

# BBA Webinar Mini-Series – w/c 7<sup>th</sup> June

## 1 - How to Interpret an Agrément Certificate (TODAY)

2 - UKCA – How this is going to impact your Business (8<sup>th</sup> June)

3 - Gaining UKCA Marking – A step-by-step guide (9<sup>th</sup> June)

4 - Taking you from ETA to UKTA (10<sup>th</sup> June)

5 - Getting to grips with Post-Certificate Maintenance (11<sup>th</sup> June)

*All webinars start at 11am*

*Register or watch any of these webinars by going to the BBA website and following the link in the menu 'Webinars' ([bbacerts.co.uk](http://bbacerts.co.uk))*



For over 50 years, we've been helping the construction and manufacturing industries build confidence in the solutions designed, created and implemented throughout the entire supply chain.

The BBA develops long-term partnerships with clients and associations to enable continued growth in both the UK and Global marketplaces, while remaining reassuringly impartial.

As a for-profit organisation Limited by Guarantee, the BBA looks to reinvest in the industry as a whole for the benefit of all stakeholders.



# To date

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**6,000+**  
CERTIFICATES ISSUED

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**72+**  
COUNTRIES REPRESENTED  
by CLIENT BASE

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**130+**  
BBA PEOPLE

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**50+**  
YEARS IN BUSINESS

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**400+**  
TESTING METHODOLOGIES

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**1000+**  
ANNUAL INSPECTIONS

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# What We Will Cover



**Ramona Donnelly**

Operations Manager: Engineering @ BBA  
Nearly 8 Years with the BBA

## *How to Interpret an Agrément Certificate*

- Understanding the value
- What it covers vs what it doesn't
- The detail behind it
- Common misconceptions
- **Q&A - Your chance to ask those burning questions**

# Preventing Failure: How to interpret an Agrément Certificate accurately.

Ramona Donnelly – Operations Manager: Engineering

June 2021



**We help our market *mitigate risk through providing reassurance* that certified products are fit-for-purpose.**

**But if that understanding of ‘fit-for-purpose’ is wrong, then the potential to undermine that confidence is huge.**

**In this webinar we’ll help you understand more about:**



- The nuts and bolts that make up an Agrément Certificate, and why each page should never be read in isolation of the others.
- Understanding the entire value of an Agrément Certificate: What it covers vs what it doesn’t.
- Common misconceptions around an Agrément Certificate and how this could lead to critical product suitability failure.

# The Structure of A Certificate: The Nuts & Bolts

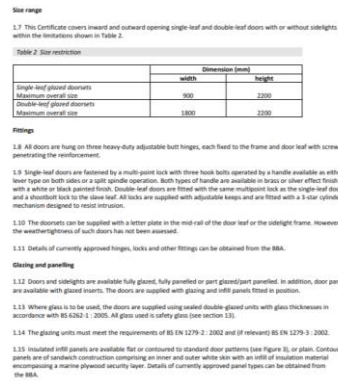


An Agrément Certificate is usually made up of a number of parts; and no part should ever be read in isolation from the other.

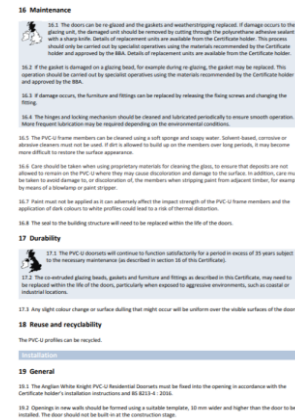
A front page that provides a high level overview



Technical Specifications (drawings, details, measurements etc)



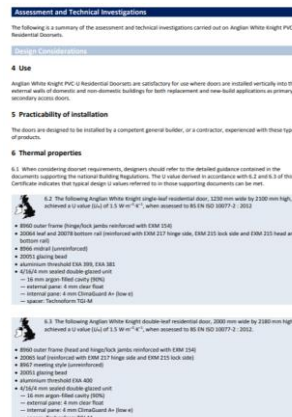
Detail around items like maintenance, recycling, relevant risks, logistical considerations etc.



Regulations that apply to that product



Information around assessments and technical investigations



References to additional resources taken into consideration during certification



Because an Agrément Certificate is an important document used throughout the entire construction supply chain, it's critical that it answers, and provides information, which enables decision-making.

Because of that, they can be somewhat complex to interpret and should never be read in isolation of the supporting information contained throughout the entire certificate.

If the product or use is not in the Certificate, it's not been verified.

## What a Certificate covers:

- important information about the **appropriate use/applications** for that product.
- the **short and long-term performance** of the product/system.
- **information required for a satisfactory delivery, site handling, installation and maintenance.**
- **Where and how a product complies** with the relevant Building Regulations.
- In some situations, **information around appropriate installers** and the ISO accreditation would be available in the Certificates.

## What a Certificate *does not* cover:

- promotional or instruction manuals relating to design, commercial distribution, installation
- guarantees or warranties
- detail around where the product is *\*not\** fit-for-purpose, nor the consequences of poor installation
- any unregulated attributes that may be used as promotional information such as the circular economy, carbon content (unless specifically tested and verified as part of the certification process)
- detail on the suitability for application on a particular site



Understanding the true value of an Agrément Certificate is more than just viewing it as a tick-box exercise. There's so much more to it.

Here are some of the most common misconceptions around the purpose of an Agrément Certificate.

*'The Product is Covered - fullstop!*

*'The certificate is where the process ends - tick!'*

*'BBA Certificates are mandated'*

*'I don't need to read the entire Certificate. The front page is enough!'*

*'All similar products that have a certificate are equal'*

*'This Product is BBA Approved and therefore automatically complies with Building Regulations'*

*'An Agrément Certificate is a just a statement of compliance'*

*'The BBA conducts all testing upon which a Certificate is based'*

*'Every outcome of the way a certified product is used, will conform to requirements'*

# Critical Things to note about Agrément Certificates



**Read the Certificate in full – not just the front page:** Take note of what is covered and what isn't. Ask whether all that is described is suitable for the project it's intended for. Ensure that the commercial pressure behind the product launch is not risking the quality and acceptability of use. Take note of claims that do not support the detail in the Certificate and ensure you check the validity of a certificate on any product intended for application, as Certificates could be withdrawn and are no longer valid.

**A Certificate is not a guarantee or warranty.** Each Certificate is designed to be a detailed summary of the assessed scope, bespoke to the application for that specific product / system.

**The Certificate is not a single snapshot in time but is an ongoing lifecycle:** The Agrément Certificate provides much more information than a single test, and more than conformity markings like UKCA and CE. It is a thorough process and document that provides ongoing assurance through surveillance.

**The BBA wants to know about misuse, discrepancies, and other anomalies that may affect a Certificate:** Products, Systems, Processes are constantly evolving. We want to engage with the entire industry to continue to drive safety and quality in the products and systems used throughout. This means that if something is identified which doesn't appear consistent, or if a Certificate holder is attempting to use a certified product in an incorrect way, or if an organisation is using a false certificate number or promote a product, we want to hear about it so that we can take the necessary steps to curb misinformation and misuse.

**Agrément Certificates identify the context the product is fit for purpose in. They do not cover the 'implied'.** Certificates are written in the positive. They specify where the product is to be used and in what capacity. They are not created with an implied double negative. For example, just because the certificate does **not** specifically say 'you may not use the product in this situation', it implies that it can be. If there is uncertainty around the use of a product, it is always better to verify this with us.

Thank you!

Questions?