

Introduction

This newsletter contains details of the new projects in Communities and Local Government's Sustainable Building Regulations Research and Development Programme for 2007/2008.

The Building Regulations are made under powers provided in the Building Act 1984, and apply in England and Wales. The current edition of the regulations is *The Building Regulations 2000* (as amended) and the majority of building projects are required to comply with them. They exist to ensure the health and safety of people in and around all types of buildings (ie, domestic, commercial and industrial). They also provide for energy conservation and for access and facilities for disabled people. Research is carried out to ensure that the Building Regulations, and associated guidance, have a scientific basis.

For 2007/2008 the new projects have been planned according to three broad areas.

These are:

- (a) **Sustainability**: – our objective is to significantly improve the sustainability of all new and existing buildings by using the Building Control system and other appropriate levers. More specifically we aim to:
 - improve their energy efficiency/reduce their CO₂ emissions
 - improve their water efficiency
 - ensure that they can adapt/are resilient to a changing climate
 - reduce the wider impact that they have on the environment.
- (b) **Review of building control** – our objective is to ensure the building control system remains fit for purpose and capable of responding to future challenges including climate change.
- (c) **Safety and standards** – our objective is to secure sound quantified evidence, which will be used to help us develop the technical standards in the Building Regulations; help us address new risks to building safety as they emerge and help support preparation for European discussions on building standards.

There are 19 new research and development proposals. Those projects marked * will be carried out under the framework contracts mentioned below.

The Projects

- Review of Building Control : survey of public and private sector building control bodies
- Review of Building Control: impact analysis of proposals
- Code for Sustainable Homes: Evidence for a mandatory Code and for the RIA.
- Code for Sustainable Homes: Technical Guide*
- Sustainability of non-domestic buildings: water efficiency
- Sustainability of non-domestic buildings: energy efficiency
- Cost effectiveness of water efficiency campaigns*
- Review of Part G and Hot Water Safety; to include proposals on water efficiency*
- Dissemination of guidance on flood resilience and resistant construction*
- Review of Part L*
- Website and an Approved Scheme for Construction Details Supporting the ADs to Part L*
- Investigation of Real Fires*
- Guidance on Assess*
- Calibration of BSEN 1991-1-4 wind loading
- CPD review – stakeholder engagement and consultation
- Mapping the standard of housing stock – Part II
- Revision of Guidance on Party Wall Act
- Implementation of Eurocodes.

Framework contracts

Communities and Local Government has the following framework contracts for building regulations research in place during 2007/08:

- **Structural Integrity** (BRE): structural design, response to extreme loadings (Part A)
- **Fire Safety** (BRE): resistance, reaction, protection, detection and investigation (Part B)
- **Building Operational Performance** (Faber Maunsell): ventilation, sound insulation, building services and energy efficiency (Parts C, E, F, J and L)
- **Code for Sustainable Homes** (BRE): technical guidance manual
- **Sanitation** (Construction Industry Research and Information Association): hygiene, water reuse, drainage and waste disposal (Parts G and H).