

The Scottish Association of **BUILDING STANDARDS MANAGERS**  
Incorporating the Scottish Association of Chief Building Control  
Officers and representing Local Authority Building Standards in  
Scotland



## **SABSM TECHNICAL POLICY NOTE T06/2012**

### **TECHNICAL Short duration fire resisting intermediate floors - utilising standard timber joists**

Guidance Note Number:	<b>T06/2012</b>
Issue Date:	01/05/2012
Domestic/Non Domestic:	Domestic/Non Domestic
Section:	Part 2. Fire
Clause Number:	2.3.1
Clause Title:	Elements of structure

## **BACKGROUND**

It has been noted recently that manufacturers published data for plasterboards no longer makes reference to the use of 12.5 mm plasterboard as achieving a short duration of fire resistance for load bearing capacity where fixed to regular timber joists on intermediate floors.

This has caused confusion for verifiers since it is normal practice to accept standard 12.5 mm plasterboard fixed to the underside of intermediate floors with regular timber joists in order to achieve a short duration standard for load bearing capacity only.

Following discussion through the consortium group it was decided that TRADA's Technology Report 1/2001 Timber frame walls and floors – fire resistance of service penetrations was relevant to this subject since the intermediate floor test beds utilised a ceiling finish of 12.5 mm thick standard plasterboard with positive results.

## **DECISION**

SABSM considers that in order to achieve a short duration fire resisting intermediate floor for load bearing capacity when it is constructed with standard solid timber joists, a ceiling finish of 12.5 mm thick standard plasterboard may be used. The plasterboard should have taped and filled joints or a plaster skim finish.

This policy note is only applicable to standard solid timber joisted intermediate floors and does not take account of requirements that go beyond providing a short duration fire resistance for load bearing capacity only. It does not apply to engineered joists, intermediate floors requiring sound insulation or separating floors.

## **References**

TRADA <sup>(1)</sup> (on behalf of the DETR) Technology Report 1/2001 Timber frame walls and floors – fire resistance of service penetrations

## **Acronyms**

<sup>(1)</sup> TRADA is the Timber Research and Development Association.