

Fire performance of facades – Use of combustible materials

- 1 *This Technical Note is one of a series on the fire performance of facades, and updates previous guidance contained in CWCT TN98 which is withdrawn. This series covers:*
 - *TN113, Fire performance of facades – Introduction,*
 - *TN114, Fire performance of facades – Use of combustible materials,*
 - *TN115, Fire performance of facades – Application to curtain walling,*
 - *TN116, Fire performance of facades – Application to built-up walls.*
- 2 *This series of Technical Notes is intended to provide those who design and construct facades in the UK with an introduction to the regulations and associated guidance relating to fire performance and how the regulations can be met in the design and construction of modern facades. They also provide useful information for building designers and fire engineers on fire-related requirements for facades.*
- 3 *This Technical Note provides a detailed interpretation of the various recommendations given in Building Regulations approved document B (ADB) relating to the reaction to fire of materials and products used in the external wall. In isolation the different recommendations appear straightforward, however when considered collectively and with regulation 7(2), guidance is required to help provide logical conclusions. This Technical Note is concerned with the limits on reaction to fire properties of materials and products used in facades. It does not consider the effects of fire on other properties of the materials/products.*
- 4 *Different approaches will be required depending on the situation being considered. There are:*
 - *Prescriptive, legal requirements that must be followed,*
 - *Regulation 7(2) is a key example of this,*
 - *Even when there are prescriptive requirements, a degree of interpretation will be needed, especially with modern façade systems,*
 - *Prescriptive guidance, such as that provided in ADB,*
 - *This approach may not be suitable for all buildings, see paragraph 18.*
 - *Whilst following the statutory guidance is the typical approach taken, it is not a requirement, and other approaches may be taken providing the functional requirements of the building regulations are met. This would usually involve a fire engineering assessment,*
 - *General considerations,*
 - *This is where there is no specific guidance provided, however the effects of potential fire spread still need to be considered.*
- 5 *Whilst the regulations and guidance discussed in this Technical Note allow combustible materials to be used in certain situations, it is generally considered that minimising the use of combustible materials in the external wall will lead to the lowest risk of external fire spread. This simple view does not however take account of other performance aspects of the façade which must also be met, and which may require the use of combustible*