LABSS INFORMATION PAPER INFOP28 - 2021 Version 1 – March 2021

Direct and extended field of application assessments

Information for verifiers

PURPOSE

The purpose of this information paper is to provide an overview of the principles associated with direct and extended field of application assessments. This paper will provide information which the verifier can refer to when considering whether an extended assessment report submitted in support of a building warrant application is required and/or can be accepted.

It is not appropriate for the verifier to directly undertake such assessments.

By necessity this information note is a high level overview of various related guidance documents.

DEFINED TERMS AS OUTLINED IN BS EN 15725:2010 - EXTENDED APPLICATION REPORTS ON THE FIRE PERFORMANCE OF CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS AND BUILDING ELEMENTS

Direct field of application of test results - outcome of a process (involving the application of defined rules) whereby a test result is deemed to be equally valid for variations in one or more of the product properties and/or intended end use applications.

Extended field of application of test results - outcome of a process (involving the application of defined rules that may incorporate calculation procedures) that predicts, for a variation of a product property and/or its intended end use application(s), a test result on the basis of one or more test results to the same test standard.

SCOPE OF EXTENDED FIELD OF APPLICATION REPORTS

BS EN 15725:2010 outlines the procedures for preparing reports on the extended application process using the results of reaction to fire tests, fire resistance tests and external fire exposure to roof tests undertaken for fire classification of products and product families in accordance with the various parts of BS EN 13501.

BS EN 15725:2010 makes reference to various further documents, including CEN/TS 15117, Guidance on direct and extended application, this particular document is worthy of specific mention.

For assessments outwith classification to BS EN 13501, an extended application can be undertaken using test reports and other relevant data, and should be carried out in accordance with the relevant BS EN. For example, BS EN 15269 provides a framework for extended application assessments for matters related to the fire resistance and/or smoke control for door, shutter and openable window assemblies, including their elements of building hardware. A further example of extended field of application assessment guidance is given in Annex A to BS EN 1363-1 1999 which covers fire resistance testing.

One of the key principles of any extended field of application assessment is that it shall be undertaken by the laboratory which has carried out the relevant fire tests. If test results are to be used from more than one laboratory, then the extended application shall be undertaken by one of these laboratories and consultation should be made with the other laboratories.

If this is not possible, a verifier should give careful consideration to the suitability of any third party to undertake an extended application assessment in lieu of the original test house. Consideration in this regard would include the competence of the assessment author, their access to relevant data and the nature and complexity of the extended application.

EXAMPLES OF THE DIRECT FIELD OF APPLICATION

The following examples are typically found in fire test reports and are intended only to give an idea of the type of variation which is considered to be included within any direct field of application assessment. The examples

noted are simplistic, generic and hypothetical. Such variations will be explicitly noted within the fire test classification assessment report:

- Classification is valid for applications applied over any substrate with a minimum density of 450kg/m3
- Studs to be minimum 38mm x 140mm C16 CLS timber @ 600mm CTRS, closer centres permitted
- Inner face must be 1 x minimum 15mm Type A, D or F plasterboard with joints staggered vertically, mesh taped and filled.
- The total area occupied by fixtures and fittings relative to the area of the ceiling lining is not increased.
- Downlighters – steel construction clip in type up to 130mm diameter minimum 500mm apart
- Ceiling cavity insulation (optional) – glasswool or rock fibre maximum density 33kg/m3

STATUS OF INFORMATION PAPER

The content of this note does not preclude a verifier from considering and/or accepting any other information provided in support of the fire performance of a material, product, system or detail having due regard to the level of complexity and risks associated with any particular case.