

PRESS RELEASE

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Demand for reaction to fire testing is on the increase

Since the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (RRFSO) came into force in England and Wales in October 2006, it has changed quite significantly the approach to fire safety in buildings. It is our observation that the frequency in which the question “does this provide satisfactory protection in the event of a fire?” is asked has increased dramatically.



This has pushed up demand for fire resistance (FR) and reaction to fire (RTF) testing, both of which Chiltern International Fire is UKAS-accredited to undertake. In addition to further investment in our fire laboratory (see page xx), we have also invested in a new cone calorimeter, a key piece of equipment for RTF research testing and invaluable for product development.

The requirements for reaction to fire performance depend upon whether the product is used externally or internally, or is to be used in a location requiring a specific performance such as an escape route. Approved Document B uses the term ‘areas of enhanced performance’. The requirement will typically stipulate a minimum European classification or British class for the product or system to be used.

External use - performance requirement is based on several factors including distance from an adjacent property, height and design of the building and end use of the building.

Internal use - performance requirements for lining materials are based on type, size and purpose of the room, or whether it is a communal area, such as a landing, in which a product is used. Products covered include walls and ceilings, roof lights and light diffusers.

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