

# FIRE REGULATIONS

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## BRITISH

The British System measures Flame Spread and Heat release, and products are classified Class 0, 1, 2, 3 etc (with 0 being the highest).

Wallcoverings intended for use on designated means of escape routes in case of fire and in public areas such as reception areas, lift lobbies, stairwells, open-plan offices and restaurants within buildings including hospitals, shall comply with the requirements for a Class "O" surface as defined in paragraph A13(b) of Approved Document B, "Fire Safety" to The Building Regulations 2000. To meet this requirement the wallcovering must be tested in accordance with the requirements of BS 476: Part 6: 1981 or 1989, "Method of test for Fire propagation of Products," and achieve a Fire Propagation index (I) of not more than 12 and a subindex,  $i_1$  of not more than 6, and also tested in accordance with the requirements of BS 476: Part 7 1971 or 1987 or 1997 "Method of test to determine the Classification of the surface spread of flame of products" and achieve a Class 1 designation. The wallcoverings must be tested bonded to a substrate that is representative of the substrate to which it will be bonded in practice utilising the adhesive that would normally be utilised.

## EUROPEAN

The new European System is similar, but also measures smoke production and flaming droplets, and products are classified as A1, A2, B, C, D, E or F, (with A1 being the highest). Smoke production and flaming droplets are shown as s1, s2, s3, and d0, d1, d2 (with s1 being minimal smoke production, and d0 being zero flaming droplets). NB - When a classification shows s3, d2, this means there is no limit set for smoke production or flaming droplets.

Under the European classification system which is now incorporated into the requirements of Approved Document B, lining systems are classified in accordance with BS EN 13501-1: 2002, "Fire classification of construction products and building elements, Part 1 - Classification using data from reaction to fire tests". Materials or products are classified as A1, A2, B, C, D, E or F, with A1 being the highest. When a classification includes "s3,d2", it means that there is no limit set for smoke production and/or flaming droplets/particles.

**Table 10 of Approved Document B indicates that the European Classification B-s3,d2 is the general equivalent of Class O.**

To meet this 'Class B' requirement the wallcovering must be tested in accordance with the requirements of EN 13823 "Single Burning Item Test", and BS EN 11925-2: 2002 "Ignitability of building products subjected to direct flame impingement Part 2 : Single-flame source test".

Other, less onerous requirements as defined for instance in Approved Document B and other specifications, call for a wallcovering only to comply with the Class 1 designation as defined in the BS 476: Part 7 standard test method as referred to above.

**Table 10 of Approved Document B indicates that the European Classification C-s3,d2 is the equivalent of Class 1.**

To meet this requirement the wallcovering must also be tested in accordance with the requirements of EN 13823 and BS EN 11925-2: 2002 as described above. The required results for compliance with

this Classification are less severe than the requirements for compliance with the European Classification B.

## QUICK REFERENCE Table 10 Classification of Linings

Location : Small rooms of area not more than : 4m2 in residential accommodation / 30m2 in non-residential accommodation / Domestic garages of area not more than 40m2

British (National) Class 3. Approx equivalent European Class D-s3, d2

Location : Other rooms (including garages), Circulation spaces within dwellings

British (National) Class 1. Approx equivalent European Class C-s3, d2

Location : Other circulation spaces, including the common areas of flats and maisonettes

British (National) Class 0. Approx equivalent European Class B-s3, d2

## TIMESCALES

The European Classification System will operate in the UK alongside the existing system as defined in Approved Document B, for a period of time. Best estimates suggest this is likely to be several years.

This period is referred to as "The period of co-existence" which is basically a phase-in period during which both BS and European test reports will be recognised and accepted. Eventually the European Classification tests will supersede the traditional British Standard test methods which will not be available for Building Regulatory purposes.

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## MARINE FIRE CERTIFICATION

Various Tektura products are IMO certified. These products pass when tested in accordance with IMO resolution A653 (16), and IMO Resolution MSC 61(67) Annex 1 part 5 and Annex 2

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WALLCOVERINGS

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