

LPS 1207 and LPS 1215 – The Facts

We have become aware of projects where products for use on construction sites during new build, demolition, refurbishment and maintenance projects are being incorrectly specified and/or incorrectly supplied or used in practice. The facts regarding the use and application of the LPS 1207 and LPS 1215 standards are as follows:

- LPS 1207 is a loss prevention standard that details the *Requirements for the LPCB Approval and Listing for fire performance of temporary protective covering materials for use in the interior of buildings*. LPS 1215 is a loss prevention standard that details the *Requirements for the LPCB Approval and Listing for fire performance of containment net and sheet materials for external use on construction sites*. The LPCB testing and approval process ensures that the product passes a series of tests for a range of representative ignition scenarios that may occur on site. Products that pass the test are intended to slow down the ignition and contribution to the growth of a fire. Products that are approved by LPCB are also subjected to a stringent regime of audit testing backed up by factory audits. Non LPCB approved products cannot be assumed to offer the same level of or consistency of fire performance.
- Both standards are relevant to buildings during construction and undergoing demolition, maintenance or refurbishment.
- The Building Regulations in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales do not apply to buildings during construction or undergoing major refurbishment except where they may be partially occupied.
- The requirements relating to fire protection during construction or refurbishment are specified by HSE in HSG 168 “*Fire Safety in Construction*” (LPS 1207 and LPS 1215 standards are referenced in clauses 168 and 170 respectively) and the insurers “*Joint Code of Practice on the Protection from Fire of Construction Sites and Buildings Undergoing Renovation (JCC)*”.
- The LPS 1207 and LPS 1215 standards are used by the insurance industry to manage their risks from fire by reducing the losses associated with property damage and business interruption. The JCC is produced by the Fire Protection Association and supported by the Association of British Insurers, the Chief Fire Officers Association, the London Fire Brigade and the Construction Federation. The Code applies to construction sites with an original contract value of £2.5m and above. Although the JCC is not a legal requirement, failure to comply could result in uninsured losses and in insurance ceasing to be available or withdrawn. In addition many insurers will not offer insurance where the major contractors are not adopting the Code.
- Temporary covering materials are covered under Clause 10 which includes a specific provision that flexible protection covering materials must conform to LPS 1207 (or an equivalent standard) and that the manufacturer and product must be certificated by a third party certification body. External sheet materials (scaffolding sheets) and containment nets (LPS 1215) are referred to under clause 10.3.
- The LPS 1207 and 1215 standards were developed in consultation with a wide range of key stakeholders including the Association of British Insurers (ABI), RiscAuthority and the trade associations representative of the sectors of manufacturers in the UK. They have been in use for many years and are under constant review. Any specific issues, queries or comments related to the use of these standards should be sent by email to enquiries@breglobal.com. These standards can be downloaded free of charge from <http://www.redbooklive.com>.
- Many manufacturers and suppliers of sheeting products sell both LPCB approved products and non LPCB approved products. The two types should never be used together on a project as the fire performance in combination is an unknown.
- BRE Global Ltd owns the LPCB certification brand and is therefore the only approvals body entitled to issue approvals to LPS 1207 and LPS 1215. LPCB approved temporary covering material and scaffold sheeting/containment netting can easily be identified as it will bear the LPCB certification logo and also the certificate number that relates to the specific product that is approved (See below). The only way to ensure such materials are approved by LPCB is to search www.RedBookLive.com which is an on-line listing of all LPCB product approvals. Here you will be able to check the product’s details and verify what parameters have been approved in terms of thickness, weight, colour, printing options etc. Both LPS 1207 and LPS 1215 include testing requirements to assess the flammability of inks which are used to mark the material with the LPCB certification mark and any other marking such as branding and it is essential that these details are checked to ensure the best fit for your particular requirements. If you have any queries about the validity of a product approval or the product that has been supplied to you, contact us at enquiries@breglobal.com.
- Beware of products claiming “satisfies” or “complies with” or “meets” LPS 1207 or LPS 1215. Simply, if it is not printed with the LPCB mark and a certificate number (see below), it isn’t LPCB approved. Make sure you get what you have paid for and ensure you are managing your fire risks.



WHAT TO LOOK FOR:

LPS XXXX: Issue X
Cert/LPCB Ref: YYYY

For further information contact enquiries@breglobal.com or visit <http://www.redbooklive.com/index.jsp>