

Draft Approved Document B Fire Safety (Buildings other than dwellings)
Comments December 2004

Page No	Para Ref	Comments
Introduction		
11	0.21	Are educational buildings other than schools covered as assembly buildings (ie universities)?
12	0.27	Delete 'persons' and 'the' to read to include all persons. Consider inserting 'specifically' between 'is' and 'provided' in the last sentence.
Section 1 Fire Alarms		
21	Note	Consider adding 'for the protection of life' to the category M. Use 'category' in lieu of 'Type' for P
Section 2 Design for horizontal escape		
23	2.6	Rather than the words 'left inside the building' consider 'likely to be in the building at such times'
25	2.10 c	Is this meant to be a corridor within the access room which would create an inner inner room situation. . If so add 'within in the access room' to read (but not via a corridor within in the access room')
27	2.23	Should the storage be qualified as 'self storage' as per the note
30	3.12	Does this mean that a phased evacuation building over 30m must always discount?
Section 7 Compartmentation		
52	General	Is any research being carried out regarding compartmentation being breached by vertical external fire spread up facades and internal corners?
55	Table 11	Delete the reference to 'Schools'
Section 8 Concealed spaces		
65	8.3 First para	Consider changing 'all purpose groups' to 'purpose groups 2-7' and rolling the first two paragraphs together.
66	Table 12	Consider deleting 'non-domestic' from the title
Section 9 Protection of openings and fire stopping		
70	11.14	Is '(other than apartment buildings)' necessary?
Section 10 Special provisions		
73	10.5	Consider also deleting the sentence after the struckthrough text as it is related to the deletion.
Section 12 Space separation		
80	12.18	Apologies – this comment relates to a previous change which we are about to adopt. Considering an uncompartmented 3 storey office building. As the building is not compartmented the whole elevation has to be included in the space separation calculations. Under the ADB the calculated boundary distance can be halved if the building is sprinklered. However, if the building in question contains an atrium clause 28.2 of BS5588 Part 7 should be followed (consider 'may') This appears to allow the building, because it is sprinklered, to be treated as 3 separate compartments and also enjoy half of such a separation distance. So the guidance is less onerous on the building if it contains an Atrium which seems odd. Am I reading this incorrectly?
80	12.19	Method I - after the deletion of the reference to dwellings the wording only appears to relate to PG 2b buildings. If this is the case it may be clearer to say that 'This method applies only to a building intended to be used as Purpose Group 2b Other Residential'

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81	Table 15 Note c	It appears that the new note c is intended to clarify that the area of the actual rectangle that encloses the unprotected areas should be used in the calculation and not the overall area of the elevation? When this is applied to a simple situation it seems to be very onerous compared to the other methods. Using the smallest rectangle is compatible with Appendix A to BR187 but on the example that I tested I got different answers (see attached file 'Draft Approved Document B Calcs') I may well be wrong but there appears to be a problem with the impact that the proposed note has on the values given in the table
86	B5.ii	Sorry - this is another request information. In relation to Fire Safety Engineering we have been asked if there is any further consideration being given to the Structural Eurocode National Annex that does not acknowledge a factor for firebrigade intervention?
87	14.7	I take it that this proposal only relates to the provision of additional hydrants within the site of the works. If this is the case it may be helpful if this was made clear.
89	Diagram 35 Note 2	If the existing dimensions are to be retained in the diagram should the Note not be similar to Note 1 to Table 20. The proposed note seems to override the data on the diagram. From the comments we received the ground loading capacity is going to be difficult for Building Control to verify. Insert 'and rescue' between 'Fire' and 'Authority'.
92	16.12	In lieu of 'without the use of a ladder' consider 'The manual operating mechanism should be readily accessible'
Appendix A		
100	Table A1 Item 3	Change 'flat' to 'apartment'
103	Table A2	Under the heading 'Purpose group of building' the numbers do not relate to the purpose groups – or are these just item reference numbers? Delete the 'ae' after Institutional.
Appendix B		
113	Table B1 Note 9	Change 'place of special fire risk' to 'place of special fire hazard'
Appendix E		
119	Definition	Should the definition of 'Gallery' be deleted? It is still relevant to the definition of 'Storey'

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14 December 04