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HM Government

The Building Regulations 2010

Amendments to the Approved Documents

This document contains amendments to the following Approved Document:

Approved Document B: Fire safety
Volume 1 – Dwellinghouses
2006 edition incorporating 2007, 2010 and 2013 amendments
Volume 2 – Buildings other than dwellinghouses
2006 edition incorporating 2007, 2010, 2013 and November 2018 amendments

December 2018

For use in England*

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Introduction

This document sets out amendments to guidance previously published in Approved Document B: Fire safety, Volume 1 – Dwellinghouses, 2006 edition as amended in 2007, 2010 and 2013, and Volume 2 – Buildings other than dwellinghouses, 2006 edition as amended in 2007, 2010, 2013 and November 2018. These amendments are incorporated in the on-line available Approved Document B Volume 1 and Volume 2 in December 2018. Previous hard copy versions will need to be amended as per the changes listed in this document.

The Approved Document takes effect on 21 January 2019 for use in England*. The 2006 edition of Volume 1, as amended in 2007, 2010 and 2013, and Volume 2, as amended in 2007, 2010, 2013 and November 2018, will continue to apply where a building notice or an initial notice has been given to, or full plans deposited with, a local authority before 21 January 2019 and either the building work to which it relates:

(a) has started before that day; or

(b) is started within the period of two months beginning on that day.

Please note that "building notice", "initial notice" and "full plans" have the meanings given in the Building Regulations 2010.

* This approved document gives guidance for compliance with the Building Regulations for building work carried out in England. It also applies to building work carried out on excepted energy buildings in Wales as defined in the Welsh Ministers (Transfer of Functions) (No. 2) Order 2009.

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Approved Document B: Fire safety
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B2: Guidance

Page 23 Paragraph B2.v: **Delete** '(see paragraphs 7-20)' and **insert** '(see paragraphs 10 to 23)'.

Section 3: Wall and ceiling linings

Page 24 Paragraph 3.8: **Delete** '(see Appendix A, paragraph 17)' and **insert** '(see Appendix A, paragraph 20)'; **delete** 'in Appendix A, paragraph 20' and **insert** 'in Appendix A, paragraph 23'.

Section 9: Space separation

Page 43 Paragraph 9.8: **Delete** '(see Appendix A, paragraphs 7 and 13)' and **insert** '(see Appendix A, paragraphs 10 and 16)'.

Appendix A: Performance of materials, products and structures

Page 53 **Replace** paragraphs 1 and 2 with the following text.

Introduction

1 Much of the guidance in this document is given in terms of performance classifications in relation to British or European Standards. In such cases, it will be necessary to demonstrate that a system or product can meet the relevant performance classification. This will be achieved if the system or product:

a. is in accordance with a specification or design that has been shown by specific test(s) to be capable of meeting that performance classification; or

b. has been assessed from relevant test evidence, in lieu of a specific test(s), as being capable of meeting that performance classification; or

c. has been designed by using relevant design standards that are capable of meeting that performance classification.

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2 Any test evidence used to demonstrate the fire performance classification of a product or system should be carefully checked to ensure that it is applicable to the intended use. Small differences in detail, such as fixing method, joints, dimensions, the introduction of insulation materials and air gaps (ventilated or not), can significantly affect the performance.

3 Assessments should not be regarded as a way to avoid a test where one is necessary. They should only be carried out where sufficient relevant test evidence is available. Relevant test evidence is unlikely to be provided by test standards which have different classification criteria.

4 Where it is proposed to assess the classification of a product or system in lieu of carrying out a specific test (as in paragraph 1(b)), this should be done in accordance with the relevant standard for extended application for the test in question and should include details of the test evidence that has been used to support the assessment.

For performance classifications where there is no specific standard for extended application, assessment reports should be produced in accordance with the principles of BS EN 15725:2010 and should include details of the test evidence that has been used to support the assessment. Further information on best practice is provided in the Passive Fire Protection Federation's *Guide to undertaking assessments in lieu of fire tests.*

5 Tests and assessments should be carried out by organisations with the necessary expertise. For example, organisations listed as "notified bodies" in accordance with the European Construction Products Regulation or laboratories accredited by UKAS for the relevant test standard can be assumed to have the necessary expertise.

Note: Standard fire tests do not directly measure fire hazard. They measure or assess the response of a material or system to exposure to one or more aspects of fire conditions. Performance in fire tests is only one of a number of factors that should be taken into account

Pages 53 to 57 Paragraphs 3 to 21: **Renumber** as paragraphs 6 to 24.

Page 56 Paragraph 14: **Replace** 'see paragraph 9' with 'see paragraph 12'.

Paragraph 19: **Replace** 'in paragraphs 11 to 16' with 'in paragraphs 14 to 19'.

Paragraph 20: **Replace** 'in paragraphs 11 to 16' with 'in paragraphs 14 to 19'.

