



SMALL BUT DEDICATED GROUP PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR PLUMBING AND HEATING CONTRACTORS...

Merger of Associations leads to creation of dynamic new group

Work is continuing apace following the merger of two of the main representative bodies for the plumbing and heating industries in Ireland.

The Association of Plumbing and Heating Contractors Ireland (APHCI) and Heating and Plumbing Association Ireland (HAPAI) pooled their resources and came together last year, forming a vibrant and more robust single body, with the working title of the Amalgamated Heating and Plumbing Contractors Ireland.

The voluntary Board meets online each week to deal with the huge volume of issues coming its way. This small but dedicated group is currently working with a UK specialist on the provision of a bespoke software and accounting package for members. Richie Burke, who heads up the new

group, said development work is nearly complete and should soon be available for roll out. The group is also working on upgrading the website and online presence and additionally upgrading to an app-based solution to provide easier access and

increased functionality for members.

On the gas/RGII side of the house, Pat Jordan, John Reynolds and Richie are keeping a close eye on developments, following the recent announcement that the proposed non-domestic register will not now proceed, and that non-domestic works will be regulated under the current RGII register.

This group warned that this issue has serious implications for both current registered installers and non-domestic contractors.

Pat is also taking a keen interest in the Construction Industry Register of Ireland (CIRI), which was recently published and

is well on its way to becoming law. While the group welcomed this register from the point of view of the general construction trades, it felt the specialized nature of the mechanical services contractor work may be best served by a separate register.

Meanwhile, the group continues to represent its members and indeed all small and medium-sized contractors at the ongoing enquiry at the Labour Court into pay and conditions in the heating, plumbing and mechanical services contracting industry.

Following an initial very successful trial, work continues on the development of a webinar system to keep members up to date, particularly in relation to SR50 and other evolving standards, along with a suite of certificates for sign off on various systems to be included as part of the software package.

If you have a little time to spare and would like to get involved with a progressive and dynamic group dedicated to supporting and improving the lot of everybody involved in the mechanical services industry, email crozier@aphci.ie

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