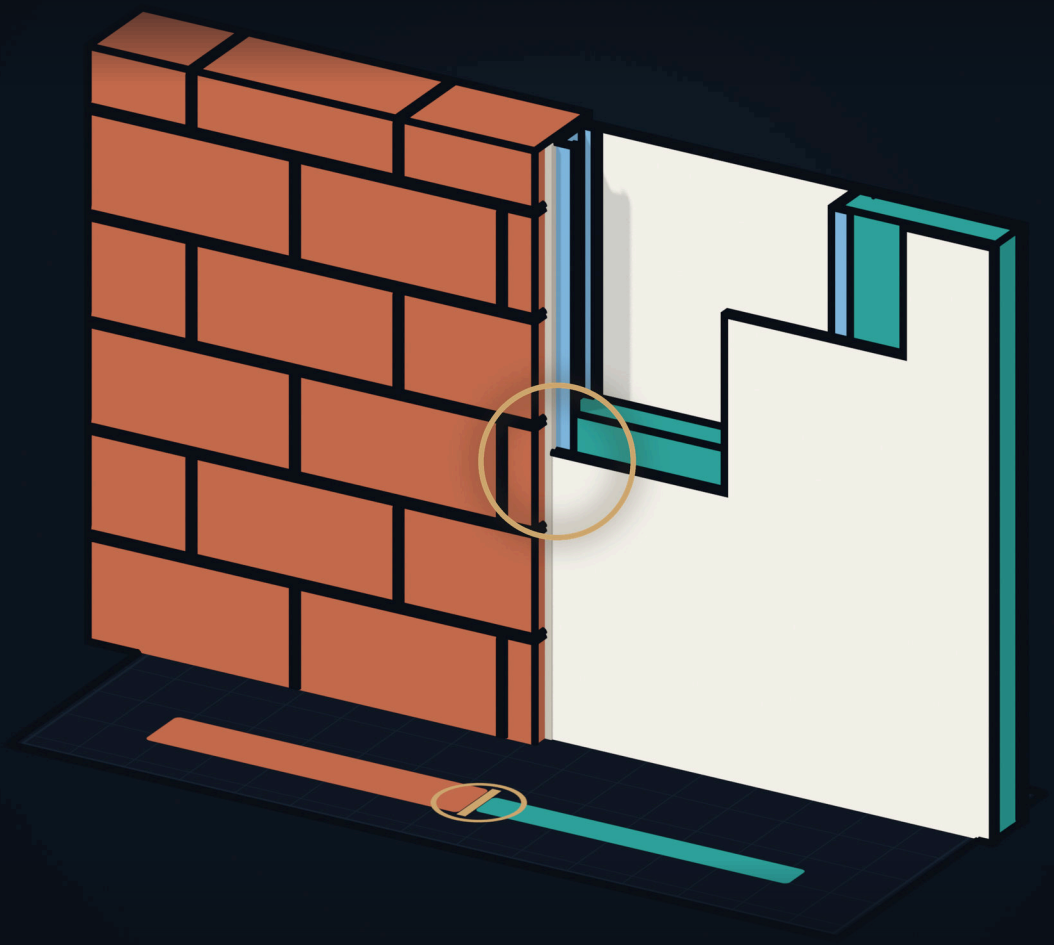
ISSUE 01 · 29 OCTOBER 2026

THE BENCH • EVIDENCE NOTE 02

What Covers the Junction?

Two wall constructions can each have sound supporting evidence. This note explains how to check whether that evidence, or other applicable information, addresses the place where they meet.

How to read separate assembly evidence where two wall constructions meet



An educational evidence note by The Bench. Not a compliance statement, product approval, certificate, fire strategy, design detail or construction specification. The illustrated junction is conceptual: it is not a tested interface or an approved detail. It does not assess, compare, rank or recommend any manufacturer or proprietary product.

BEFORE YOU START

How to read this note

How this note was prepared. It works through one question against primary sources: legislation, statutory guidance, official guidance on applying that guidance, independent reviews and the published scope of the standards concerned. Standards are cited by their published scope only; their text is not reproduced.

> THE BENCH'S READING
> Paragraphs marked like this give The Bench's interpretation of the sources. Quotations and cited statements elsewhere are the sources' own words or close summaries of them.

Learning boxes (The key idea, Look closer, What does this mean?, What should you check?) and the Explainer captions are The Bench's explanation in plain words, not source text.

The example. The note uses one conceptual illustration throughout: two different wall constructions meeting end to end in the same wall line. It is drawn to explain an evidence question, not to show how any wall should be built.

Evidence language. Where precision matters, this note describes what evidence does or does not establish using five categories:

Supported by the applicable evidence. The evidence covers the point directly.

Supported subject to stated conditions. The evidence covers the point only where its stated conditions are met.

Requires project-specific confirmation. The evidence does not settle the point; it needs a project answer from the designer, the manufacturer or system holder, an assessor, or the building control body.

Not demonstrated by the evidence considered. The documents reviewed do not show it. This is a statement about the documents, never about the construction.

Outside the scope of this guidance. The point sits outside what this note or the evidence it describes addresses.

