

What is Certification

Introduction

Certification is third party confirmation that products, services, systems and personnel meet **and continue to meet** the appropriate standard. It differs from a *test* which is basically a snapshot showing that the product passed the test on a given day. Certification, through regular audits, ensures that the product continues to comply with the standard and meet the specification.

Certification is beneficial to everyone in the supply chain, from the manufacturer through the contractor and installer to the end client.

The Process

The certification process involves rigorous assessment and testing of products and services to ensure that they meet and continue to meet quality standards set by a team of experts who may be manufacturers, installers, designers, clients, regulators, insurers, engineers and scientists.

For over 150 years the Loss Prevention Certification Board (LPCB) and its predecessor the Fire Offices' Committee (FOC) have been working with specifiers to set the standards necessary to ensure that a product is fit for purpose.

These standards may be our own Loss Prevention Standards or may be British, European or International Standards.

Approval of products is usually based on testing undertaken by our world renowned testing laboratories. In addition we carry out rigorous checks of production processing and installation and maintenance requirements as necessary. Together these checks help ensure that the product you select will offer the required level of protection and security.

Once we are satisfied that a product, service or company meets the necessary standards, we issue a certificate and list them in the relevant 'Red Book', either The List of Approved Fire and Security Products and Services or The List of Approved Companies and Construction Products. The 'Red Books' are available free of charge to specifiers and other users throughout the world and can also be viewed on line at www.redbooklive.com.

LPCB joined BRE Certification on 31st March 2000. BRE Certification is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Foundation for the Built Environment which reinvests any profits back into research, education & improvement to our service.