

Press Release

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Chiltern Fire offers free information on reaction to fire testing

Chiltern International Fire has published a revised Technical Information Sheet T1-0803 *Reaction to Fire: Testing and Classification*, available free of charge.

Reaction to fire performance relates to the combustibility and ignitability of a material, ie its contribution to fire growth, rather than its ability to resist the passage of fire, proved by fire resistance testing. How a fire develops in the early stages is of crucial importance to ensure safe evacuation.

The tests tend to be smaller in scale and are carried out on specific components or materials representative of end-use application, such as insulation, wall linings, ceiling linings and external wall surfaces.

In England and Wales, the fire requirements for buildings are covered by Approved Document B of the Building Regulations. Requirements are expressed as a classification: circulation spaces within dwellings, for example, may require a European Class C reaction to fire performance, tested against European standards.

The new technical information sheet from Chiltern Fire summarises the range of tests which can be undertaken and compares European with British classifications. It also touches on CE marking and points out that British standards are gradually being superseded by European standards and test methods. However, it is not possible for products tested to obtain a national class and then claim a European class, or vice versa.

To obtain a free copy of T1-0803 *Reaction to Fire: Testing and Classification* email cif@chilternfire.co.uk or telephone 01494 569685.

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Chiltern International Fire

With more than 30 years' experience, Chiltern International Fire is one of Europe's leading authorities on fire, providing a range of services to clients around the world. Services include, consultancy, research, training and testing to British, European and international standards. In addition, it will undertake fire safety audits, upgrading and assessment of fire performance. All major tests are accredited by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS). The company also offers a first class facility for Positive Pressure Ventilation (PPV), Breathing Apparatus (BA) and Compartment Fire Behaviour training for fire services personnel, as well as outdoor exercises and drills.