



Circular Letter BC 07/2018

20 December 2018

Re: Fire Safety Issues relating to Timber Internal Floors

To: All Building Control Authorities, Fire Safety Certificate Assessors.

The Building Regulations 1997 - 2017 set out the minimum legal requirements to ensure the safety and welfare of people in and about buildings. The Building Control Act 1990 - 2014 places a statutory obligation on owners, designers and builders to design and build works or buildings in accordance with the requirements of the Building Regulations.

The adoption of the Eurocodes as the appropriate suite of standards for the structural design of buildings/ structural elements inherently means that the fire performance of same must be demonstrated using European test standards (EN).

Internal floors (i.e. intermediate floors) in dwellings are now commonly being designed to incorporate void space within the floor, to allow for ease of service provision. These internal timber floors, constructed of solid timber joists or engineered joists must be tested to EN standards, in order to demonstrate compliance with the required fire resistance, as specified in Technical Guidance Document B - Fire Safety Volume 2 Dwelling Houses 2017 (TGD B Appendix A Table A1).

Industry has commissioned fire tests of timber internal floor constructions in accordance with the appropriate European Test standard, EN 1365 (series) *Fire resistance tests for load bearing elements* in accredited laboratories. Those internal floor constructions, which demonstrated, by test, their ability to meet the required fire resistance (as per TGD B) are detailed in the attached guidance.



Where internal floor constructions are encountered, that are not in line with the details outlined in the attached guidance, proof should be requested from the Assigned Certified/ Design Certifier/ Builder/ Owner (as appropriate), to demonstrate how the floor as proposed/ constructed meets the requirements of the Building Regulations. Such proof should be in the form of fire test certification carried out by an accredited laboratory in accordance with the EN 1365 (series).

Further enquires about this circular should be addressed to Mr. Colm Cahalan, Higher Executive Officer {Tel: (01) 888 2386} or Ms Claire Manifold Officer {Tel: (01) 888 2805} or by emailing buildingstandards@housing.gov.ie

Yours sincerely,

Ms Sarah Neary

Principal Adviser,

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