

Testing of Building Materials

Authorized Persons (APs) and Registered Structural Engineers (RSEs) may be approached from time to time for advice on the acceptability of building materials and proprietary fire resisting products. This practice note sets out the Building Authority's position which may be of assistance to APs and RSEs in preparing advice to manufacturers, suppliers, registered general building contractors, registered specialist contractors and building owners.

2. Under the Buildings Ordinance (BO), APs, RSEs and registered contractors (RC) have responsibilities to supervise building works including the selection and application of building materials/products and to certify compliance with relevant provisions of the BO upon completion of works. In this connection, it should be noted that the BO contains no provision whereby the Building Authority may issue a certificate, a test or assessment report with respect to these materials/products. The Building Authority takes the position, therefore, of relying on APs, RSEs and independent laboratories for testing for compliance with standards and for certification. For certification of the building materials/products used and their compliance with standards, upon completion of works, please refer to PNAP 53.

3. The Building Authority will recognize those laboratories accredited by the Hong Kong Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (HOKLAS) or by other laboratory accreditation bodies which have reached mutual recognition agreements/arrangements with HOKLAS. You may find such laboratory accreditation bodies at the web site of the Hong Kong Accreditation Service – <http://www.info.gov.hk/itc/eng/quality/hkas/hkas.shtml>. You should ensure that the tests conducted by an accredited laboratory are within its scope of accreditation.

4. The following list of materials/products, which is not exhaustive, would normally be required to be tested by accredited laboratories as mentioned in paragraph 3: -

- (a) Concrete cube and core;
- (b) Steel reinforcement
- (c) Reinforcement splices/couplers;
- (d) Curtain wall systems; and
- (e) Fire resisting products.

Proprietary Fire Resisting Products

5. In establishing the acceptability of proprietary fire resisting products, reference should be made to the performance standards as laid down in Building (Construction) Regulation 90 and the current Code of Practice for Fire Resisting Construction issued by the Building Authority. This is of particular relevance to compartment walls, protective cover to structural steel, fire resisting doors and other building materials for use in fire resisting construction.

6. As to compliance with the above requirements, reliance can also be placed on a test or assessment report prepared by an accredited laboratory as mentioned in paragraph 3 above. The Building Authority will rely on APs or RSEs to ensure that the test or assessment reports are prepared by accredited laboratories and that the reports are still within their validity period.

Assessing Organizations

7. At present there are 3 assessing organizations, which are not accredited laboratories but are recognized for assessment, on the list of recognized laboratories/assessing organizations compiled by the Building Authority and promulgated in the letter dated 25 July 1994 to all APs, RSEs and RCs. They are: -

- (a) Building Research Establishment (UK),
- (b) International Fire Consultants Ltd. (UK) {limited to assessment reports endorsed by Mr Peter E Jackman} and
- (c) Warrington Fire Research Consultants (UK).

8. With the issue of this practice note, the list described in paragraph 7 above will cease to have effect. However the assessment reports on fire resisting products prepared by the 3 organizations above will continue to be acceptable until further notice.



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