Y Swyddfa Gymreig
Welsh Office

DETR
Environment
Transport
Regions

The Building Regulations 1991

Toxic substances

D

APPROVED DOCUMENT

D1 Cavity insulation

Amended 1992

The Stationery Office

Use of guidance

THE APPROVED DOCUMENTS

The Building Regulations 1991, which come into operation on 1 June 1992, replace the Building Regulations 1985 (SI 1985 No. 1065) and consolidate all subsequent revisions to those regulations. This document is one of a series that has been approved by the Secretary of State as practical guidance on meeting the requirements of Schedule 1 and regulation 7 of the Building Regulations.

At the back of this document is a list of those documents currently published by the Department of the Environment and the Welsh Office which have been approved for the purpose of the Building Regulations 1991.

The detailed provisions contained in the Approved Documents are intended to provide guidance for some of the more common building situations. In other circumstances, alternative ways of demonstrating compliance with the requirements may be appropriate.

Evidence supporting compliance

There is no obligation to adopt any particular solution contained in an Approved Document if you prefer to meet the relevant requirement in some other way. However, should a contravention of a requirement be alleged then, if you have followed the guidance in the relevant Approved Documents, that will be evidence tending to show that you have complied with the Regulations. If you have not followed the guidance then that will be evidence tending to show that you have not complied. It will then be for you to demonstrate by other means that you have satisfied the requirement.

Other requirements

The guidance contained in an Approved Document relates only to the particular requirements of the Regulations which that document addresses. The building work will also have to comply with the requirements of any other relevant paragraphs in Schedule 1 to the Regulations. There are Approved Documents which give guidance on each of the other requirements in Schedule 1 and on regulation 7.

LIMITATION ON REQUIREMENTS

In accordance with regulation 8, the requirements in Parts A to K and N of Schedule 1 to the Building Regulations do not require anything to be done except for the purpose of securing reasonable standards of health and safety for persons in or about the building.

MATERIALS AND WORKMANSHIP

Any building work which is subject to requirements imposed by Schedule 1 of the Building Regulations should, in accordance with regulation 7, be carried out with proper materials and in a workmanlike manner.

You may show that you have complied with regulation 7 in a number of ways, for example, by the appropriate use of a product bearing an EC mark in accordance with the Construction Products Directive (89/106/EEC), or by following an appropriate technical specification (as defined in that Directive), a British Standard, a British Board of Agrément Certificate, or an alternative national technical specification of any member state of the European Community which, in use, is equivalent. You will find further guidance in the Approved Document supporting regulation 7 on materials and workmanship.

Technical specifications

Building Regulations are made for specific purposes; health and safety, energy conservation and the welfare and convenience of disabled people. Standards and technical approvals are relevant guidance to the extent that they relate to these considerations. However, they may also address other aspects of performance such as serviceability or aspects which although they relate to health and safety are not covered by the Regulations.

When an approved document makes reference to a named standard, the relevant version of the standard is the one listed at the end of the publication. However, if this version of the standard has been revised or updated by the issuing standards body, the new version may be used as a source of guidance provided it continues to address the relevant requirements of the Regulations.

The Secretary of State has agreed with the British Board of Agrément on the aspects of performance which it needs to assess in preparing its Certificates in order that the Board may demonstrate the compliance of a product or system which has an Agrément Certificate with the requirements of the Regulations. An Agrément Certificate issued by the Board under these arrangements will give assurance that the product or system to which the Certificate relates, if properly used in accordance with the terms of the Certificate, will meet the relevant requirements.

Similarly, the appropriate use of a product which complies with a European Technical Approval as defined in the Construction Products Directive will also meet the relevant requirements.

CAVITY INSULATION

Building Regulations – the Requirement

This Approved Document deals with the following Requirement from PART D of Schedule 1 to the Building Regulations 1991:

	Requirement	Limits on application
	Cavity insulation	
Walls.	D1. If insulating material is inserted into a cavity in a cavity wall reasonable precautions shall be taken to prevent the subsequent permeation of any toxic fumes from that material into any part of the building occupied by people.	

Acceptable level of performance

To reduce the risks to the health of persons in buildings formaldehyde fumes given off by urea formaldehyde foams should not penetrate to the occupied parts of buildings to an extent which would give rise to an irritant concentration.

Provisions meeting the performance

UREA-FORMALDEHYDE (UF) FOAM

1.1 Insulating materials which give off formaldehyde fumes (either when used or later in normal use) may be used to insulate the cavity in a cavity wall where there is a continuous barrier which will minimise as far as practicable the passage of fumes to the occupiable parts.

Technical solution

1.2 A cavity wall may be insulated with UF foam where:

(a) the **inner leaf** of the wall is built of masonry (bricks or blocks), and

(b) the **suitability** of the wall for foam filling is assessed before the work is carried out in accordance with BS 8208 *Guide to assessment of suitability of external cavity walls for filling with thermal insulants* Part 1: 1985 *Existing traditional cavity construction*, and

(c) the **person** carrying out the work holds (or operates under) a current BSI Certificate of Registration of Assessed Capability for the work he is doing, and

(d) the **material** is in accordance with the relevant recommendations of BS 5617: 1985 *Specification for urea-formaldehyde (UF) foam systems suitable for thermal insulation of cavity walls with masonry or concrete inner and outer leaves*, and

(e) the **installation** is in accordance with BS 5618: 1985 *Code of practice for thermal insulation of cavity walls (with masonry or concrete inner and outer leaves) by filling with urea-formaldehyde (UF) foam systems.*

Standards referred to

D1

BS 5617: 1985 *Specification for urea-formaldehyde (UF) foam systems suitable for thermal insulation of cavity walls with masonry or concrete inner and outer leaves.*

BS 5618: 1985 *Code of practice for thermal insulation of cavity walls (with masonry or concrete inner and outer leaves) by filling with urea-formaldehyde (UF) foam systems.*
AMD 6262

BS 8208 *Guide to assessment of suitability of external cavity walls for filling with thermal insulants.*
Part 1: 1985 *Existing traditional cavity construction.*
AMD 4996

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