"Not demonstrated by the evidence considered" never means non-compliant, unsuitable, unsafe or prohibited.[1]

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PART 1 · THE QUESTION

Two walls. One question.

THE QUESTION THIS NOTE ASKS

When two separately evidenced wall constructions meet in a proposed detail, does the evidence held, or other applicable information, address their junction, and on what conditions?





IN PART 1

1 The short version

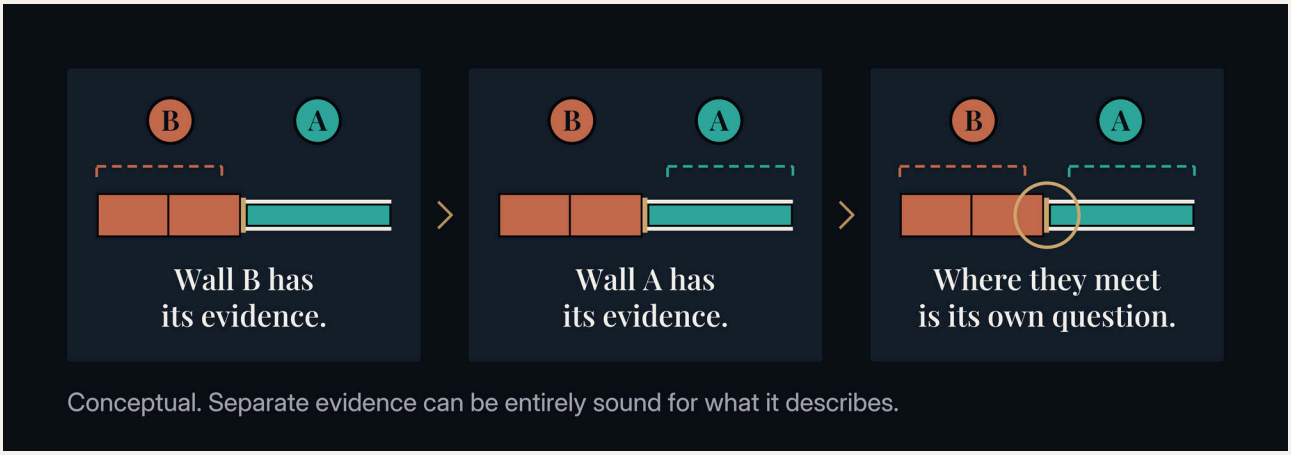
2 Why the junction matters

PART 1 · THE QUESTION

1 The short version

Executive summary

When a detail joins two constructions that were evidenced separately, each set of evidence may be entirely sound for the construction it describes. The detail then adds something neither document necessarily describes: the place where the two meet.



EXPLAINER A **Two sets of evidence, one question.** Read left to right: each wall has its own evidence; the place where they meet is a question of its own. B is the masonry wall and A the framed wall, as in Figure 1.

Conceptual, as the strip's own footnote says.

01

The law and the guidance look at materials as used.

Regulation 7 asks for materials "appropriate for the circumstances in which they are used" and "applied, used or fixed so as adequately to perform the functions for which they are designed".[2] Approved Document B asks for test evidence to be "carefully checked to ensure that it is applicable to the intended use", and says that small differences in detail "should be tested or assessed in accordance with paragraph B1".[3]

02

Scope is the key word.

Every test report, classification and assessment has a stated field of application. Official FAQ guidance on fire-resistance exposure conditions asks designers to "verify that the associated evidence of performance (e.g., standard test, assessment, calculation) is appropriate for the field of application".[4]

03

The junction is a separate question, not a suspicion.

Asking what covers the junction does not imply that either set of evidence is wrong, or that evidence for the junction is missing.[1,3]

04

Different kinds of answer exist, and they are not interchangeable.

Evidence of performance whose stated scope includes the junction (a test, an extended application or an assessment); documentation of a detail, which is product information read for the evidence it relies on; and a recorded design decision on how the evidence applies, agreed with the building control body where approval is required. Documentation and decisions rely on evidence; they do not replace it.[4–8]

05

Not every junction needs a new physical test.

Approved Document B recognises assessment in lieu of a specific test where sufficient relevant test evidence is available, and equally says an assessment is not a way to avoid a test where one is necessary.[5,6]

06

An open question is not a failure.

If the evidence considered does not reach the junction, the correct description is "not demonstrated by the evidence considered", followed by a route to confirmation.[1]

This summary combines source statements with The Bench's reading; the sections that follow separate the two.

PART 1 · THE QUESTION

2 Why the junction matters

The question, and why it matters

Two constructions arrive on a project with their own documents. Each set may describe its construction well: what was tested or assessed, against which method, with which components, under which conditions. The proposed detail then joins the two end to end, in one wall line.

What the law asks

The law asks about the work as built. In England, regulation 7 requires building work to be carried out with materials that are "appropriate for the circumstances in which they are used" and "applied, used or fixed so as adequately to perform the functions for which they are designed" (Building Regulations 2010, reg 7(1)(a)).[2]

THE BENCH'S READING

The test is about materials in their circumstances and as fixed, not about each product's documents on their own.

