

ONLINE VERSION

 HM Government

The Building Regulations 2010

Fire safety

B

APPROVED DOCUMENT

Volume 1: Dwellings

Requirement B1: Means of warning and escape
Requirement B2: Internal fire spread (linings)
Requirement B3: Internal fire spread (structure)
Requirement B4: External fire spread
Requirement B5: Access and facilities for the fire service
Regulations: 6(3), 7(2) and 38

2019 edition incorporating 2020 and 2022 amendments – for use in England

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NOTE:
SELECTED PROVISIONS OF THE APPROVED DOCUMENT B HAVE BEEN MADE MANDATORY FOR PROJECT REMEDIATE BY THE CLADDING PRODUCT SAFETY PANEL (CPSP)



Cladding Product Safety Panel Report 2:

update on CPSP undertakings and additional replacement cladding materials for Project Remediate

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Cladding Product Safety Panel Report 2

7. Cavity barrier specifications

CPSP Report 1 outlined the requirement for cavity barriers where gaps (cavities) behind cladding systems could form a path for fire spread, like a chimney. This report will provide an overview of the cavity barrier specifications for Project Remediate.

Project Remediate aims to implement international best practice and therefore the CPSP specifies the use of cavity barriers behind external wall cladding to prevent the spread of fire. Cavity barriers are to be placed:

- Around windows, doors and other openings;
- At horizontal slab edges between storeys;
- Vertically where internal bounding walls (fire rated) between sole occupancy units and/or between sole occupancy units and common areas meet the façade.

Vertical barriers are to be "closed state" i.e., these types of barriers are to be filled permanently. Horizontal barriers are to be "open state" i.e., these types of barriers allow ventilation and drainage under normal conditions but block the gaps (cavities) in the event of a fire through, for example, the expansion of intumescent material. The current NCC provides limited guidance for cavity barriers behind external cladding, hence the CPSP suggests utilising the specification provided by the United Kingdom (UK) building code Approved Document B for performance and testing requirements.

Open-state cavity barriers are to be tested in accordance with the fire resistance test method specified in the UK ASFP Technical Guidance Document - TGD 19 and achieve the following as required in the Approved Document B:

- (i) Minimum 30 minutes' integrity (E 30), and
- (ii) Minimum 15 minutes' insulation (I 15).

Closed state barriers can be specified and tested under Australian Standards. The CPSP expects that these barriers have a minimum Fire Rating Level (FRL) of -/30/15 when tested in accordance with AS 1530.4:2014.

The CPSP advises that the Pattern book developed by the GFC should provide detailed information in relation to the design, installation and maintenance requirements of cavity barriers for Project Remediate.

The CPSP acknowledges the research work and technical drafting carried out by the GFC to formulate these specifications.

NOTES:

FULL VERSION OF THE APPROVED DOCUMENT B IS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fire-safety-approved-document-b>

FULL VERSION OF THE CPSP REPORT IS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT
<https://www.nsw.gov.au/media/20697/download?attachment>

TITLE	CAVITY BARRIERS APPROVED DOCUMENT B AND CPSP REQUIREMENTS	
CLADDING	ALL	
SUBSTRATE	ALL	Rev
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