

Issue #1
11.18

FIRE RATED NOTICE BOARDS

A GUIDE TO REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

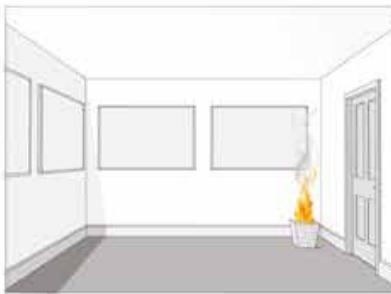


FIRE RATED NOTICE BOARDS

Notice Boards are regularly found in use as wall linings in education buildings, student accommodation, hospitals, nursing homes and offices. Approved Document B2 (volumes 1 and 2) state that the regulatory requirement is that notice boards installed in any type of building be **"not poorer than Class 3 (National Class) or Class D-s3, d2 (European class)"**

In rooms over 30m² and in fire critical areas such as corridors, circulation spaces and science laboratories the required classification is higher.

Tests performed at fire research establishments¹ have shown that notice boards will significantly accelerate the spread of fire if they are incorrectly fire rated. Boards are prone to spreading fire by convection, which accounts for more fatalities than any other means according to government guidance.



Stage 1

An item such as a wastepaper basket catches fire



Stage 2

Hot air rises from the original fire source, heating up wall linings to the point of ignition



Stage 3

Fire spreads along wall linings. Hot air and gases reach the ceiling and spread horizontally along walls



Stage 4

Hot air and gases heat other wall coverings which ignite, spreading the fire throughout the room

¹Tests performed by Sundeala show that non-fire rated notice boards spread flames up to 500% faster than fire-rated boards as measured by the FIGRA0.2MJ(W/s) value.

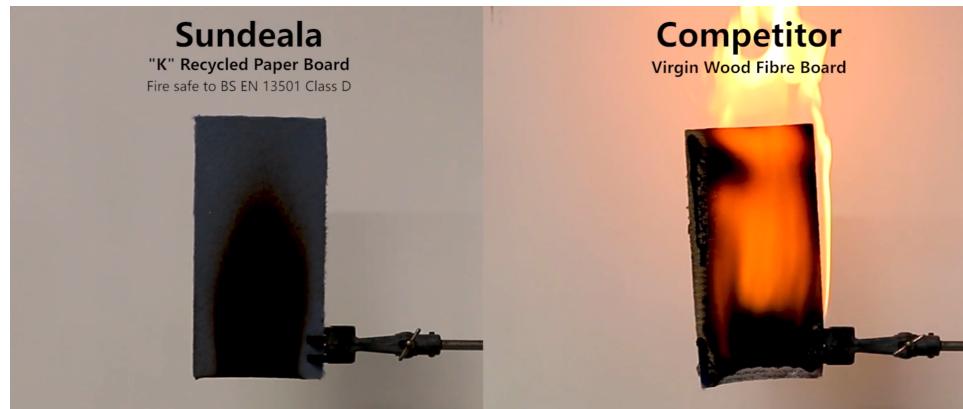
REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS & ADVICE

There are only two legally recognised fire safety standards for notice boards in the UK:

- European testing for Reaction to Fire (EN 13501-1: 2007 + A1: 2009) - fire resistance ratings from B (highest) to D (lowest permitted classification)
- British Standard BS 476 parts 6 and 7 - fire resistance ratings 0 (highest) to 3 (lowest)

Fire Rated Boards must be certified compliant with one of these two standards to the level of classification required by Approved Document B for the building type and area.

The fire test must relate to the notice board itself and not only the fabric covering.



Many imported notice boards are made from virgin wood fibre board, a material also advertised for use as a fire lighter due to its superior combustibility.

These boards are often advertised as being fire retardant based only on the fabric covering, which does nothing to protect the board material from igniting and propagating fire throughout a building, or have only passed half the required testing.

