



Notification Number: 1998/75/UK

The Building Regulations 1991 Draft amendments to Approved Document B (Fire safety)

Date received : 16/02/1998

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Message

MINISTERE DE L'INDUSTRIE ET DE LA RECHERCHE
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EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION SURVEILLANCE AUTHORITY

EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION
ATT. MS. BAKKE-D'ALOYA

TELEX 001

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION - SG (98) D/50443
DIRECTIVES 83/189/EEC, 88/182/EEC AND 94/10/EC

NOTIFIKATION - NOTIFIZIERUNG - NOTIFICATION - NOTIFICACION
NOTIFICATION - NOTIFICA - KENNISGEVING - NOTIFICACAO - ILMOITUS
ANMÄLAN : 98/0075/UK.

FRISTERNE INDLEDES IKKE -KEIN FRISTBEGINN - DOES NOT OPEN THE
DELAYS - NO ABRE EL PLAZO - N'OUVRE PAS DE DELAIS - NON FA
DECORRERE LA MORA - GEEN TERMIJNBEGIN - NAO INICIA O PRAZO
MÄÄRÄAIKA EI ALA TÄSTÄ - INLEDER INGEN FRIST.

- 3B1 : 9800443.EN

1. Structured Information Line

TLX 001 IND- 98 0075 UK- EN ----- 980216 --- ---

2. Member State

United Kingdom

3. Department Responsible

Department of Trade and Industry: Standards and Technical



Regulations Directorate

3. Originating Department

Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions

4. Notification Number

98/0075/UK

5. Title

The Building Regulations 1991

Draft amendments to Approved Document B (Fire safety)

6. Products Concerned

Materials and products used to address all aspects of fire safety in the construction of buildings.

7. Notification Under Another Act

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8. Main Content

A. As well as generally updating the text, the main changes in the approved document are additional guidance on the citing and installation of smoke alarms in new dwellings, including the suggestion that these should be included in loft conversions in two storey houses. There is also a proposal for the provision of escape windows, or a door, from all first floor habitable rooms in dwellings. New guidance is given on insulating sandwich panels of the type used in parts of food processing factories. It is suggested that thermoplastic cored panels whose strength largely depends on the bond between core and facing should not be used in suspended ceilings other than in refrigerated storage rooms. There is also a new proposal that the maximum unsprinklered compartment size in single storey retail buildings should be 4000m².

There is recognition of equivalent standards and testing in notified draft, but the text in the draft will be replaced by the following, which is more up to date.

"Materials & Workmanship: Any building work which is subject to the 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. These include the appropriate use of a product bearing the CE marking in accordance with the Construction Products Directive (89/106/EEC) as amended by the CE Marking Directive (93/68/EEC), or a product complying with an appropriate technical specification (as defined in those Directives), a British Standard, or an alternative



national technical specification of any state which is a contracting party to the European Economic Area which, in use, is equivalent, or the material is covered by a certificate issued by the European Technical Approvals issuing body. You will find further guidance in the Approved Document supporting regulation 7 on material and workmanship."

The UK will fulfill its obligation under Article 12 of Directive 83/189/EEC (as amended) when these Regulations are officially published.

B. The UK would like to be informed by other Member States of their own standards or regulations offering an equivalent level of safety & security.

9. Brief Statement of Grounds

It should be noted that no changes to regulations are proposed. The draft document attached, whilst having a statutory basis by virtue of the Building Act 1984, is a guidance document only. It is not mandatory. The changes which are being proposed fall into three main categories.

deregulatory measures that clarify an area that experience has shown is subject to misunderstanding, or to relax a particular provision in the guidance that is onerous;

measures in response to changes in construction practice or to fire experiences that indicate that present provisions may not give sufficient protection; and

updating to take account of changes to Standards and other references.

10. Reference Documents - Basic Texts

i. This notification is being accompanied by a copy of the draft new edition of Approved Document B which would replace the current edition if the amendments are made.

ii. -

iii. -

11. Invocation of the Emergency Procedure

No

12. Grounds for the Emergency

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13. Confidentiality

No

14. Fiscal measures

No



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
GROWTH DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Single Market for goods
Prevention of Technical Barriers

C. TROJAN
COMEUR
NNNN