



## **Focus on Construction – 27 September 2006**

### Summary

Seminars are a vital way of helping members keep up with technological advances, and our latest focused on the use of fasteners in the construction industry.

CBM Director General, John Houseman, pointed out that Britain pioneered metal-framed buildings some two centuries ago. The technique was used on more than 70 per cent of new buildings last year, with around 500 tonnes of fasteners used weekly.

Technical demonstrations are an important element of CBM seminars, and Roger Stokes and Steve Jones from Tension Control Bolts outlined the latest innovation in bolting techniques. Lightweight non-impacting shear wrenches enable one operator to install and tighten large bolts with precision. The joint requires no lock-nut, but is unaffected by vibration.

Mr Jones said corrosion control was effected by Greencote; an environmentally-friendly zinc-aluminium coating, offering 1,200 hours of resistance to salt spray.

Mark Hayes, from the Spring Technology Institute, focused on another deadly threat; stress corrosion cracking; often caused by acid pickling.

Mr Hayes said diffusion rates were around 100 times slower through zinc than through steel, so galvanising immediately after acid cleaning should be avoided. Any material with a tensile strength of more than 800 Nmm<sup>2</sup> should also never be acid-cleaned.

The session ended with Roger Read, former technical director of TW Lench, explaining the implications of the CE-marking legislation and warning that imported bolts must meet the new standard.