

Statutory guidance

# Fire safety: Approved Document B

Building regulation in England covering fire safety matters within and around buildings.

From: **Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government**  
(</government/organisations/ministry-of-housing-communities-local-government>),  
**Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2018 to 2021)**  
(</government/organisations/ministry-of-housing-communities-and-local-government-2018-2021>) and **Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities**  
(</government/organisations/department-for-levelling-up-housing-and-communities>)

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**Applies to England**

## Documents

[Approved Document B \(fire safety\) volume 1: Dwellings, 2019 edition incorporating 2020, 2022 and 2025 amendments collated with 2026 and 2029 amendments](#)

([https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67d029100c485ba007779f97/Approved\\_Document\\_B\\_volume\\_1\\_Dwellings\\_2019\\_edition\\_incorporating\\_2020\\_2022\\_and\\_2025\\_amendments\\_collated\\_with\\_2026\\_and\\_2029\\_amendments.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67d029100c485ba007779f97/Approved_Document_B_volume_1_Dwellings_2019_edition_incorporating_2020_2022_and_2025_amendments_collated_with_2026_and_2029_amendments.pdf))

PDF, 7.26 MB, 206 pages

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## [Approved Document B \(fire safety\) volume 2: Buildings other than dwellings, 2019 edition incorporating 2020, 2022 and 2025 amendments collated with 2026 and 2029 amendments](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67d17064a005e6f9841a1d50/Approved_Document_B_volume_2_Buildings_other_than_Dwellings_2019_edition_incorporating_2020_2022_and_2025_amendments_collated_with_2026_and_2029_amendments.pdf)

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67d17064a005e6f9841a1d50/Approved\\_Document\\_B\\_volume\\_2\\_Buildings\\_other\\_than\\_Dwellings\\_2019\\_edition\\_incorporating\\_2020\\_2022\\_and\\_2025\\_amendments\\_collated\\_with\\_2026\\_and\\_2029\\_amendments.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67d17064a005e6f9841a1d50/Approved_Document_B_volume_2_Buildings_other_than_Dwellings_2019_edition_incorporating_2020_2022_and_2025_amendments_collated_with_2026_and_2029_amendments.pdf)

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## [Approved Document B: Fire safety - frequently asked questions](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/approved-document-b-fire-safety-frequently-asked-questions) <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/approved-document-b-fire-safety-frequently-asked-questions>

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## [2029 amendments to Approved Document B, volume 1 and volume 2](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66d57aaabdecebe01a18341b/AD_B_2029_amendments.pdf)

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66d57aaabdecebe01a18341b/AD\\_B\\_2029\\_amendments.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66d57aaabdecebe01a18341b/AD_B_2029_amendments.pdf)

PDF, 455 KB, 40 pages

## [2026 amendments to Approved Document B, volume 1 and volume 2](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66d57a94d107658faec7e448/AD_B_2026_amendments.pdf)

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66d57a94d107658faec7e448/AD\\_B\\_2026\\_amendments.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66d57a94d107658faec7e448/AD_B_2026_amendments.pdf)

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## [2025 amendments to Approved Document B, volume 1 and volume 2](#)

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67c1ac3d16dc9038974dbcf/2025\\_Amendments\\_to\\_Approved\\_Document\\_B\\_volume\\_1\\_and\\_volume\\_2.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67c1ac3d16dc9038974dbcf/2025_Amendments_to_Approved_Document_B_volume_1_and_volume_2.pdf)

PDF, 248 KB, 22 pages

## [March 2024 amendments to Approved Document B, volume 1 and volume 2 \(No longer current\)](#)

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66054cc0f9ab41001aeaa490/AD\\_B\\_amendment\\_booklet.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66054cc0f9ab41001aeaa490/AD_B_amendment_booklet.pdf)

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## [June 2022 amendments to Approved Document B, volume 1 and volume 2](#)

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/62964fac8fa8f5039927d15b/ADB\\_amendment\\_booklet\\_June\\_2022.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/62964fac8fa8f5039927d15b/ADB_amendment_booklet_June_2022.pdf)

PDF, 1.06 MB, 54 pages

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## [May 2020 amendments to Approved Document B, volume 1 and volume 2](#)

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5ec7f1c086650c76ab17fc0c/AD\\_B\\_2019\\_edition\\_May2020\\_amendments.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5ec7f1c086650c76ab17fc0c/AD_B_2019_edition_May2020_amendments.pdf)

PDF, 172 KB, 12 pages

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## **Details**

Building regulations for fire safety in residential homes, including new and existing dwellings, flats, residential accommodation, schools, colleges and offices.

## Updates of Approved Document B (Fire Safety) for 2025, 2026 and 2029

Updates to Approved Document B make provision for sprinklers in all new care homes and withdraw national classes (BS 476 fire tests).

These policy updates flow from the '[Sprinklers in care homes; removal of national classes; and second staircases in residential buildings](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/sprinklers-in-care-homes-removal-of-national-classes-and-staircases-in-residential-buildings)' (<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/sprinklers-in-care-homes-removal-of-national-classes-and-staircases-in-residential-buildings>)' consultation that ran from December 2022 to March 2023.

Provision is made for sprinklers to be installed in new care homes.

Withdrawal of the outdated national classes fire testing standards is concluded, ending a long period of dual specification. The more robust European standard (BS EN 13501) remains in place.

Transition periods for both policy updates will offer certainty to investors and enable smooth transition without disrupting supply chains.

On 2 April 2020, as a response to the call for evidence: [a technical review of Approved Document B of the building regulations](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/technical-review-of-approved-document-b-of-the-building-regulations-a-call-for-evidence) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/technical-review-of-approved-document-b-of-the-building-regulations-a-call-for-evidence>), a [workplan](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877365/Technical_review_of_Approved_Document_B_workplan.pdf) ([https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/877365/Technical review of Approved Document B workplan.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877365/Technical_review_of_Approved_Document_B_workplan.pdf)) was released showing upcoming research to inform updates to fire safety guidance provided in Approved Document B.

The announcement of the new clarified Approved Document B is provided in the [Circular](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/approved-document-b-july-2019-edition-circular-022019) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/approved-document-b-july-2019-edition-circular-022019>). A [government response to the](#)

[consultation \(https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/fire-safety-clarification-of-statutory-guidance-approved-document-b\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/fire-safety-clarification-of-statutory-guidance-approved-document-b) has been published.

We have also published frequently asked questions following the ban on combustibile materials in external walls: [Building \(Amendment\) Regulations 2018: frequently asked questions \(https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/building-amendment-regulations-2018-frequently-asked-questions\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/building-amendment-regulations-2018-frequently-asked-questions)

[Find historical documents relating to Approved Document B: Fire Safety \(https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/historical-documents-relating-to-approved-document-b-fire-safety\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/historical-documents-relating-to-approved-document-b-fire-safety).

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