

Q&A

Consultation to the industry: Construction Product Assessment Relating to Higher Risk Residential Buildings

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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



6,000+
CERTIFICATES ISSUED



72+
COUNTRIES REPRESENTED
by CLIENT BASE



130+
BBA PEOPLE



50+
YEARS IN BUSINESS



400+
TESTING METHODOLOGIES



1000+
ANNUAL INSPECTIONS

- When** Launched on 18 February 2021
- How** A series of preliminary interviews followed by a quantitative survey across the entire industry.
- Who** Both the BBA's clients (product and materials manufacturers) and the certificate user group (primarily architects, specifiers, warranty providers, insurers, construction managers, funders, building control, and regulators)
- Why** Addressing the role that building product certification has to play and how it can assist in meeting the higher safety standards required for HRRBs as identified in Dame Judith Hackitt's 2018 report 'Building a Safer Future', produced in response to the Grenfell tragedy.

The Consultation aimed to seek feedback on a proposed scheme centered around four key elements:

- **Earlier involvement with certification clients** in their product development process.
- **An enhanced testing regime that will see the BBA actively seek involvement in testing** typically engaged in during product development cycles. It will seek to review all test results made, as well as observation of tests submitted for assessment and certification purposes. This will include fire testing.
- **Sample analysis/characterisation (fingerprinting)**: this is a developing science and not without challenges. However, there is value in storing original samples used for testing and assessment as reference material. A product sample 'DNA' or 'fingerprint' is a viable alternative to storing actual samples.
- **Regular and ongoing testing regime post-certification**: At present product testing is carried out pre-certification. The BBA proposes a new testing programme, with randomly selected materials, to be carried out unannounced at regular intervals.

Extensive feedback clearly identified:

- Market has a very high regard for BBA's Agrément Certification and is fully in support of its future success, but that there is work to be done.
- Feedback centered around improvements relating to further systemisation of BBA processes; strengthened testing regimes; a move towards digitisation of the certificates and embracing the digital revolution; more attention to sustainability; and a greater collaboration with industry leadership and certificate users
- The proposed two-tier 'Agrément' and 'Agrément Plus' regime was not a good route forward, but that the existing offer become a modular style of certificate.
- The market considers that both poor workmanship and uncontrolled value engineering pose by far the highest risks to the built environment

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