Page 62 Table A7, column 1, item 3: **Replace** 'paragraph 13(a)' with 'paragraph 16(a)'.

Page 63 Table A8, column 2, item 1: **Replace** 'paragraph 13(b)' with 'paragraph 16(b)'.

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Appendix B: Fire Doors

Page 64 **Insert** new note in paragraph 1 as follows.

The requirement (in either case) is for test exposure from each side of the door separately, except in the case of lift doors which are tested from the landing side only.

Note 1: Both BS 476-22 and BS EN 1634-1 acknowledge that it may not always be necessary to carry out tests from both sides of a doorset. Clause 13.4 of BS EN 1634-1 gives more detailed guidance on this issue, and Annex C of the guidance sets out the rationale for that guidance. Clause 13.4 of BS EN 1634-1 should be followed regardless of whether the doorset is being classified to BS 476-22 or BS EN 1634-1.

Note 1: **Renumber** as 'Note 2'.

Note 2: **Renumber** as 'Note 3'.

Page 65 Table B1, note 1: **Replace** 'paragraph 5' with 'paragraph 8'.

Appendix E: Definitions

Page 68 Definition 'Class 0': **Replace** 'paragraph 13' with 'paragraph 16'.

Page 69 Definition 'External wall (or side of a building)': **Replace** with the following.

*** External wall**
The external wall of a building includes a reference to:

(i) anything located within any space forming part of the wall;

(ii) any decoration or other finish applied to any external (but not internal) surface forming part of the wall;

(iii) any windows and doors in the wall; and

(iv) any part of a roof pitched at an angle of more than 70 degrees to the horizontal if that part of the roof adjoins a space within the building to which persons have access, but not access only for the purpose of carrying out repairs or maintenance.

Page 69 Definition 'Material of limited combustibility': **Replace** 'paragraph 9' with 'paragraph 12'.

Definition 'Non-combustible material': **Replace** 'paragraph 8' with 'paragraph 11'.

Page 70 Definition 'Thermoplastic material': **Replace** 'paragraph 17' with 'paragraph 20'.

Appendix F: Standards and other publications referred to

Page 72 After BS EN 13823:2002, **insert** the following standard.

BS EN 15725:2010
Extended application reports on the fire performance of construction products and building elements

Page 73 Under Passive Fire Protection Federation, **insert** the following publication.

Guide to undertaking assessments in lieu of fire tests 2000 ISBN: 1 870409 90 6

Page 75 Note: no amendments are provided for the index. Some paragraph numbers in the index will become incorrect because of the renumbering of paragraphs in Appendix A.

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The Building Regulations 2010
Approved Document B: Fire safety
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December 2018

B2: Guidance

Page 62 Paragraph B2.v: **Delete** '(see paragraphs 7 to 20)' and **insert** '(see paragraphs 10 to 23)'.

Section 6: Wall and ceiling linings

Page 64 Paragraph 6.10: **Delete** '(see Appendix A, paragraph 17)' and **insert** '(see Appendix A, paragraph 20)'; **delete** 'in Appendix A, paragraph 20' and **insert** 'in Appendix A, paragraph 23'.

Section 8: Compartmentation

Page 76 Paragraph 8.29: **Delete** '(see Appendix A, paragraph 6)' and **insert** '(see Appendix A, paragraph 9)'.

Section 13: Space separation

Page 98 Paragraph 13.9: **Delete** '(see Appendix A, paragraphs 7 and 13)' and **insert** '(see Appendix A, paragraphs 10 and 16)'.

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Appendix A: Performance of materials, products and structures

Page 117 **Replace** paragraphs 1 and 2 with the following text.

Introduction

1 Much of the guidance in this document is given in terms of performance classifications in relation to British or European Standards. In such cases, it will be necessary to demonstrate that a system or product can meet the relevant performance classification. This will be achieved if the system or product:

a. is in accordance with a specification or design that has been shown by specific test(s) to be capable of meeting that performance classification; or

b. has been assessed from relevant test evidence, in lieu of a specific test(s), as being capable of meeting that performance classification; or

c. has been designed by using relevant design standards that are capable of meeting that performance classification.

2 Any test evidence used to demonstrate the fire performance classification of a product or system should be carefully checked to ensure that it is applicable to the intended use. Small differences in detail, such as fixing method, joints, dimensions, the introduction of insulation materials and air gaps (ventilated or not), can significantly affect the performance.

3 Assessments should not be regarded as a way to avoid a test where one is necessary. They should only be carried out where sufficient relevant test evidence is available. Relevant test evidence is unlikely to be provided by test standards which have different classification criteria.

4 Where it is proposed to assess the classification of a product or system in lieu of carrying out a specific test (as in paragraph 1(b)), this should be done in accordance with the relevant standard for extended application for the test in question and should include details of the test evidence that has been used to support the assessment.

