



Notification Number: 2017/31/UK

Updating references to technical standards in Building Regulation guidance documents; Approved Document A(Structure), Approved Document B(Fire Safety) and Approved Document C(site preparation and resistance to contaminants and moisture).

Date received : 30/01/2017

End of Standstill : 02/05/2017

Message

Message 001

Communication from the Commission - TRIS/(2017) 00221

Directive (EU) 2015/1535

Notificación - Oznámení - Notifikation - Notifizierung - Teavitamine - Γνωστοποίηση - Notification - Notification - Notifica - Pieteikums - Pranešimas - Bejelentés - Notifika - Kennisgeving - Zawiadomienie - Notificação - Hlásenie-Obvestilo - Ilmoitus - Anmälan - Нотификация : 2017/0031/UK - Notificare.

No abre el plazo - Nezahtuje odklady - Fristerne indledes ikke - Kein Fristbeginn - Viivituste perioodi ei avata - Καμμία έναρξη προθεσμίας - Does not open the delays - N'ouvre pas de délais - Non fa decorrere la mora - Neietekmē atlikšanu - Atidėjimai nepradedami - Nem nyitja meg a késések - Ma' jiftaħ il-perijodi ta' dawmien - Geen termijnbegin - Nie otwiera opóźnień - Não inicia o prazo - Neotvorí oneskorenia - Ne uvaja zamud - Määräaika ei ala tästä - Inleder ingen frist - Не се предвижда период на прекъсване - Nu deschide perioadele de stagnare - Nu deschide perioadele de stagnare.

(MSG: 201700221.EN)

1. Structured Information Line

MSG 001 IND 2017 0031 UK EN 30-01-2017 UK NOTIF

2. Member State

UK

3. Department Responsible

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3. Originating Department

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4. Notification Number

2017/0031/UK - B00

5. Title

Updating references to technical standards in Building Regulation guidance documents; Approved Document A(Structure), Approved Document B(Fire Safety) and Approved Document C(site preparation and resistance to contaminants and moisture).

6. Products Concerned

The Building Regulations provide for the health, safety, welfare and convenience of those in and around buildings and the sustainability of buildings for current and future generations. In order to do this they set standards through both technical and procedural requirements for those carrying out building work. Therefore this notification has relevance for services including design and construction services for controlled building works and related construction products.

7. Notification Under Another Act

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8. Main Content

The Building Regulations 2010 provide for the health, safety, welfare and convenience of those in and around buildings, setting technical and procedural requirements for those carrying out building work. Statutory guidance on some of the ways of meeting the functional requirements of the regulations are provided in Approved Documents.

We are proposing technical updates to Approved Documents A(Structure), B(Fire Safety) and C(site preparation and resistance to contaminants and moisture) in Wales. The proposals do not involve policy change, but are based on updating of references to technical standards that were previously undertaken by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) for England in 2013.

The main proposals for each Approved Document are:

Approved Document A (Structure)

The main changes proposed are replacement of the currently-referenced standards with the updated British Standards based on Eurocodes. Other more minor and generally related amendments are proposed, for example, in relation to disproportionate collapse and wind maps.

Approved Document B (Fire safety)

There are two proposals intended to resolve practical problems in the application of Requirement B2 (Internal



fire spread (linings)). Firstly, it is proposed to make a technical amendment to ensure wall coverings are not inadvertently and unnecessarily disadvantaged because of how certain wall coverings are assessed under the European classification system for fire performance. Secondly to amend the existing guidance in relation to lighting diffusers which is now believed to be unnecessarily onerous.

Approved Document C (Site preparation and resistance to contaminants and moisture)

The main element of the proposals is an amendment to align the Approved Document C guidance with the most up-to-date radon maps, in effect, ensuring that the current safety provisions are targeted at the appropriate parts of the country. Other minor amendments to the Approved Document proposed include updating a number of referenced standards.

9. Brief Statement of Grounds

Building Regulations control certain types of building work, principally the erection and extension of buildings and provision or extension of certain services or fittings, chiefly to ensure that buildings meet certain standards of health, safety, welfare, convenience and sustainability.

Compliance with the Building Regulations is the responsibility of the person carrying out the work and the building control system helps to ensure that the required level of performance has been met. The role of a building control body, either the local authority or a private sector Approved Inspector, is to act as an independent third-party check to help achieve compliance. As an alternative to third-party checking by building control, some types of work may be self-certified as being compliant by installers who are registered as a member of a competent person self-certification scheme and have been assessed as competent to do so.

Building Regulations greatly influence how our buildings are constructed and used. As such, they help to deliver significant benefits to society. Regulation can also impose costs on both businesses and individuals. The “functional” nature of the Building Regulations, by having regulation setting out the broad requirement rather than prescribing how it must be achieved, seeks to minimise this cost and also ensure innovation is not hindered. Guidance in the Approved Documents that accompany the Regulations then sets out some of the ways that these requirements can be met although it does not have to be followed if the required level of performance can be shown to be achieved in a different way. This approach provides clarity for building control bodies and industry alike.

To avoid the risk of unnecessarily onerous and costly standards being imposed on industry it is important that a proper cost/benefit assessment and consultation with industry has been undertaken by Government to assess what reasonable minimum standards are appropriate.

It is also important to ensure that the Building Regulations regime remains current and fit-for-purpose.

10. Reference Documents - Basic Texts

No Basic Text exists

11. Invocation of the Emergency Procedure

No

12. Grounds for the Emergency

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13. Confidentiality

No

14. Fiscal measures

No

15. Impact assessment

Yes

16. TBT and SPS aspects

TBT aspect

Yes

SPS aspect

No - The draft is not a sanitary or phytosanitary measure

European Commission

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