

DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Communities and Local Government Circular 02/2010
Department for Communities and Local Government
Eland House, Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5DU

16 March 2010

THE BUILDING ACT 1984.

THE BUILDING REGULATIONS 2000 AND THE
BUILDING (APPROVED INSPECTORS ETC)
REGULATIONS 2000.

- **AMENDMENTS TO APPROVED DOCUMENT B – VOLUMES 1 & 2, 2006 EDITIONS**
- **AMENDMENTS TO APPROVED DOCUMENTS L1A, L1B, L2A, L2B, 2006 EDITIONS**

INTRODUCTION

1. I am directed by the Secretary of State to draw your attention to amendments and corrections to Approved Document B (2006) and Approved Documents L (2006).
2. The Secretary of State, in exercise of his powers under section 6(4) of the Building Act 1984, has approved revisions of Approved Document B (2006), volumes 1 and 2, and of Approved Documents L (2006), i.e. Approved Documents L1A, L1B, L2A and L2B. Formal notice of these approvals is contained in the Annex to this Circular. .
3. The approvals take effect on the date of the publication of this Circular.
4. The purposes of this Circular are to:
 - Draw attention to the amendments to the Approved Documents; and
 - Announce the publication of the amendment slips to the Approved Documents

AMENDMENTS TO APPROVED DOCUMENT B 2006 (FIRE SAFETY)

5. Volume 1 (Dwellinghouses) and Volume 2 (Buildings other than dwellinghouses) of Approved Document B (2006) have been amended to reflect revisions to standards issued under the Lifts Directive and the Construction Products Directive. These amendments relate only to references to Harmonised European Standards that the Government has a duty to recognise by virtue of European Directives. We are also taking this opportunity to make two minor corrections to correct printing errors in the Approved Document which have previously been addressed in the Department's FAQ page on the planning portal website.

AMENDMENTS TO APPROVED DOCUMENTS L (2006) (CONSERVATION OF FUEL AND POWER)

6. On 5 June 2008 the Department published a consultation document on proposed new editions of the Approved Documents L, "Conservation of fuel and power", following a judgement in the High Court that references in the Approved Documents L to BR 443, *Conventions for U-value calculations*, regarding the measurement of the thermal performance of multi-foil insulation had not been properly notified to the European Commission.
7. Following publication of the summary of responses to that consultation: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/part1consultresponses.pdf>, the Department published Circular 06/2009 on 18 June 2009 which clarified the references to the guidance in BR 443 in relation to multi-foil insulation: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/circular062009.pdf> .
8. That Circular also announced that the Department would publish an addendum/corrigendum setting out changes to the 2006 editions of the Approved Documents in addition to a clarification of the references to BR 443 the amendments to the 2006 Approved Documents L:

- i) take account of amendments made to the Building Regulations 2000 and the Building (Approved Inspectors) Regulations 2000 since April 2006;
- ii) correct minor errors in the 2006 Approved Documents, including those identified by respondents to the 2008 consultation; and
- iii) deal with comments on measuring the thermal performance of windows arising from the EC notification by adding guidance that U-values can as an option be determined for the smaller of the two standard windows defined in EN 14351-1.

NEW APPROVED AMENDMENT SLIPS

9. The two new approved amendment slips are as follows:
 - Amendment slip to Approved Document B, volumes 1 and 2
 - Amendment slip to Approved Document L1A, L1B, L2A and L2B
10. Copies of the amendments are available from Communities and Local Government website: www.communities.gov.uk

RELATIONSHIP WITH PART L (2010)

11. Following consultation in 2009 the Department has amended the energy efficiency requirements of the Building Regulations with effect from 1 October 2010 and to publish new 2010 editions of the Approved Documents L. However, likely transitional provisions will mean that the guidance in the 2006 Approved Documents L will continue to apply to some new buildings and to some work to existing buildings which has already commenced. The amendments to the 2006 editions of the Approved Documents L will apply to these building projects.

ENQUIRIES

All enquiries on matters addressed by this Circular should be addressed to:

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Signed

John Fiennes
An Under Secretary in the Department for Communities and Local
Government

ANNEX

Building Act 1984

NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF REVISION OF DOCUMENTS GIVING PRACTICAL GUIDANCE WITH RESPECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE BUILDING REGULATIONS 2000	
The Secretary of State hereby gives notice under section 6 of the Building Act 1984 that, in exercise of the powers under the said section 6, he has approved revisions to the documents listed below for the purposes of giving practical guidance with respect to the specified requirements of the Building Regulations 2000 (as amended). The approval takes effect on 16 March 2010.	
Document	Requirement of the Building Regulations 2000 in respect of which the document is approved
Amendment slip to Approved Document B (Fire safety) (2006), volume 1: Dwellinghouses and volume 2: Buildings other than dwellinghouses	Schedule 1 Part B
Amendment slip to Approved Document L1A (2006): Conservation of fuel and power in new dwellings	Schedule 1 Part L
Amendment slip to Approved Document L1B (2006): Conservation of fuel and power in existing dwellings	Schedule 1 Part L
Amendment slip to Approved Document L2A (2006): conservation of fuel and power in new buildings other than dwellings	Schedule 1 Part L
Amendment slip to Approved Document L2B (2006): Conservation of fuel and power in existing buildings other than dwellings	Schedule 1 Part L
Signed by authority of the Secretary of State	John Fiennes An Under Secretary in the Department for Communities and Local Government

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