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## TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

### **NATIONAL CLASSIFICATION VERSES EUROPEAN CLASSIFICATION**

In 2002, the then Office of The Deputy Prime Minister, issued a European Supplement to Approved Document B to the Building Regulations 2000. The purpose of this supplement was to allow products assessed under the Construction Products Directive (1989) to be used in the same end-use locations as products assessed to National Standards ie British Standard series BS476.

In order to do this the ODPM (now DCLG) commissioned a detailed study comparing products under the National and European systems to enable them to determine class equivalences.

For materials, composites and assemblies (reaction to fire) the comparison yielded in very round terms, the following equivalences.

National Class	European Class
Non Combustible	A1
Limited Combustibility	A2
Class 0	B
Class 1	C
Class 2	-
Class 3	D
Class 4	-

**In accordance with National Building Regulations, both Classification systems are equally valid anywhere in the United Kingdom, i.e. England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.**

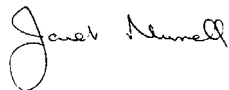
**However, if there is a relevant European product standard then the manufacturer MUST only show product conformity using the European classes**

The European supplement has been incorporated into the current version of guidance documents. For wall coverings etc Table 10 provides guidance as to the desired classification for either system. For external surfaces, Diagram 40 also provides guidance for the classification required in terms of both the national or European Classes.

With the passing of time, and as more products are required by law to comply with the Construction Products Directive, the use of European Classification will overtake the use of national tests.

The Construction Products Directive has recently been revised and published as the Construction Products Regulation, making conformity mandatory in the UK.

The documentation is different for the European system when compared to the National system. Classification reports are issued as summaries of the test evidence and as direct approved documentation which clearly states the classification of the product, its allowed end-use and any allowed variation from the full description of the product included. The national system still relies on the manufacturer providing copies of necessary test reports.



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**For and on behalf of Exova Warringtonfire**

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