For performance classifications where there is no specific standard for extended application, assessment reports should be produced in accordance with the principles of BS EN 15725:2010 and should include details of the test evidence that has been used to support the assessment. Further information on best practice is provided in the Passive Fire Protection Federation's *Guide to undertaking assessments in lieu of fire tests.*

Note: Regulation 7(2) limits components used in or on the external walls of certain buildings to materials achieving European classification Class A2-s1, d0 or Class A1 (see Section 12). Assessments cannot be used to demonstrate compliance with this requirement.

5 Tests and assessments should be carried out by organisations with the necessary expertise. For example, organisations listed as "notified bodies" in accordance with the European Construction Products Regulation or laboratories accredited by UKAS for the relevant test standard can be assumed to have the necessary expertise.

Note: Standard fire tests do not directly measure fire hazard. They measure or assess the response of a material or system to exposure to one or more aspects of fire conditions. Performance in fire tests is only one of a number of factors that should be taken into account.

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Pages 117 to 121 Paragraphs 3 to 21: **Renumber** as paragraphs 6 to 24.

Page 120 Paragraph 14: **Replace** 'see paragraph 9 above' with 'see paragraph 12 above'.

Paragraph 19: **Replace** 'in paragraphs 11 onwards' with 'in paragraphs 14 onwards'.

Paragraph 20: **Replace** 'in paragraphs 11 onwards' with 'in paragraphs 14 onwards'.

Page 130 Table A7, column 1, item 6: **Replace** 'paragraph 13(a)' with 'paragraph 16(a)'.

Page 131 Table A8, column 2, item 1: **Replace** 'paragraph 13(b)' with 'paragraph 16(b)'.

Appendix B: Fire Doors

Page 132 **Insert** new note in paragraph 1 as follows.

> The requirement (in either case) is for test exposure from each side of the door separately, except in the case of lift doors which are tested from the landing side only.
>
> **Note 1:** Both BS 476-22 and BS EN 1634-1 acknowledge that it may not always be necessary to carry out tests from both sides of a doorset. Clause 13.4 of BS EN 1634-1 gives more detailed guidance on this issue, and Annex C of the guidance sets out the rationale for that guidance. Clause 13.4 of BS EN 1634-1 should be followed regardless of whether the doorset is being classified to BS 476-22 or BS EN 1634-1.

Note 1: **Renumber** as 'Note 2'.

Note 2: **Renumber** as 'Note 3'.

Page 134 Table B1, note 1: **Replace** 'paragraph 5' with 'paragraph 8'.

Appendix E: Definitions

Page 141 Definition 'Class 0': **Replace** 'paragraph 13' with 'paragraph 16'.

Page 143 Definition 'Material of limited combustibility': **Replace** 'paragraph 9' with 'paragraph 12'.

Definition 'Non-combustible material': **Replace** 'paragraph 8' with 'paragraph 11'.

Page 144 Definition 'Thermoplastic material': **Replace** 'paragraph 17' with 'paragraph 20'.

Appendix H: Standards and other publications referred to

Page 152 After BS EN 13823:2002, **insert** the following standard.

> **BS EN 15725:2010**
> Extended application reports on the fire performance of construction products and building elements

Page 153 Under Passive Fire Protection Federation, **insert** the following publication.

> *Guide to undertaking assessments in lieu of fire tests* 2000 ISBN: 1 870409 90 6

Page 154 Note: no amendments are provided for the index. Some paragraph numbers in the index will become incorrect because of the renumbering of paragraphs in Appendix A.

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List of approved documents

The following publications give practical guidance on how to meet the Building Regulations.
You can find the date of the edition approved by the Secretary of State at www.gov.uk.

Approved Document A
Structure

Approved Document B
Fire safety
Volume 1: Dwellinghouses
Volume 2: Buildings other than dwellinghouses

Approved Document C
Site preparation and resistance to contaminants and moisture

Approved Document D
Toxic substances

Approved Document E
Resistance to the passage of sound

Approved Document F
Ventilation

Approved Document G
Sanitation, hot water safety and water efficiency

Approved Document H
Drainage and waste disposal

Approved Document J
Combustion appliances and fuel storage systems

Approved Document K
Protection from falling, collision and impact

Approved Document L1A
Conservation of fuel and power in new dwellings

Approved Document L1B
Conservation of fuel and power in existing dwellings

Approved Document L2A
Conservation of fuel and power in new buildings other than dwellings

Approved Document L2B
Conservation of fuel and power in existing buildings other than dwellings

Approved Document M
Access to and use of buildings
Volume 1: Dwellings
Volume 2: Buildings other than dwellings

Approved Document P
Electrical safety – Dwellings

Approved Document Q
Security – Dwellings

Approved Document R
Physical infrastructure for high-speed electronic communications networks

Approved Document 7
Materials and workmanship

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