

FLAT ENTRANCE DOORSETS

Government Advice

MHCLG guidance note 16, dated 31st July 2018 references guidance for landlords and building owners for flat entrance doorsets¹. The guidance advises:

“Flat entrance fire doors should have test evidence demonstrating they meet the performance requirement in Building Regulations guidance for fire resistance and smoke control from both sides.”

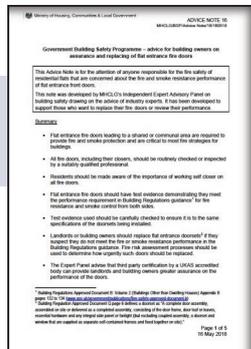
Approved Document B, the guidance document for fire safety linked to current Building Regulations 2010, references the test standards for doors to BS 476-22 and EN 1634-1. Within these standards, provision is made for symmetric door cores to be tested to the most onerous side, where the weakest direction can be identified. Where glazing is asymmetrical, for example, double glazed units, it is to be tested from both sides.

Specific guidance is provided for timber and steel doorsets. However under EN1634-1, the more recent fire door test standard, it states in Annex C that doorsets made from other (not metal or timber) and composite materials should be tested to both sides. EN1634-1:2014: ***“Examples of such materials are inorganic based doorsets (e.g. calcium silicate, vermiculite, fibre cement based boards) and plastics based doors (e.g. glass reinforced polyester, PVC).”***

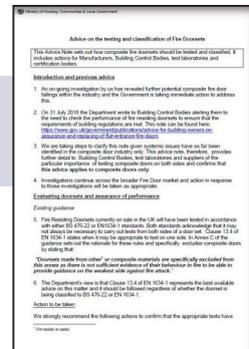
Owing to systemic issues experienced when undertaking the testing of fire doorsets in the composite door industry, MHCLG issued a circular letter to Building Control bodies advising that ***“Given the public safety implications, building control bodies should check that test evidence is presented of exposure to fire for both sides of the door, in order to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of Approved Document B.”***

MHCLG Advice note 17² further clarifies that currently this applies to composite doors only, based on MHCG view that clause 13.4 of EN1634-1 represents the best available advice on the matter and should be followed regardless of whether the doorset is being classified to BS 476-22 or EN 1634-1. However, MHCLG go on to say that investigations across the broader Fire Door market continue and action in response to those investigations will be taken as appropriate.

MHCLG Advice
note 16 revised
31072018



MHCLG Advice
note 17



¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/advice-for-building-owners-on-assurance-and-replacing-of-flat-entrance-fire-doors>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/testing-and-classification-of-composite-fire-doorsets-advice-note>