

PLASTERBOARD - TYPE F COMPLIANCE

"Specify and supply the tested system, not just the pink board."

Overview

GPA members, Knauf, Siniat by Etex, British Gypsum and Gyproc Ireland, manufacture plasterboard in accordance with BS EN 520:2004 + A1:2009. However, compliance with this product standard does not attribute that a plasterboard achieves a specific fire resistance and or protection to a structural steel element. This can only be achieved through testing to an accredited British Standard or European Norm of the full system within an accredited laboratory, not by an individual plasterboard in isolation.

What Merchants And Distributors Need to Know

The markets of both the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland are open to all economic operators throughout the supply chain, regardless of their GPA membership status.

Compliance with BS EN 520:2004 + A1:2009 only confirms that a plasterboard meets the manufacturing requirements of the standard. It does not confirm that plasterboard has been tested as part of a fire resistant partition, lining, ceiling, floor system or fire protection by encasements to steel beams and or columns, or that these plasterboards are equivalent or interchangeable with other GPA members products & or systems.



Doesn't Pink mean Fire?

Under the manufacturing standard, plasterboards are given a designation type, with Type F plasterboards providing the majority of product commonly recognised in the marketplace by its pink face paper. This identification assists authorities, installers and merchants/distributors identify the product. However, the pink colour is simply a visual aid, while it may indicate that the plasterboard has been designation as Type F to BS EN 520:2004 + A1:2009, it does not validate the fire performance/resistance of the plasterboard in a specific fire resistant partition, lining, ceiling, floor system or fire protection by encasements to a structural steel beam and or column.

Type F plasterboards, such as Knauf Fire Panel, Siniat Fire Board and British Gypsum Gyproc® FireLine, are commonly adopted where enhanced fire resistance, protection systems are required, these have been extensively tested to recognised fire resistance standards, within accredited laboratories. Our members also manufacture and place on the market moisture resistant fire equivalents, with the provisions within this document continue to be applicable.

When purchasing any plasterboard, merchants/distributors should ensure products carry the required identification and supporting documentation, including:

- Manufacturer name or trademark
- Production information
- CE or UKCA marking
- Fire classification
- Product designation
- Product weight
- Traceability details
- EU-CPR or UK-CPR

Conclusion

When sourcing Type F or any plasterboard product, due diligence is essential.

A plasterboard manufactured to BS EN 520:2004 + A1:2009, is not on its own, evidence of fire resistance and or protection. The plasterboard must form part of a fully tested and certified system for the intended application.

Importantly, Type F is a product designation, not a fire resistance. Manufacturers achieve Type F by completing a manufacturing process looking at core cohesion at high temperatures, such plasterboards have additional additives within the gypsum core. So, Type F plasterboards should not be assumed to be equivalent simply because they share the same classification.

This applies products from GPA & non-GPA members. A system tested with one manufacturer's Type F plasterboard board cannot automatically be assumed to deliver the same fire performance if another manufacturer's Type F plasterboard is substituted, unless supporting test evidence, assessment or certification is available.

For merchant/distributors, the message is simple:

"Specify and supply the tested system, not just the pink board."

When customers are buying products for fire resistant partitions, linings, ceiling linings, floor systems or fire protection by encasements of steel beams and columns. The focus should be on the manufacturer's tested system and supporting fire performance test data. Compliance with BS EN 520:2004 + A1:2009, a pink face paper, or a Type F designation alone should never be taken as evidence that one plasterboard can replace another in a fire resistant, protected construction.

OUR MEMBERS:

