

The British Ceramic Confederation (BCC) is the trade association for the UK Ceramic Manufacturing Industry, representing the common and collective interests of all sectors of the Industry. Its 100 member companies cover the full spectrum of ceramic products and comprise over 90% of the Industry's manufacturing capacity.

Membership of the Confederation includes manufacturers from the following industry sectors:-

§ Gift and Tableware	§ Floor and Wall Tiles	§ Sanitaryware
§ Bricks	§ Clay Roof Tiles	§ Clay Pipes
§ Refractories	§ Industrial Ceramics	§ Material Suppliers

The industry is energy-intensive (but not energy-inefficient): energy bills / taxes can be up to 30-35% of total production costs.

Many thanks for the opportunity to respond to your consultation.

We have discussed the gas quality harmonisation report with technical contacts within our membership. Based on a limited number of responses, we do not believe that the proposed harmonised gas quality specifications would have had a noticable detrimental impact on the processes used when firing ceramic products, either on the products themselves, the kilns and burners, or on the safety of the manufacturing process when using existing, unmodified equipment.

Given that the proposals had the potential to provide increased certainty and decreased costs surrounding gas prices, we would have therefore in principle supported the harmonised gas quality specification, subject to further research and tests.

We would appreciate remaining informed on this matter and would welcome the opportunity to respond to further consultations.

Dr James Beardmore
Technical Officer
British Ceramic Confederation
Tel: +44 1782 744631
Direct Dial: +44 1782 572849
Mobile: +44 7833 059661
Fax: +44 1782 744102
james@ceramfed.co.uk