

8 October 2015

Dear Q-Mark Customer

Use of Beech timber within Q-Mark certified doors having a fire resistance performance of ≥ 60 minutes

Empirical test evidence has been submitted which has identified that **Beech** timber (*fagus sylvatica*) has been found to produce inconsistent results when fire tested. Furthermore, this has been witnessed when the timber density and moisture content are within the parameters of the doorsets assessment documentation.

In addition to the empirical limitations of Beech, as part of a fire resisting doorset, Eurocode 5 (BS EN 1995) and the extended field of application for timber doors, BS EN 15269-3, indicate beech as having char rate characteristics similar to softwood and that it must be considered separate from other hardwood species, even if the density of beech exceeds the density of the hardwood species that has been proven by test.

The purpose of this Q-Mark letter is to give an update on the forthcoming limitation of the use of Beech timber within current Q-Mark timber doorset scope Global Assessments having a fire resistance requirement of 60 minutes or greater.

The limitations contained within this letter are a result of an industry wide investigation into the use of Beech timber in the UK. The limitation is not just restricted to Q-Mark fire door manufacturers but includes other UK third party certification schemes.

When undertaking Global Assessment scope evaluations for timber doors of ≥ 60 minutes fire resistance Beech will be excluded from the scope of application as an alternative hardwood, irrespective of the density and species of hardwood that has been proven by test.

The components affected by this decision are door frames, lippings and glazing beads. Beech may still be used as a decorative facing veneer and sub-frame and/or core components.

It must be noted that Beech will be excluded from any valid Q-Mark approved door scope regardless of whether the door has been tested with Beech – this being due to the inconsistent nature of Beech timbers (which cannot be identified by density and/or moisture content).

In order to give industry time to react to the limitation imposed, this notice will come into effect for any jobs tendered for after the 1st January 2016.

A BM TRADA technical Assessment Update will be issued detailing this change in due course.

If you require further information on the above please contact me via email on rneuman@bmtrada.com or 01494 569834.

Yours Sincerely



Ross Newman
Principal Technical Officer
BM TRADA Certification Ltd