

NEWS INFORMATION

Sealing of apron stands at Newquay International Cornwall Airport

By Eur. Ing. John Emery BA (Hons) C.Eng. MICE. FIHT

QSANDBOND, a block paving sealer exclusively marketed by QSS Ltd. of Bedford was chosen as the sealant for two new apron stands at Newquay International Cornwall Airport. Over 4,500 m² of block paving was coated with nearly two tonnes of SANDBOND to seal and stabilise the sand joints.

QSS Ltd undertook to supply and apply 'QSANDBOND' complying with the strict requirements of the Ministry of Defence (MOD) Specification 035, "Concrete block paving for airfields". The sealing work had to be carried out during February, probably the most difficult time of the year for this type of work. The sealer had to be applied in dry conditions and at temperatures above 50 C. To facilitate this, QSS Ltd. made use of the services of 'WeatherQuest Ltd' based at the University of East Anglia in the School of Environmental Science'. Jim Bacon, their Managing Director was able to provide them with accurate weather updates and a half-hour notice of any impending rain/snow storms. The sealer was applied at the rate of 2.3 m²/litre to ensure compliance with the required sealer penetration of 15 mm into the joints of the block paving.

Newquay Cornwall International Airport currently shares its runway and other facilities with RAF St. Mawgan, a Search and Rescue base using Sea King helicopters. As part of Defence cuts, RAF operational flying at this base will cease in 2006 and the Airport will then have to provide its own maintenance, fire-fighter cover and air traffic control. To reach Civil Aviation Authority standards, the Airport is currently undergoing a £2.8 million development. This includes the two new apron stands outside the existing terminal building. The photograph below shows the completed stands after sealing by QSS Ltd and approval by the MOD.



'QSANDBOND', is prepared to a formulation which was specifically developed to prevent the removal of jointing sand through the action of jet blast, propeller wash and vacuum sweepers, has been in use for over 15 years and has been used on many major projects including the Channel Tunnel, Euro- Disney and the Chep Lap Kok International Airport in Hong Kong where some 450,000 m² of block paving was sealed.

QSS Ltd. provides specialist services for cleaning most forms of pavement surfaces and more specifically sealing small element paving systems to inhibit jointing sand erosion and ingress of water and fuels etc into the underlying pavement construction.

For further information contact Chris Browne on telephone 01234 306416 or e-mail solutions@qssltd.net

John Emery

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