What the fire guidance asks

The statutory guidance on fire says the same about evidence:

> "Any test evidence used to demonstrate the fire performance classification of a product or system should be carefully checked to ensure that it is applicable to the intended use. Small differences in detail, such as fixing method, joints, dimensions, the introduction of insulation materials and air gaps (ventilated or not), might significantly affect the performance and should be tested or assessed in accordance with paragraph B1."
>
> Approved Document B, Volumes 1 and 2, Appendix B, para B2[3]

Two points follow from the wording. The guidance says such differences *might* significantly affect performance; it does not say that they do. And it does not leave them to be noted and set aside: it says they should be tested or assessed in accordance with paragraph B1, which recognises a specific test, design using relevant design standards, and assessment by applying relevant test evidence in lieu of a specific test (§7).[3,5]

Official FAQ guidance on fire-resistance exposure conditions (the answer on Table B3) adds that designers should “verify that the associated evidence of performance (e.g., standard test, assessment, calculation) is appropriate for the field of application”, and that “it is the responsibility of those undertaking the work to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the Building Regulations”.[4]

THE BENCH’S READING

A junction is where those “small differences in detail” come together: how one construction ends, how the other begins, and what happens between them. That is why it deserves its own question.

THE KEY IDEA

Each set of evidence is read for what it covers. Where two walls meet, the junction is a question of its own: not a suspicion about either wall, and not a finding of failure.

PART 2 · THE EVIDENCE

3 Two walls in one line

The example

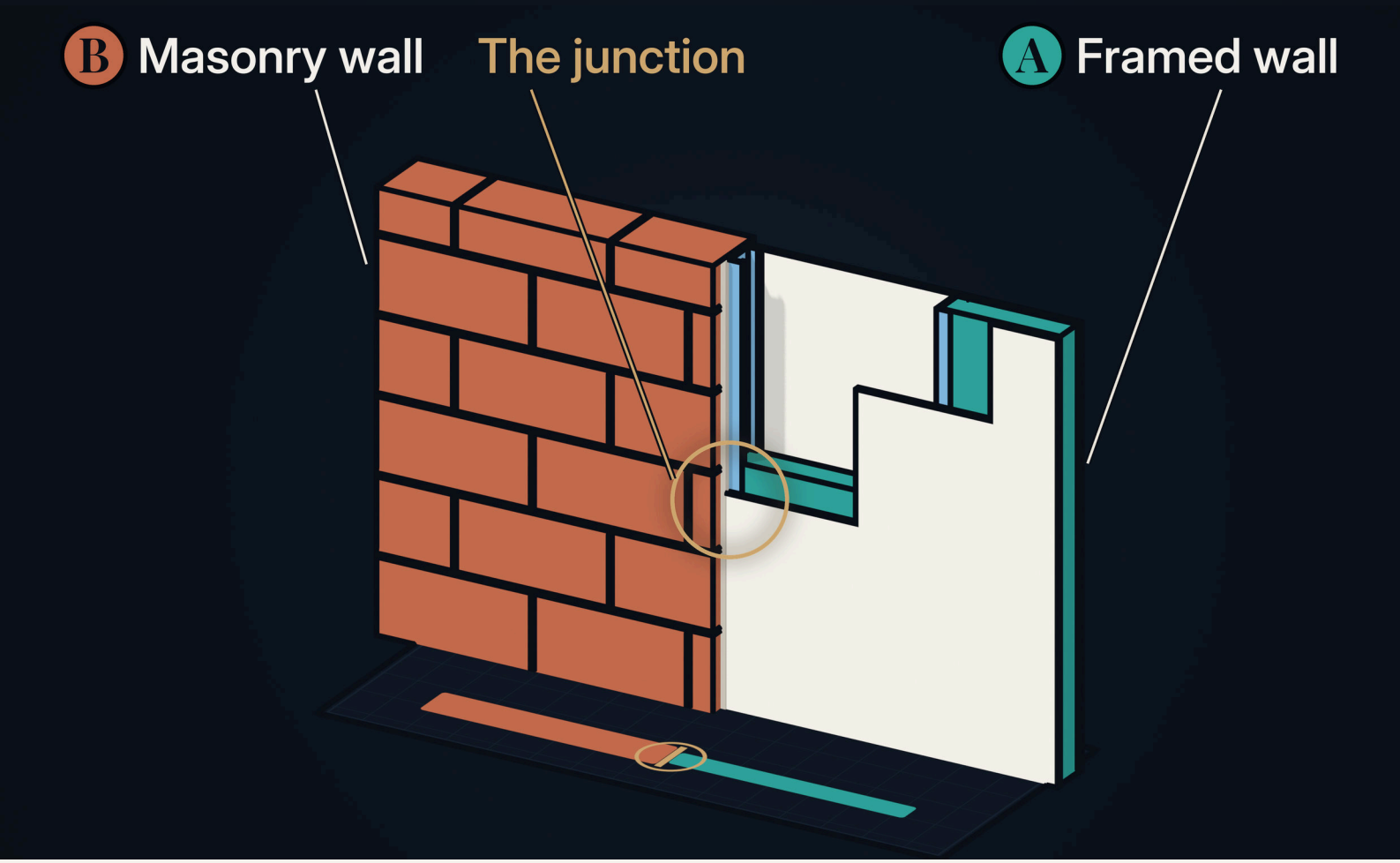


FIGURE 1 **Two wall constructions meeting in one line.** A masonry wall (terracotta, labelled B) and a light steel framed wall (teal insulation and a steel stud behind a board face, cut away in steps, labelled A) meet end to end; the gold ring marks the junction. The figures that follow use the same B and A labels. The labels are annotations, not part of the construction.

