of J-Flex, said: *"I'm immensely proud of what we've achieved this year. We unveiled a brand-new Vision and Company Plan in April, and that included entering a number of business-related awards – including the Midlands Family Business Awards".*

Sam, who succeeded his father John back in April, also heaped praise and thanks on his colleagues: *"We have two incredibly loyal shareholders who are committed to business in Retford, and an incredible team of people who make things happen on a day-to-day basis – many of whom have been with the company for 10 or more years. A huge and heartfelt thank you to each and every one of them for helping to make J-Flex one of the Top 3 family businesses in the region".*

The Midlands Family Business Awards showcase the achievements of family businesses and their leaders, giving the region's best run and most innovative family businesses the chance to shine.

For further information about the Awards, visit www.familybusinessawards.co.uk





New Joint Integrity Management software launched to support safe operations

New Joint Integrity Management software, JIMS, has been launched by The Academy of Joint Integrity, a member of the Flexitallic Group, to support safe process site maintenance operations.

The Academy's Joint Integrity Management Software is a new web-based solution designed to enable engineers to maintain a live, real-time register of bolted connections and gasket installations. The technology has been proven in the field with success in the upstream and downstream sectors.

It has been created following detailed feedback from site engineers, who were looking for a cost-effective online system to aid collecting and managing data of breaking, assembling and tightening flanged connections, and highlighted the need for a solution that addresses a number of root cause failures.

Specifically, engineers can register the breaking of joints during maintenance or regular engineering activities to ensure suitable action can be taken, preventing significant interruptions to site operations. It will also help record and identify damage during assembly and incorrect gasket specification to ensure quick remediation.

The software, which is accessed through the Academy website, provides a gasket audit trail for the ongoing status bolted joints and any action taken during their lifecycle. Its dashboard gives an overview of the joints and their status as well as an insight into joints awaiting assurance. It will also mitigate any gasket identification knowledge gaps among joint assemblers and ensure the specification of fit-for-purpose gasket materials.

Enabling the recording and storage of large amounts of metadata, JIMS includes metrics relating to how joints should be tested post-assembly along with expected values to benchmark against during testing.

JIMS also interacts with industry-standard 'flange break registers', which hold the basic details about the joint as it passes through various stages of its lifecycle and are identified in the field using a unique coloured custom-made, site-specific multi tag, which can be detached with information from the pieces used to update the register.

Human Factor studies have provided support to the role of colours in the tag as visual indicators.

Gary Milne, Academy Director, said: *"JIMS is phase one of our continual development of capabilities and solutions that enable engineers and asset managers to effectively deliver safe and productive operations in a practical cost-effective system.*

"Phase two will follow soon, which will provide a calculation engine for torque and bolt loads, for specific flange-bolt-gasket variables linked with phase one to enable self-population.

"As a member of the Flexitallic Group, the Academy is able to provide a combined knowledge of sealing technology with experience of delivering accredited training in joint integrity and gasket installation to produce a practical solution, which provides an important tool for engineers.

"At its core JIMS provides live data that can assist engineers with maintenance programmes and regular engineering requirements and has the ability to support issues such as Root Cause Analysis, Operational Risk Assessment and Operational Assurance Tasks, which are available as additional modules and provenance of all information within JIMS is critical and assured."

For more information contact:
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FoodSafe Materials Help with FSMS

The food supply chain is a global business and has resulted in new food safety risks and hazards as a result of different regulatory controls in different countries.



An increase in serious food safety incidents has necessitated the International Organisation for Standardization (ISO) to revise and modify ISO 22000 - originally published in 2005 - to ensure it is sufficient for today's food safety requirements.

Amongst the many improvements to the scope of the ISO 22000 standard there is:

- Increased emphasis on management to demonstrate leadership and commitment to food safety;
- Resource planning with tighter controls over external suppliers in all areas of the business;
- Two 'Plan Do Check Act' (PDCA) cycles for management and operational areas; and
- A more integrated approach to FSMS monitoring, measuring, auditing and reviewing.

More specifically for sealing materials and gasket suppliers, a greater emphasis is put on the control of suppliers of goods and services with increased documentation of both the decision-making process and product compliance certification with a systematic approach to all activities across the business.

MacLellan Rubber's work in developing a new family of EU1935 certified FoodSafe materials significantly improves the performance of seals and gaskets within the process, especially in reducing leachable compounds including Nitrosamines during production. Coupled with our Metal Detectable and anti-microbial formulations, our FoodSafe materials are designed to ensure gasket cutters and seal suppliers are providing products that exceed the current legislation and offer end-users not only the best product for their application, but complete traceability and confidence in their supply chain.

For more information on MacLellan Rubber's EU1935 FoodSafe, Nitrosamine Free materials and MacNetic metal detectable Nitrile contact our sales team on 01902 307711 or visit https://maclellanrubber.com/food-grade-rubber-sheeting-products

MacLellan rubber

What We Do



Networking Events

Serving our members with activities designed to promote success and growth, through collaboration and best practice. The Association aims to provide a platform for members to network with decision makers and influencers at the highest level and across all sectors of our industry.



Technical Events

Industrial and manufacturing tours or presentations to member and non-member sites. These events aim to give insights to advanced manufacturing, best practice and material technical developments that will inspire our membership.



Technical Support

Members have access to an unprecedented technical resource in their fellow members who are available to offer support on manufacturing issues, material selection and processing, and design & development.



Representing our Members

Behind the scenes we actively promote our members' activities and views through press releases to national and international trade magazines and general media.

We represent our industry to various technical bodies on international standards and actively look for opportunities to promote our values.

