

Insurers insist scaffold sheeting meets LPS standards

Insurance companies are refusing to cover buildings that are 'wrapped' in scaffolding materials, unless the materials used are LPCB approved.

The material and any printing must be approved to LPS 1215 *LPCB approval and listing of scaffold cladding materials*. Suppliers claiming their materials 'comply with' or 'are tested to' the standard will not be accepted.

The requirements relating to fire protection during construction or refurbishment are specified by the HSE in HSG 168 *Fire Safety in Construction* and by the insurers' *Joint Code of Practice on the Protection from Fire of Construction Sites and Buildings Undergoing Renovation (JCC)*. Produced by the Fire Protection Association and supported by the Association of British Insurers, Chief Fire Officers Association, London Fire Brigade and the Construction Federation, the Code applies to construction sites with an original contract value of £2.5m and above. In these projects, any sheeting, netting or wrap material attached to the scaffolding must meet LPS 1215.

LPS 1215 is used by insurers to manage their fire risks thus reducing associated property damage and business interruption losses. It sets out a series of tests for a range of representative ignition scenarios that may occur on site.

Products approved to LPS 1215 are intended to reduce the risk of the product being ignited and reduce its contribution to the growth of a fire. They are also subjected to stringent audit testing backed up by factory audits. Non LPCB-approved products cannot be assumed to offer the same level or consistency of fire performance.

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