

**FIRE TEST STUDY GROUP LTD**

**CONSTITUTION**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

The Fire Test Study Group constitutes those fire testing laboratories in the UK which undertake fire tests for building control purposes. Whilst the scope of testing of each of the current members may differ, there is a common interest in that a significant part of each member's activity is associated with testing and advisory work for building control purposes. A brief history of the group is given in Appendix 1.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership is open to laboratories who are involved in fire research and testing and who are conducting fire tests and offering authoritative opinions which are used in connection with the fire requirements of building control.

A list of the current members is attached in Appendix 2, together with the nominated contact/representative.

### **OBJECTIVES**

1. To liaise and discuss the principles and the philosophies relative to the design and conduct of fire tests and the application of the results.
2. To enhance the technical consistency and quality of UK fire testing for building control purposes.
3. To make public the agreements which are reached and to apply these agreements to all tests conducted.
4. To seek ways in which relevant test techniques can be improved and make appropriate representations to specification writing authorities (e.g. BSI).
5. To liaise with National and International Organisations and Associations.

### **MEETINGS**

The venue for meeting is mutually agreed at the discretion of the Group.

Meetings are held at a frequency determined by the amount and urgency of the work to be undertaken (usually 4 to 6 times per year).

There is a nominal limit of one representative per organisation at any meeting.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

Where necessary for the purpose of establishing common procedures and/or interpretations, the group will formulate "resolutions" on specific topics. The laboratories informally agree to adopt these resolutions subject to certain conditions set out below. No resolution shall conflict with the requirements of any published test standard except with the expressed wish of the appropriate standardisation body. These resolutions will be made available to test sponsors and users in the form of a corporate document which consolidates all such resolutions. Resolutions will be numbered sequentially and dated. Where it is considered appropriate to do so, a resolution will be supported by a short explanation for arriving at that common agreement.

A resolution will only be formulated on the basis of unanimous agreement between the member organisations of the Group, or, where unanimous agreement cannot be reached, following referral of the subject to the appropriate British Standard Institution technical committee, or other appropriate body for wider discussion.

Upon issue, every resolution associated with an interpretation of lack of specification in a standard will be submitted to the appropriate standardisation body for them to comment or take any action that may be considered appropriate. The BSI technical committee responsible for BS 476 and other associated test methods have given a commitment to undertake such review and comment, with a view to amending the test procedures if relevant or necessary.

The laboratories have agreed to indicate in their test reports that, where necessary, interpretations given in the FTSG resolutions have been adopted in performing the test. Where tests are conducted adopting interpretations/procedures different from those specified in an FTSG resolution, at the specific request of the sponsor, the laboratory will include a statement within the test report indicating the interpretation/procedure as being contrary to the FTSG resolution, quoting the appropriate resolution number and date.

## **LIAISON MEMBERS**

A standing invitation has been extended to certain other organisations to send observers to the technical discussion of the Group. Current members and liaison members are included in Appendix 2.

## **FINANCE**

Membership of the Group involves a financial commitment of an annual membership fee to cover for secretarial and administrative expenses. Should any extra expenditure by the Group be necessary or desirable, it is arranged by agreement between the members.

## **OFFICERS**

There are no full time officers to the Group. Honourary Officers are appointed from within the membership.