

Technical Advice Notice

Use of British Standard spread of flame tests to demonstrate compliance with Scottish Building Standards Regulatory Requirement for fire spread on thermoset plastic rooflights

The Guidance contained in the 2026 Scottish Building Standards Technical Handbooks (Section 2) for fire spread on linings of walls, ceilings and rooflights is based on using European EN13501 classifications to define the reaction to fire requirements for internal linings (see section 2.5.1 and Table 2.4).

However, section 2.0.7 also states that the guidance contained within the Technical Handbooks only indicates one means of complying with the mandatory building standards and that alternative means can be used to demonstrate compliance.

In previous versions of the Technical Handbook (including 2017), the requirement for internal linings was defined in terms of low, medium or high-risk material, which were defined by either ratings in accordance with BS476 parts 6 and/or 7, or European standard EN13501 part 1.

Composites UK has been advised directly by the Scottish Government - Building Standards Division (Fire and Structures Team) that the use of these classifications may remain an acceptable method of demonstrating compliance with the mandatory Building Standards contained in Schedule 5 of the Building (Scotland) Regulations 2004 as amended on a risk based approach.

The transposition that is relevant, and which was used for the 2017 Edition of the Technical Handbooks which supports compliance with the regulations is set out as follows for ease of reference.

- Low risk materials are those that have a surface of Class 1 when tested to BS476 part 7 and, when tested in accordance with BS 476: Part 6 have an index of performance (I) not more than 12 and a sub-index (i1) not more than 6; these materials can be used in the same applications where the 2020 Technical Handbook had a requirement of Class B to EN13501 part 1.
- Medium risk materials are those which achieve Class 1 to BS476 part 7; these materials can be used in the same applications where the 2020 Technical Handbook had a requirement of Class C to EN13501 part 1.
- High risk materials are those which achieve Class 2 or Class 3 to BS476 part 7; these materials can be used in the same applications where the 2020 Technical Handbook had a requirement of Class D to EN13501 part 1.

Regulation 8 (Durability, workmanship and fitness of materials) of the 2004 regulations has been amended and came into force on 1 June 2022. Highly combustible metal composite material as defined in the [Building Scotland \(Amendment\) Regulations 2022](#) is prohibited from use as an external wall cladding material or used as an internal lining.

Where an alternative approach is being adopted as stated in clause 2.0.7 of the Technical Handbooks, it is important that advice should be sought from the relevant [Local Authority Building Standards Service](#).

Contact