Fire performance of *wall panelling*

In England a panelled wall is a lining under Approved Document B. The class belongs to the build-up as installed, and the evidence is a document. No class is claimed for any product.

Compliance guidance. Figures are taken from the editions named, read in November 2026, and apply to England: Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland were not read. This is guidance, not fire safety or legal advice. The project fire strategy, a fire engineer or your building control body decides which class applies and whether the evidence is enough. No product on this page is claimed to reach any class.

AT A GLANCE

Location or point	Dwellings: Approved Document B Volume 1, section 4	Other buildings: Volume 2, section 6
Small rooms	Up to 4 m² floor area, and garages of a dwellinghouse up to 40 m²: D-s3,d2	Up to 4 m² in residential accommodation, up to 30 m² in non-residential: D-s3,d2
Other rooms	C-s3,d2 (garages included)	C-s3,d2 (garages included)
Circulation spaces	Within a dwelling: C-s3,d2. Other, including common areas of blocks of flats: B-s3,d2	Other circulation spaces: B-s3,d2
Parts of walls of lower performance	No worse than D-s3,d2; in total less than half the room's floor area, up to 20 m² (para 4.4)	As Volume 1, up to 20 m² residential or 60 m² non-residential (para 6.4)
Not part of a wall or ceiling	Wall (para 4.3): doors and frames, window frames, architraves, cover moulds, picture rails, skirtings and similar narrow members; fireplace surrounds, mantle shelves, fitted furniture. Ceiling (4.6): similar, with exposed beams	The same (paras 6.3 and 6.6)

Re-typed by us from the online versions, 2019 edition with amendments to 2026. England only. s3,d2 means no limit on smoke or flaming droplets.

READING A EUROCLASS

Class	Tests	Main limit
A1	EN ISO 1182 and 1716	Highest performance: non-combustibility tests only
A2	1182 or 1716, and SBI	Looser limits; SBI limits as for B
B	SBI and small flame	FIGRA 120 W/s or less; heat release 7.5 MJ or less
C	SBI and small flame	FIGRA 250 W/s or less; heat release 15 MJ or less
D	SBI and small flame	FIGRA 750 W/s or less
E, F	Small flame	E: flame spread 150 mm or less in 20 s. F: E not reached

SBI is the single burning item test. s1 least smoke, s2 more, s3 no limit; d0 no flaming droplets, d1 brief, d2 no limit. Table 6.1 asks for s3,d2: only the letter counts. Source: Delegated Regulation 2016/364.

THREE CHECKS

Allowance (para 6.4): lower-class (D) lining must be less than half the floor area, capped at 20 m² residential or 60 m² non-residential: 45 m² room, under 22.5 m²; 48 m² residential room, under 20 m². Density: the timber list starts at 390

kg/m³; western redcedar is about 358, eastern white pine 392 (US data). Thickness: lists start at 9 mm; a 5 mm sheet is below.

FOUR WAYS TO SHOW A CLASS

Route	Evidence
1. Generic list	Meets every condition of a Commission Decision table (plain timber or MDF: class D).
2. Test report	BS EN 13501-1 classification of the build-up as installed, from a notified body or UKAS-accredited laboratory.
3. Assessment	Extended-application report from test evidence (B1c, B4); not a way to avoid a test.
4. Treated	The maker's report; check it covers your build-up and finish.

ASK FOR

- The class, rooms and standard edition named on the report, its date, and the issuer (notified body or UKAS-accredited laboratory).
- A report or Declaration of Performance for the build-up as installed: board, thickness, density, veneer, adhesive, finish, substrate, fixing, joints.
- Written confirmation for any change. Not accepted: a material name, a board-only certificate, old Class 0 wording.

SPECIFICATION WORDING

FIRE CLASSIFICATION CLAUSE

Wall panelling to [room names or areas] to achieve reaction to fire class [C-s3,d2 / B-s3,d2 / D-s3,d2] to BS EN 13501-1, as classified for the build-up as installed: [board type, thickness [ ] mm, density [ ] kg/m3, veneer, adhesive, finish [ ]] fixed to [substrate] with [battens / air gap [ ] mm] and [closed / open] joints. The supplier provides the classification report or Declaration of Performance, for approval before production, issued by a [notified body / UKAS-accredited laboratory]. The class applies to the build-up supplied, not to the board alone.

CHANGES AND HANDOVER

No change of board, thickness, veneer, adhesive, finish or fixing from the approved build-up without the supplier confirming in writing, with evidence, that the classification still applies. At handover provide, for the fire safety information, the classification report or Declaration of Performance for each build-up, the drawing showing where each applies, and batch references for [fire-retardant boards / treated timber].

TERMS USED

Euroclass

The European grading of how a product contributes to a fire, A1 (best) to F, with letters for smoke (s1 to s3) and flaming droplets (d0 to d2). Set by BS EN 13501-1.

Wall lining

The surface of walls and ceilings that Approved Document B asks to meet a class (Table 6.1). Skirtings and similar narrow members are not counted.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- Approved Document B Vols 1 and 2 (England), 2019 ed., amendments to 2026: Vol 2 s.6, Vol 1 s.4, Apps A and B.
- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/364, Annex Table 1: classes of reaction to fire; legislation.gov.uk.
- Decisions 2003/43/EC (amended by 2007/348/EC), 2006/213/EC and 96/603/EC: generic lists; legislation.gov.uk.
- BS EN 13501-1:2018 and the test standards named: current on BSI Knowledge, 5-6 Nov 2026; none read.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/fire-performance-of-wall-panelling. Make Bespoke Studio coordinates manufacture through its partner workshops. Figures are guidance only and your specification governs; some may be superseded, so contact the studio to verify.