



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

GUIDANCE

Amendments to Approved Documents (WGC 010/2020)

Details of the changes to Approved Document part B (Fire Safety) volume 1 and 2, and Approved Document 7 (Workmanship and Materials).

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Building regulations circular

Circular number: WGC 010/
2020 **Date issued:** 21/12/2020

Status: For information

Title: Publication of updated editions of Approved Document B (Fire safety) volumes 1 and 2 including changes to Appendix A “Assessment in lieu of tests” and updated edition of Regulation 7 (Materials and

Workmanship).

Issued by: Francois Samuel: Head of Building Regulations

Addressed to: Please forward to:

Local Authority Chief Executives Local Authority Building Control Officers
Members of the Senedd

Welsh Local Government Association

Association of Corporate Approved Inspectors

Construction Industry Council

Competent Persons Forum

Summary:

The purpose of this letter is to draw your attention to the publication updated Approved Document B (Fire safety), volume 1: Dwellinghouses 2020 edition including amendments to Appendix A in respect of assessment in lieu of tests and Approved Document B (Fire safety) volume 2: Buildings other than dwellinghouses 2020 edition including amendments to Appendix A in respect of assessment in lieu of tests. Also updated version of Approved Document 7 (Materials and Workmanship) 2020 edition.

For further information contact:

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Building
Regulations

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Government
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The Building Act 1984

The Building Regulations 2010

Amendments to Approved Documents

Introduction

1. I am directed by Welsh Ministers to draw your attention to the publication of Approved Document B (Fire Safety), Volume 1: Dwellinghouses 2006 edition incorporating 2010, 2016 and 2020 amendments, Approved Document B (Fire safety) Volume 2: Buildings other than dwellinghouses 2006 edition incorporating 2010, 2013, 2016, 2017 and 2020 amendments and Approved Document 7 (Materials and Workmanship) 2013 edition incorporating 2020 amendments.
2. The changes made to the Approved Documents only apply to buildings and building work in Wales.
3. The purpose of this Circular is to draw attention to
 - i. Amendments to Appendix A (Performance of materials, products and structures) of Approved Document B (Fire safety) Volume 1 and 2. The Approved Document has been amended to strengthen the provisions for assessments in lieu of fire tests.

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ii. The incorporation of the content of the amendment slip made in circular **WGC 003/2020** to Approved Document B (Fire safety) Volume 1 Dwellinghouses, Approved Document B (Fire safety) Volume 2 Buildings other than dwellinghouses and Approved Document 7 (Materials and Workmanship). **WGC 003/2020**

iii. The incorporation of the content of the amendment slip made in circular **WG 011/2017** in relation to Approved Document B (Fire safety) Volume 2 **WG 011/2017**

Scope

4. In relation to 3.i. above, the Approved Document has been amended to strengthen the requirements when providing assessments in lieu of fire tests. The amendment specifies three routes to demonstrate compliance.

5. The previous provision listed a number of ways to demonstrate performance, for example reference to nominal performances such as Eurocode, BR 128. The revised provision has generalised the test methodologies, and specific routes previously mentioned fall within the three revised routes for compliance.

6. Although existing routes to compliance have been retained the amendments to the Approved Documents ensure that assessments should not be regarded as a way to avoid a test where one is necessary

7. 3.ii. and 3.iii. above, update the Approved Documents to include previous changes made to Approved Document B Volumes 1 and 2 and Approved Document 7 through the issue of amendments slips.

Application of the approved documents

8. The amended Approved Documents will come into force on 31 December 2020 in the circumstances set out in the formal notice of approval in ANNEX A to this Circular.

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9. Approved Document B (Fire Safety) Volume 1: Dwellinghouses 2006 edition incorporating 2010 and 2016 amendments and Approved Document B (Fire safety) Volume 2: Buildings other than dwellinghouses 2006 edition incorporating 2010, 2013 and 2016 amendments and Approved Document 7 (Materials and Workmanship) 2013 edition will be withdrawn on 31 December 2020 as set out in ANNEX B of this circular.

Transitional arrangements

10. Further to Section 6 (3) (b) of the Building Act 1984, in relation to **3.i. above**, amendments to Appendix A (Performance of materials, products and structures) of Approved Document B (Fire safety) Volume 1 and 2 will come into force on 31 December 2020. The amendments do not apply in any case where a building notice or an initial notice has been given to, or full plans deposited with, a local authority before 31 December 2020.

11. In accordance with section 6(3) and (4) of the Building Act 1984, Welsh Ministers approve the amendments being made having consulted with the Building Regulations Advisory Committee for Wales.

12. This circular does not give advice on the technical requirements in the Building Regulations 2010 as these are matters covered by Approved Documents being amended.

Enquiries

Any enquiries on this Circular Letter should be addressed to:

Francois Samuel, Building Regulations, Welsh Government, Rhydycar, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 1UZ.

Telephone: 03000 628232.

E mail enquiries.brconstruction@gov.wales

Yours faithfully,

Francois Samuel

Head of Building Regulations

Annex A

Building Act 1984

Notice of approval of revision of documents giving practical guidance with respect to the requirements of the building regulations 2010.

Welsh Ministers hereby gives notice under section 6 of the Building Act 1984 that, in the exercise of said powers under section 6, he has approved revisions to the documents listed below for the purposes of giving practical guidance with respect to the specified requirements of the Building Regulations 2010.

The approval takes effect on 31 December 2020 except in respect of work already commenced before that date or in respect of work for which a building notice or initial notice has been given or full plans deposited before that date.

Approved Documents	Requirements of the Building Regulations in respect of which the document is approved	Date from which the revision takes effect
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Approved Document B (Fire safety) Volume 1 Dwellinghouses (2006 edition incorporating 2010, 2016 and 2020 amendments)	Part B, Schedule 1	31 December 2020
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Approved Document B (Fire safety) Volume 2 Buildings other than dwellinghouses (2006	Part B, Schedule 1	31 December 2020
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edition incorporating 2010, 2013, 2016, 2017
and 2020 amendments)

**Approved Document 7 (Materials and
Workmanship) 2013 edition incorporating
2020 amendments**

Regulation 7 31 December 2020
Note: Changes within
circular WGC 003/
2020 came into force
on 13 January 2020

Annex B

Building Act 1984

Notice of withdrawal of documents giving practical guidance with respect to the requirements of the building regulations 2010

The Secretary of State hereby gives notice under section 6 of the Building Act 1984 that, in the exercise of the powers under section 6(5), he has withdrawn approval of the documents listed below for the purposes of giving practical guidance with respect to the specified requirements of the Building Regulations 2010.

The withdrawal of approval takes effect on 31 December 2020 except in respect of work already commenced before that date or in respect of work for which a building notice or initial notice has been given or full plans before that date.

Approved Documents

Approved Document B (Fire safety) Volume 1 Dwellinghouses (2006 edition incorporating 2010 and 2016 amendments)

Approved Document B (Fire safety) Volume 2 Buildings other than dwellinghouses (2006 edition incorporating 2010, 2013 and 2016 amendments)

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Approved Document 7 (Materials and Workmanship) 2013 edition

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