Conceptual illustration from The Bench's short film: not to scale, not a specification, not a tested interface or an approved detail.

LOOK CLOSER

No real product, system, dimension, fixing or seal is represented. Where the drawing shows a line, strip or fixing head near the junction, it is schematic: part of the illustration, not a specified or assessed junction construction.

THIS NOTE'S EXAMPLE

The illustration shows an **in-line abutment**: two different wall constructions continuing the same wall line and meeting end to end. Think of a run of masonry wall that changes, part way along, to a framed wall.[9]

NOT THIS ARRANGEMENT

It is **not** the familiar layered arrangement in which a masonry outer leaf sits in front of a framed inner wall. In that arrangement the two constructions overlap across their full face; here they meet only along the line where one ends and the other begins.

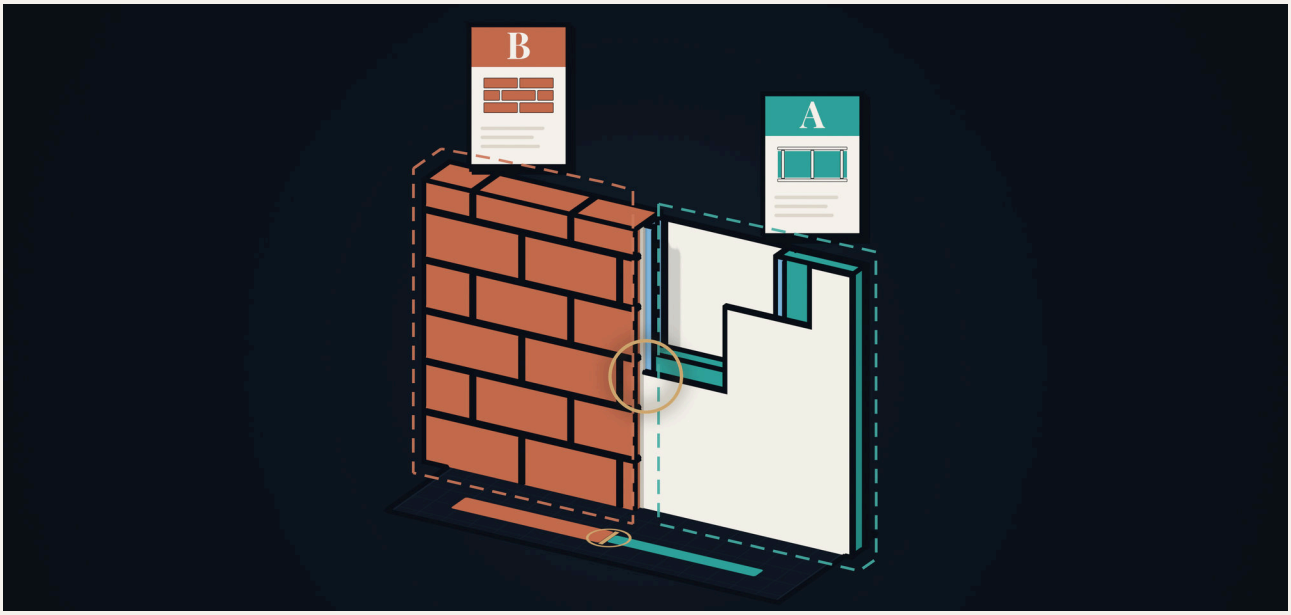
> **Why a conceptual model?** The evidence question is the same whatever the actual constructions are. Using an abstract pair keeps attention on how evidence is read, and avoids any suggestion that a particular product, system or detail has, or lacks, a performance.

PART 2 · THE EVIDENCE

4 Each wall has its own evidence

Separate evidence for each assembly

Each construction may be supported by documents that are entirely sound for what they describe.[1,3] Each kind of document answers its own question, and reading one as if it answered another is where applicability goes wrong. None of this makes separate evidence less valuable; it means each document is read for what it covers.



TERRACOTTA
The masonry wall (B).

TEAL
The framed wall (A).

DASHED OUTLINES
The construction each set of evidence describes.

FIGURE 2 **Each assembly with its own evidence.** The dashed outlines stand for the construction each set of evidence describes; each is drawn to the end of its own wall, and neither extends over the other wall. Both are drawn the same way: neither is shown as weaker, invalid or incomplete.

Conceptual.

What each kind of document can tell you

An evidence pack can contain documents of the six kinds below, among others; third-party certification is not examined in this note (§10). Each card gives what the document can establish, then where its scope stops.

