

The absence of significant progress by Kingspan generates a need to move forward and to this end NHBC will start to advise its customers that the Kingspan Kooltherm K15 rainscreen insulation board product will no longer be accepted by NHBC in facades on buildings exceeding 18.0m which have been submitted to NHBC for Warranty and/or Building Control after the 1st January 2014 unless evidence has been provided in accordance with BCA Guidance Note 18 – Use of Combustible Cladding Materials on Residential Buildings..

Naturally, we will manage this message to our builder customers and guide them toward an acceptable alternative until such time as you can demonstrate to our satisfaction that the K15 product is suitable for use on a representative range of high rise façade types. As with all issues of this nature there will undoubtedly be problems for a small number of buildings designed after December 2013 with K15 where the cladding details are at an advanced stage, which we will consider on a project specific basis.

Finally, and again for the avoidance of doubt, our guidance on this matter relates to all manufacturers of products in the product family insulation boards that do not have sufficient or suitable evidence to support satisfactory use in providing the necessary fire resistance in facades extending above 18.0m. This guidance will be implemented by NHBC Standards and Technical and NHBC Building Control Services Ltd.

We had hoped that this action could have been avoided by the provision of additional technical evaluation and test evidence, as promised, to support continued safe use of this product type, but it is probable that if this information was available it would have been provided to NHBC before now.

But, as always, if at any point you wish to provide a detailed plan to NHBC setting out a definite delivery programme of exactly how you propose to justify the use of the K15 product in accordance with BCA Guidance Note 18 above 18.0m please send this to us in writing at the earliest opportunity.

I look forward to your early response.

Ian Davis
Operations Director

Direct Line: [REDACTED]

Mobile: [REDACTED]

E-mail: idavis@nhbc.co.uk