Boards that may not comply with UK building regulations are often advertised for sale with the following:

- No reference to fire ratings
- Fire classification (e.g. Class 1 or Class B) but without specifying what test this applies to.
- Fabric is flame retardant to BS476, part 7 Class 0 / Class 1
- Flame retardant to BS EN 13828 Class B (SBI)

FIRE PERFORMANCE

There are three basic components to building regulations that relate to the fire rating of notice boards:

Notice Boards in buildings in the UK may not be rated lower than:

- BS EN 13501-1 Class D s3, d2
- BS476 Parts 6 AND 7 Class 3

Notice Boards in rooms larger than 30m² may not be rated lower than*:

- BS EN 13501-1 Class C s3, d2
- BS467 Parts 6 AND 7 Class 1

Notice Boards in fire critical areas such as corridors, circulation spaces and science labs may not be rated lower than:

- BS EN 13501-1 Class B s3, d2
- BS476 Parts 6 AND 7 Class O

*Where boards in a room will cover an area less than 50% of the area of the floor space of a room, class D is permitted.

The following table is published in the building regulations Approved Document B both Volumes 1 & 2:

LOCATION	NATIONAL CLASS	EUROPEAN CLASS
Small rooms of not more than 30m ²	3	D-s3, d2
Other rooms	1	C-s3, d2
Other circulation spaces	0	B-s3, d2

Over recent years, the proliferation of cheap imported notice board products has led to the erosion of notice board specification and has meant that many buildings are being fitted with notice boards that do not achieve the correct fire rating, creating unsafe learning environments and increasing the risk of catastrophic fire.

All Sundeala notice boards meet the legal fire ratings as specified by UK building regulations

Sundeala FR Board achieves Class B-s1, d0 to BS EN 13501-1 both as an uncovered notice board and as a fabric covered composite notice board panel. This means it is safe for use throughout public buildings and exceeds the minimum mandatory classification for corridors and circulation areas as well as being safe for use in large classrooms and high risk areas.

Sundeala K Board achieves Class D- s1, d0 and can be used freely in rooms smaller than 30m² for non residential buildings and 4m² for residential dwellings, or rooms where the area of wall covering is less than 50% of the floor area.

Sundeala Ltd are committed to the fire safety of all buildings and recommend the use of Class B (BS EN 12501-1) notice boards throughout all buildings.

Classified for use in
**FIRE RATED
AREAS**

BS EN 13501-1 class B



FOR FURTHER
TECHNICAL
INFORMATION



To make it easy for fire assessment professionals and quality surveyors to sign buildings off and for anyone completing a fire risk assessment to ensure the safety of their building, all new Sundeala finished boards display a sticker declaring their fire rating on both the front and reverse of the board.

Anyone unsure how to check the fire rating of an older Sundeala board or who has purchased Sundeala board as sheet material to cut to size can call 01453 540900 to speak to an advisor who will assist you in checking your boards meet the required standard.



To ensure the fire safety of the the building, we recommend using the following specification throughout:

Sundeala FR Board Specification

N10 General fixtures/furnishings/equipment

- 195 NOTICE BOARDS

The notice board shall be Sundeala FR Board. The product shall meet the fire classification for Class B-s1, d0 as defined by the European Classification System BS EN 13501-1.

The product shall be 100% recycled and 100% recyclable and manufactured in the UK under a management system certified to ISO 14001: 2004 by Sundeala Limited. The standard of pinnable core shall conform to the minimum requirements for BS EN 622/3 type MBL and shall hold a 25 year manufacturer warranty.

Notice board

Manufacturer: Sundeala Ltd

Web: www.sundeala.co.uk

Email: specification@sundeala.co.uk

Tel: +44 (0)1453 540900

Address: Middle Mill, Cam, Dursley, Gloucestershire GL11 5LQ

Product reference: Notice boards

Size: [900 x 600 mm] [1200 x 600 mm] [1200 x 900 mm] [1200 x 1200 mm] [1500 x 1200 mm] [1800 x 1200 mm] [2100 x 1200 mm] [2400 x 1200 mm] [Bespoke Size up to 2400 x 1200mm - please specify]

Material: Sundeala FR Board

Fabric Finish: [Uncovered] [BBrown Expo Felt] [BBrown Trilogy] [Camira Cara] [Camira Lucia] [Mac23] [Velcro Friendly Loop Nylon]

[Bespoke Fabric - Designer's Choice]

Colour: [Dependent on Fabric finish] visit www.sundeala.co.uk for details

Frame: [Unframed] [Aluminium Frame - Oak Effect] [Aluminium Frame - Silver] [Aluminium Frame - White] [Hardwood Frame]

Edge Finish: [Square] [Bevelled] (Unframed options only - delete line if using a framed option)

Fixing: The product shall be installed strictly in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

CONTACT US

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