Declaration of performance

WHAT IT CAN ESTABLISH

The product's "intended use or uses" and "the performance of at least one of the essential characteristics"; for listed characteristics for which no performance is declared, "NPD" (No Performance Determined)[10]

Reg (EU) 305/2011 as it applies in GB, Art 6(3)

WHERE ITS SCOPE STOPS

A statement about the product, not a test report for a build-up or a project approval (The Bench's reading). "It is essential to check that the declared performance is suitable for the building works"[11]

Approved Document 7, para 1.5

Test report

WHAT IT CAN ESTABLISH

The behaviour of the specimen tested, as built and under the conditions recorded

WHERE ITS SCOPE STOPS

The specimen and conditions tested. Differences in fixing method, joints, dimensions, insulation and air gaps "might significantly affect the performance and should be tested or assessed in accordance with paragraph B1"[3]

Approved Document B, B2

Classification

WHAT IT CAN ESTABLISH

A fire-resistance classification based on test data within the direct field of application of the test method, or on extended application of test results[12]

BS EN 13501-2, published scope

WHERE ITS SCOPE STOPS

The field of application stated with it. The testing review warned of "a risk of conclusions drawn from test data being stretched too far"[13]

Morrell and Day, §12.8

Extended application

WHAT IT CAN ESTABLISH

A result extended beyond the specimen tested by the rules of the extended-application standard for the test in question[7]

Approved Document B, B4

WHERE ITS SCOPE STOPS

The scope stated in the extended-application report, which should include details of the test evidence used (§6)

Assessment

WHAT IT CAN ESTABLISH

An assessment applying "relevant test evidence, in lieu of carrying out a specific test"[5,7]

Approved Document B, B1(c), B4

WHERE ITS SCOPE STOPS

Its own stated scope, and only "where sufficient relevant test evidence is available" (B3). BS EN 15725's published scope "does not cover the incorporation of the product into the construction works that is justified by national rules"[6,14]

System test

WHAT IT CAN ESTABLISH

The performance of the system tested: "its results apply only to the particular system tested"[15]

Grenfell Tower Inquiry, Phase 2 Report, Vol 1, Part 1, Ch 2, para 2.32

WHERE ITS SCOPE STOPS

The configuration tested. BS 8414-1's published scope lists as not covered "The total configuration of construction incorporating additional windows, doors, balconies, or ancillary penetrations"[16]

PART 2 · THE EVIDENCE

5 The detail between the documents

The proposed interface

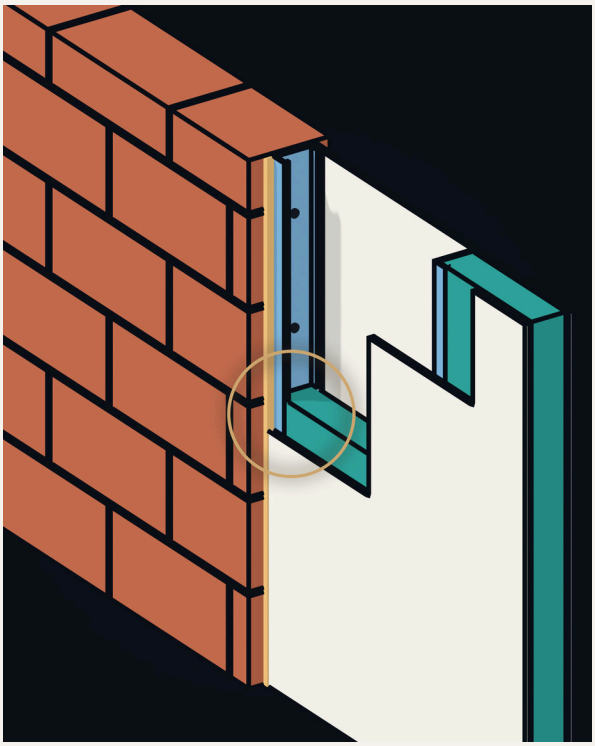


FIGURE 3 **The junction, close up.** The fixing heads, the short ticks at the masonry joints, the lines and the thin strip at the junction are schematic parts of the illustration, as in the film.

They are not a specified or assessed junction construction: the figure proposes no seal, fixing, tie or fire-stopping detail, and no performance. Conceptual.

A junction between independently supplied constructions sits outside any one product's documents. In the GB product regime, a "kit" is placed on the market "by a single manufacturer".[17] The testing review put the consequence plainly: an assembly from a single manufacturer "is covered by the CPR, but it ceases to be covered as soon as any part of it falls outside the offer of a single manufacturer" (Morrell and Day, §29.3).[8]

THE BENCH'S READING

No single declaration necessarily speaks for such a junction. That does not make it unregulated or unevidenced: regulation 7 still applies to the work, and §7 sets out what can address it.

Why small details matter

The details that make a junction can change performance. The guidance names fixing method, joints, dimensions, insulation and air gaps.[3] For *reaction to fire*, official guidance goes further: performance "is not only a function of the material or product used, but also a function of the system tested in that configuration", and "the same material or product can achieve different classifications when using a variety of forms, fixings, orientations and combinations with other materials, e.g., different substrates".[18]

> THE BENCH'S READING
>
> That last statement concerns reaction to fire, not fire resistance, and is not evidence about fire resistance. It is cited because it is the clearest official explanation of why the arrangement around a product belongs inside the evidence question.

