

D.S. MEMORANDUM NO. 62

TO: ALL TECHNICAL STAFF
FROM: J. JACKSON, DEPUTY DISTRICT SURVEYOR
DATE: 4 JUNE 1992

SUBJECT: 1991 REGULATIONS - MEANS OF ESCAPE

When considering an application involving means of escape you should refer in the first instance to **APPROVED DOCUMENT B**, unless the applicant has specifically stated that an appropriate British Standard has been used.

If an applicant has followed the guidance in the approved document that will be evidence tending to show that he has complied with the regulations. However, it should be noted that the guidance provided is only for some of the more common building situations. In other circumstances alternative ways of demonstrating compliance with the requirements may be appropriate.

In the opinion of the management team there are areas giving rise to concern when using the approved document. One such instance relates to kitchens in restaurants.

There is no mention of them in the approved document and therefore, technically, the situation could occur where the kitchen, either open or enclosed, is located adjacent to the fire exit. This may not be a problem in large restaurants where other fire exits are available but in a small shop such an exit could be the only route of escape. It will therefore be our policy to use the guidance in clause 9 of BS 5588 : Part 2 with regard to small shops.

Another point to remember when using the guidance in B1 is that where the document refers you to a specific clause in BS 5588 it is **ONLY** that clause you are to refer to. For example paragraph 3.34 refers to clause 9 of BS 5588 : Part 2 but clause 9 also makes reference to clauses 7, 8 and 10. Such references should be ignored and you should refer back to the approved document for guidance on construction, escape lighting, ventilation etc.

Finally, the guidance in the document as a whole should be considered as a package aimed at achieving an acceptable standard. The means of escape group when dealing with B1 will assume that parts B2 to B5 are being fully complied with. Where this is not so, for example if an applicant has provided a higher standard of surface spread of flame (B2) to permit greater travel distances (or vice-versa), then you must inform the means of escape group.

J. A. JACKSON
DEPUTY DISTRICT SURVEYOR
4/6/1992