

Technical Guidance Note No. 95/102

Proper Evidence of a Fire Test Result within the European Economic Area (EEA)

0 Preliminaries

- 0.1 The object of this note is to give guidance to regulatory and statutory bodies, building designers and other specifiers, construction teams, insurance brokers and companies, manufacturers and users, concerning technical problems which may be encountered in the specification, design / development, production, supply, installation, use, maintenance, re-instatement or upgrading of fire safety related products, components, assemblies or systems.

1 Proper Evidence of a Fire Test Result within the European Economic Area (EEA)

- 1.1 The only proper evidence of a fire test result is a complete fire test report (see EN ISO/IEC 17025 : General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories, Clause 5.10), which has been issued by an independent, accredited fire test laboratory situated within the EEA.
- 1.2 A valid **fire test report** shall only be reproduced in full by a test sponsor - without comment, abridgement, alteration or addition.
- 1.3 If for any reason there is a doubt about the authenticity and/or accuracy of a **fire test report**, the original **fire test report** must be inspected. Confirmation of authenticity and accuracy shall be made by directly communicating with the accredited test laboratory which carried out the fire test in question.
- 1.4 Because of rapid technological change and our developing understanding of fire testing, the life span of a valid **fire test report** shall not exceed **5 years**, commencing from the date of test. This period may be extended for a further **2 years**, however, if the test report is given a favourable assessment by a competent person with regard to continuing validity over the 2 years.
- 1.5 A 'Fire Test Certificate', a 'Summary Fire Test Report' or a 'Simplified Fire Test Report' are not valid indicators of a fire test result.
- 1.6 Because of widespread differences in fire test furnace construction throughout the European Union - which lead to difficulties with test repeatability and reproducibility (see ISO 5725 : Precision of Test Methods) - a period of fire performance may only be validly claimed if 'actual performance' exceeds 'claimed performance' by 10 % , or a minimum of 10 minutes, whichever is the greater.
- 1.7 A fire test, involving exposure of a test specimen or prototype to 'test fire' conditions, gives only a limited indication of :-
(a) the likely performance of a particular product, material or component when exposed to 'real fire' conditions ;
(b) the suitability of a product, material or component for a particular end use.

1995-05-22 (b)

C. J. Walsh Architect, Fire Engineer & Technical Controller