If the wall line separates fire

Where the wall line has a fire-separating role, the guidance treats its joints as places where performance has to be maintained: "Every joint, imperfect fit and opening for services through a fire-separating element should be sealed with fire-stopping to ensure the fire resistance of the element is not impaired" (Approved Document B Vol 2, para 10.1), and "Different materials suit different situations and not all are suitable in every situation" (para 10.26).[19] Whether the illustrated wall has such a role is deliberately left open: the figure is conceptual.

For fire doorsets and shutters, the guidance asks for test evidence "applicable to the complete installed assembly" (Appendix C, C4(b)).[20] That requirement is specific to doorsets and shutters; it is quoted here only as the clearest statement of the principle.

PART 3 · THE SCOPE

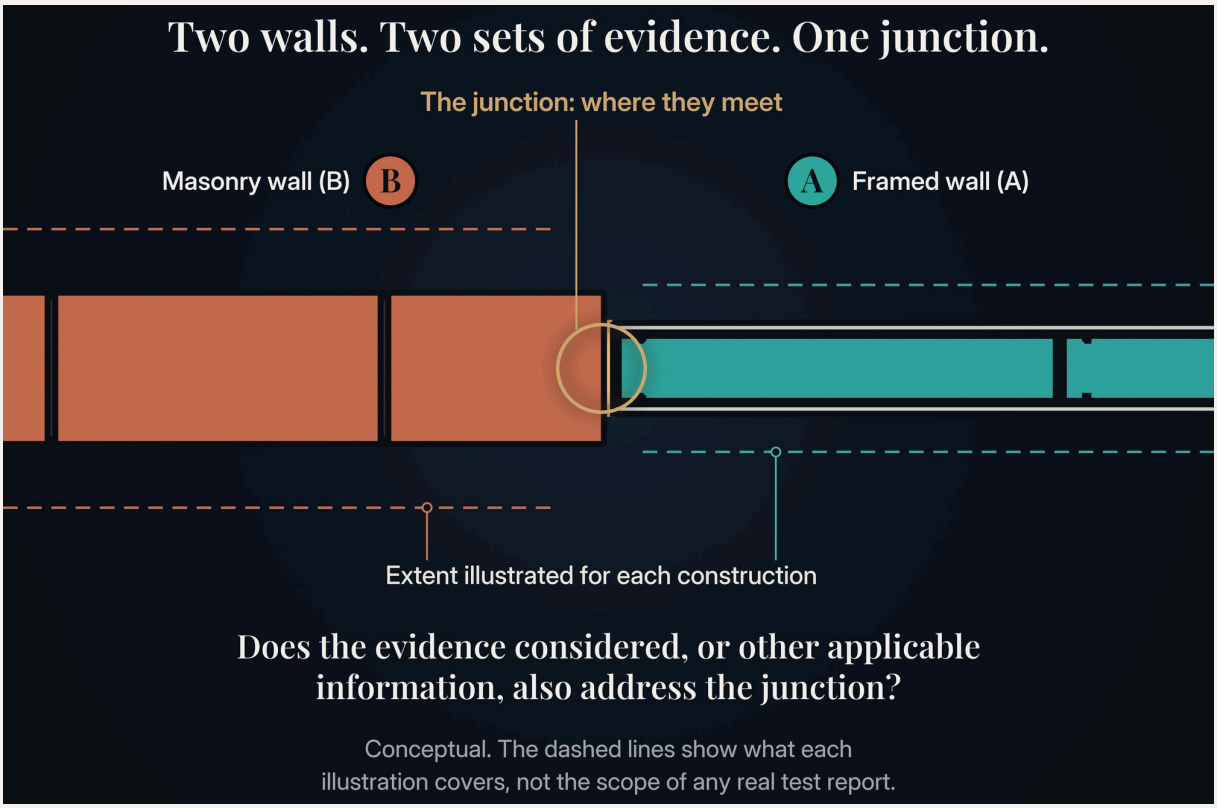
6 Where does the evidence stop?

What evidence scope means

Every document has edges. "Scope" is shorthand for the boundaries a document sets on itself: what was tested or assessed, in what arrangement, for which property, and the range of variations the result may be applied to. Test standards call this the **field of application**.

Apply it to the two walls

Now apply the idea of scope to the example. Each wall's evidence has its own extent; the question is what, if anything, covers the place where they meet.



TERRACOTTA
The masonry wall (B).

TEAL
The framed wall (A).

DASHED LINES
The extent illustrated for each construction on its own.