We aim to proactively promote our members' views to government and trade bodies and influence the decisions of those organisations to the benefit of our members.



Marketing Support

We actively use social media (Twitter and LinkedIn) and encourage all of our members to follow and tag us. We also publish member profiles on our website in addition to sharing news stories.

We are extremely active in developing strong media relationships with all of the mainstream manufacturing and engineering publications.

We also send out regular email newsletters to our members and our wider industry contacts with a variety of information as well as member news features.



Procurement Support

Through our affiliation with the British Standards Institute members are able to acquire electronic copies of UK, European and International standards at discounted prices.

Members have access to the Joined Up Thinking Buying Group giving access to hundreds of suppliers, products and services which are being constantly benchmarking to make sure members receive the very best value for money. The service offered by Joined Up Thinking is Free-of-Charge to our members.



Charitable Giving

We aim to support our chosen charity – Macmillan Cancer Support – through fundraising activities undertaken at our events, such as our annual charity dinner, and directly by our members.

Two new additions at J-Flex!



Retford based J-Flex has recruited a familiar face as its new Marketing Manager.

Neil Duckmanton, founder of Upbeat Design, has joined the family-run business to head up their Marketing department.

He has worked alongside J-Flex for over 30 years providing graphic design, web design and print services to the company.

Sam Kirk, Managing Director at J-Flex, said: *"I am absolutely thrilled to welcome Neil to J-Flex. His creative flair and experience will ensure our marketing strategy continues to evolve and enhance our reputation as a market leading company.*

Neil shares our values and is excited by the vision we are committed to delivering in the coming years. He understands the products and markets, and has already developed a fantastic relationship with our team, having contributed enormously to our marketing output over the last 30 years".

Looking for a better work/life balance and a new challenge that would enable him to utilise his key strengths and abilities, Neil approached the company to float a proposal by them, unaware of their plans to appoint a Marketing Manager within the next 12-18 months. The J-Flex Leadership Team agreed he would be the perfect person to fill the role and decided to bring their plans forward to make it happen.

Talking about the move, Neil said: *"I have always got on really well with the team at J-Flex. The way the company is run, the standards they work to, the people, the culture and the way they work are just some of the reasons why I've always admired the company – it resonates very much with the way I have always tried to operate. We share the same values and approach to customer service, so I was delighted to find out they felt the same way about my proposal".*

Also joining J-Flex is recent graduate Amy Street, who has joined the company as Sales Administrator.

Welcoming Amy to the business, Managing Director Sam Kirk said: *"Prior to joining J-Flex, Amy worked in a nearby petrol station and was spotted by a number of my colleagues who were impressed by her enthusiasm, willingness to help and pleasant nature when dealing with customers. She was the ideal candidate for the role and we're delighted she's joined our team".*

Commenting on the move, Amy said: *"It meant a lot to me to be noticed for my customer service skills. J-Flex have given me a tremendous opportunity to develop and try something new. I am surrounded by people who deliver the highest quality service and it's an absolute pleasure to work alongside them. Everyone has been so welcoming and helpful".*

Dates for your Diary

21st March 2019

Technical Visit to Clwyd Compounders Ltd from 10:30am including lunch



Clwyd Compounders supply quality compounds to industry and are based in Wrexham, Clwyd. They are hosting a tour of their facilities, a presentation and lunch. The event is free for members (up to two delegates); non-members £10 per person. Contact the Secretariat to book your place.

27th June 2019

Annual Golf Day



The golf day will be at member's favourite, Shrigley Hall Hotel & Spa, near Macclesfield. Ticket options include Golf or Spa, fundraising dinner & accommodation. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

3rd October 2019

Annual Race Night at Wolverhampton Racecourse from 4pm



Ticket includes private suite with balcony opposite winning post, entry to Premier enclosure, four course meal, race cards and drinks. Holiday Inn hotel is situated on site next to the racecourse.

Member Benefit: UKGSA Buying Group

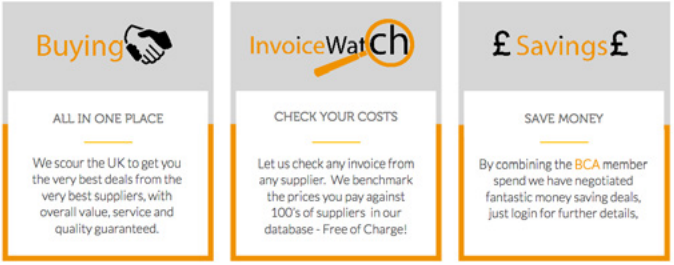
Have you tried the UKGSA Buying Group?

We have launched our own 'Buying Group' to make available cost savings to all UKGSA members.

Join Up Thinking have a database of suppliers, products and services and are constantly benchmarking deals to make sure members receive the very best value for money. The services offered by Joined Up Thinking are free of charge to our members.

You can also use their 'Invoice Watch' service. Simply send them a copy invoice of a recent product or service you have purchased, and they will check to make sure you received the best value for money.

Visit the secure portal at:
http://ukgsportal.co.uk and request log in details.



Keep in touch!

If you would like to sign up to our mailing list, please subscribe at: http://www.ukgsassociation.co.uk/subscribe

Follow us

Want to connect with the UKGSA and keep up to date with news and activities?

We've now got a LinkedIn Company page:
www.linkedin.com/company/uk-gasket-sealing-association/

Or join our closed LinkedIn Group:
www.linkedin.com/groups/4707335

Follow us on Twitter:
@UKGSAssoc

UK GASKET & SEALING ASSOCIATION

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