



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP
*Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and
Local Government*
**Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local
Government**
Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Tel: 0303 444 3450
E-Mail:
PSJamesBrokenshire@communities.gsi.gov.uk

To all MPs in England

www.gov.uk/mhclg

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Dear Colleague,

Update on action taken to address recent fire door issues

On 19 July I updated Parliament on the action that the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has been taking on fire safety in the wake of the Grenfell Tower disaster – including in response to issues identified with the fire doors at Grenfell Tower. A programme of action was taken after it was found that a glazed, composite, fire door from Grenfell Tower manufactured by Manse Masterdor around five years ago and marketed as meeting a 30 minutes standard failed a fire resistance test after approximately 15 minutes.

The work initiated by my Department established an ongoing programme of testing and analysis of fire doors from manufacturers other than those installed at Grenfell Tower to assess whether the issues identified were isolated. In the light of information received from fire resistance testing in the last few days, this now highlights broader failings within the fire door sector. Although investigations are continuing, the testing conducted on behalf of my Department to date now indicates that there are issues with glazed composite fire doors manufactured by suppliers other than Manse Masterdor (and the successor business Masterdor Limited) meeting the requisite fire resistance standards.

Building regulations guidance sets out the performance standards which fire doors should meet, depending on their location. Based on the Department's fire resistance testing, we have found that fire doors from three other suppliers have failed to meet these performance standards when tested on both sides of the door. Specifically, we have seen problems with glazed composite doors supplied by Specialist Building Products Limited, trading as Permadoor, Solar Windows Limited and Birtley Group Limited, trading as Bowater by Birtley.

We have taken immediate steps to ensure that all doors shown by the Department's tests to have failed to meet the standards claimed on fire resistance have been withdrawn from the market with local trading standards departments involved. I have also asked National Trading Standards to oversee the local investigations which are taking place in several parts of the country.

My Department has written to all building control bodies alerting them to the issues with these products. We are informing them that they need to check carefully the test information presented about fire doors being installed now, in line with the current building regulations' guidance which states that fire doors should have been tested on both sides.

I have also instructed all major fire door suppliers to meet this week and agree a clear plan of action to tackle the failings which have been identified, with weekly reports on progress. Work is also being undertaken with third party certification bodies to develop minimum standards of assurance to provide building owners greater confidence in the fire doors they purchase.

Public safety is the utmost priority and I have sought advice from the Government's Independent Expert Panel. The Expert Panel and National Fire Chiefs Council have reiterated that the additional risk to the public remains low, as even when not meeting full resistance standards fire doors will provide some protection from the spread of fire and are part of layered fire protection systems within buildings. The Expert Panel recommend that all building owners with doors from these suppliers should review their building fire risk assessment to determine how quickly any fire doors should be replaced.

Whilst the Expert Panel assures me the risk remains low I want to assure the public that the Government is doing everything it can to ensure construction products are of the highest safety standards and are accurately tested and marketed, so that people are safe and feel safe in their homes.



RT HON JAMES BROKESHIRE MP