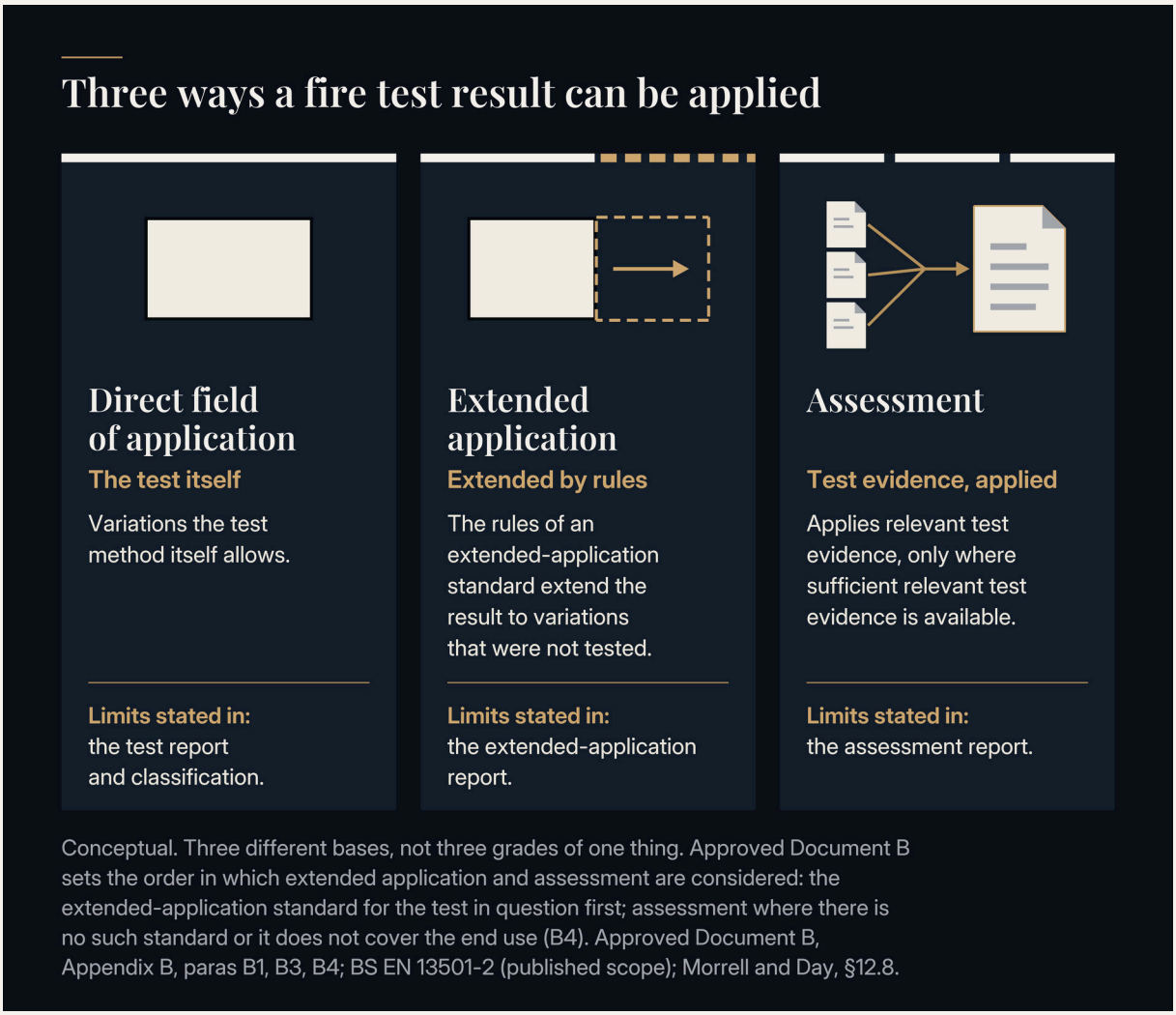
GOLD RING
Their interface: where the two meet.

FIGURE 4 **Two walls. Two sets of evidence. One junction.** A plan section through the junction, as in The Bench's short film. The dashed lines show, conceptually, the extent illustrated for each construction (B, masonry; A, framed wall); both stop short of the junction. They are drawn to explain the idea, not to show the full scope of any real test report.

Whether any evidence addresses the junction is the question to check, not a conclusion. Conceptual, not to scale.

Three ways a test result can reach a real wall

A fire test result can be applied on three different bases. They rest on different things and should not be merged:[6,7,12,13]



EXPLAINER B **Three ways a fire test result can be applied.** Three different bases, shown side by side because they are different things, not grades of one thing. Approved Document B sets the order in which extended application and assessment are considered (B4). The three rows that follow give each basis in more detail, with its source.[5–7,12,13]

Conceptual: a guide to the terms, not a summary of any test method.

IN DETAIL, WITH SOURCES

Direct field of application

The test itself: the variations the test method allows for the specimen tested. “Testing strictly in accordance with designated standards provides direct evidence of the compliance of a product with the requirements of a particular use – the Direct Field of Application”[13]

Morrell and Day, §12.8 (independent review; recommendations are not policy)

WHERE ITS LIMITS ARE STATED In the test report and the classification based on it

Extended application	The rules of the extended-application standard for the test in question, applied to test results to cover variations that were not tested. BS EN 13501-2's published scope includes classification on the basis of extended application of test results[7,12] Approved Document B, B4; BS EN 13501-2, published scope WHERE ITS LIMITS ARE STATED In the extended-application report, which should include details of the test evidence used (B4)
Assessment	Where there is no specific standard for extended application, an assessment report produced "in accordance with the principles of BS EN 15725". Where the end use is not covered by the extended-application standard and an assessment is the only other suitable approach, Approved Document B points to the Passive Fire Protection Forum's guide for best practice. Either way, assessment should only be carried out "where sufficient relevant test evidence is available"[6,7] Approved Document B, B3, B4 WHERE ITS LIMITS ARE STATED In the assessment report: its stated scope, and the test evidence it relies on

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

When a document is offered as evidence for a junction, first ask which basis it uses, then read the limits that basis writes down. A detail outside a test's direct field of application is not automatically unsupported: extended application and assessment exist for that. Whichever route is relied on, the detail needs to fall within the stated scope of the document that carries it.

