



Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP  
Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

10th August 2018

Dear Secretary of State,

Please consider this letter as our update with regards to immediate, mid and long term actions and proposals concerning the provision of composite fire doors onto the UK market. As per previous communications the update is divided as follows:

***Immediate Concerns***

We re-confirm our request of last week for a dialogue from MHCLG to Local Government and registered social landlords; confirming that this is an industrywide issue, and is not limited to specific door manufacturers. We also requested that they be informed of the steps which have been taken thus far, and the key role they will play in addressing the risk associated with doors currently on the market.

We have made a request from primary fire door slab manufacturers to provide information concerning their test slots in order to get their basic doors back on the UK market. The deadline for responses is today (Friday 17<sup>th</sup> August). This information will be collated and delivered to the MHCLG during the course of next week to assess what UK capacity in testing houses can be released; as per previous communications. We will then allocate these slots around these members.

Discussions continue with Underwriting Laboratories with regards to the utilisation of their available test capacity; with doors being dispatched to them over the coming weekend. We will inform the MHCLG when results from this testing is known to us.

There has been concern expressed regarding the protocol associated with introducing composite fire doors back on the UK market; particularly in the absence of a clear MHCLG directive on what constitutes sufficient evidence of consistency and compliance. It is therefore our proposal that manufacturers will supply fire resisting door sets to specifications including frame, door leaf construction, hardware and glazing (if applicable) which are supported by primary test evidence with exposure from both faces and will not rely on assessment for the substitution of critical hardware or glazing until such time as the review of current practice has been concluded.

***With regards to a consideration on how to deal with any issues with fire doors already supplied***

To assess the scale of this issue, we have issued a directive to fire door manufacturers and installers to confidentially provide statistics on quantities and types of doors which they have supplied onto the UK market over the last ten years. The deadline for these submissions is today (Friday 17<sup>th</sup> August). These figures will be collated and analysed over the next week.

We also acknowledge with thanks, the receipt of the data from fire tests conducted by the MHCLG which was received on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> August. We are currently reviewing this information.

The results of all the above analysis will be the chief topic of conversation during our industry meeting with Matthew Bowler (Assistant Director – Head of Engagement; MHCLG) Matthew Bowler on Tuesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of this meeting being to establish a 'risk matrix' comparing the higher risk buildings with the higher risk door types; assigning quantities to the doors which scores high on both counts.

We feel it is necessary to reiterate that in order to assess the volume of doors in this critical category, engagement with local authorities will be vital to provide this information through the provision of fire risk assessments of buildings in their region.

***With regards to a plan of how the industry can shape it's future***

Whilst the short and medium term actions are of paramount importance; we continue to recognise the opportunity which we have to build a clear and robust process by which compliant and consistently performing fire doors can be released onto the UK market. We further recognise that this process begins at specification stage, and continues into inspection, maintenance and eventual replacement.

As stated; we believe one of the first steps is to engage with the senior management of testing and certification houses; for reasons highlighted in our previous communications.

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**Association of Composite Door Manufacturers Limited**

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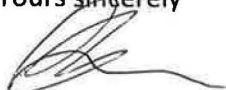
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We have agreed to hold regular dialogue between the two groups, however we understand that a meeting with the MHCLG has been requested by these companies to discuss key points in the testing and certification process. As a result we have been advised that close engagement with testing and certifications should be deferred until after this meeting.

We are currently in the process of formulating a basic 'journey to product certification'; this will effectively be a flow chart which a door manufacturer must follow to ensure their final product can be fully certified. This must be extended to cover installation, maintenance and fire risk assessments. The process itself will require commitment from more than just the door manufacturer; and the coming weeks will see further development of this framework, followed by engagement with all fire door testing and certification companies, installation companies and building owners.

In order to fully inform and gain input from the MHCLG concerning this, we would like to arrange a follow-up meeting with the MHCLG to ensure that this strategy is developed with the full approval of government. If you could confirm available dates for this, it would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely



Ben Penson  
Chair

Association of Composite Door Manufacturers

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