Four questions that decide whether evidence reaches a junction

Read together, the sources give four conditions that decide whether existing evidence reaches a junction:

THE BENCH'S READING

1. **Was the junction inside what was tested?** Whether only one construction was tested, or an arrangement including how it meets another construction, with the fixing and adjoining construction concerned.
2. **Do the conditions match?** Fixing method, joints, dimensions, insulation and air gaps are named in B2;[3] for reaction to fire, official guidance adds form, orientation and combinations with other materials such as substrates.[18]
3. **Is there an extended application or assessment, and is the junction within its stated scope?** These are legitimate routes when based on sufficient relevant test evidence.[5,6]
4. **Is the property the right one?** Reaction to fire and fire resistance are different properties, tested differently. Evidence for one does not answer the other.

PART 3 · THE SCOPE

7 What can answer the junction question?

What can address a junction

Start with what the guidance itself recognises. Approved Document B recognises three ways to show that a product or system meets a performance classification: a specification or design shown by specific test(s) to be capable of meeting it; design using relevant design standards; or assessment "by applying relevant test evidence, in lieu of carrying out a specific test" (Appendix B, B1).[5]

THE BENCH'S READING

Applied to a junction, three different kinds of answer can be held (Figure 5). They do different jobs, and one cannot stand in for another:[4–8]

EVIDENCE OF PERFORMANCE

A test of an arrangement that included this junction, with conditions matching the proposed detail; or an extended application or assessment whose stated scope covers it. Assessments "should only be carried out where sufficient relevant test evidence is available", and "should not be regarded as a way to avoid a test where one is necessary" (B3).[6] This is the kind of answer that is itself evidence of fire performance.

DOCUMENTATION OF A DETAIL

A manufacturer's or system holder's interface detail or installation guidance. It is product information within its own stated scope: it describes how a detail is meant to be built, and it supports a performance claim only to the extent that it rests on evidence of the first kind, which should be identified and read for its scope. It is not independent proof of the performance of the project detail.

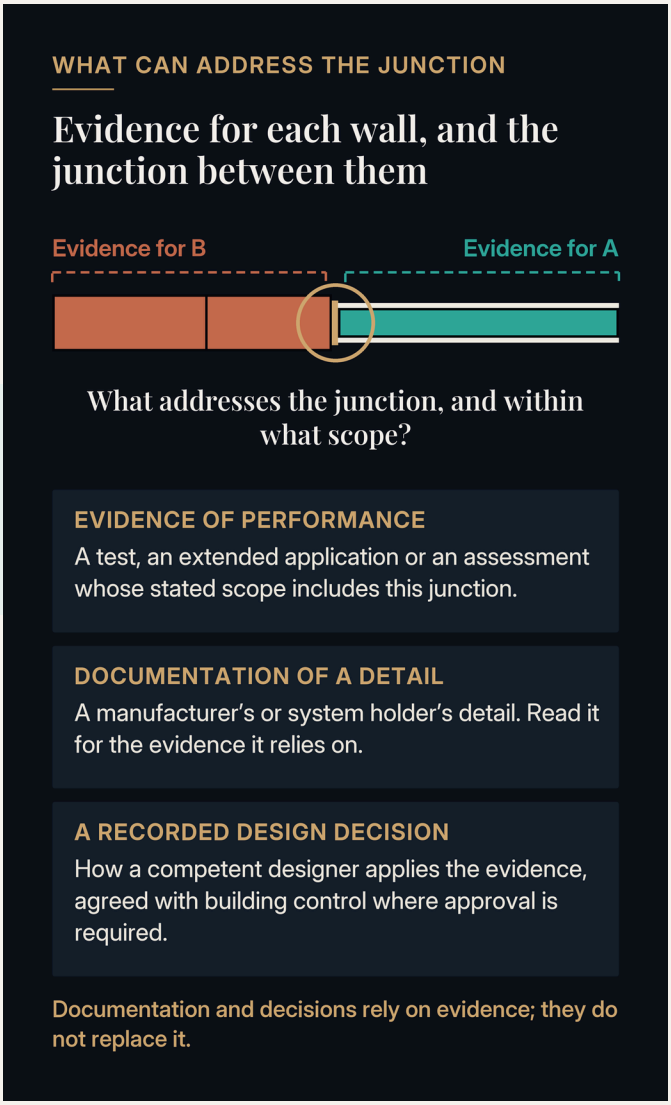


FIGURE 5 **What can address the junction.** Three different kinds of answer. They are not ranked and not interchangeable: documentation of a detail and a recorded design decision do not demonstrate fire performance on their own; they rely on evidence.

Conceptual, not to scale.

A RECORDED DESIGN DECISION

A competent designer's written reasoning on how the available evidence applies to the proposed detail, agreed with the building control body where approval is required. It does not create evidence of fire performance, and it does not replace a test or an assessment where one is necessary; it records how the evidence is relied on, and by whom. "It is the responsibility of those undertaking the work to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the Building Regulations".[4]

Does every junction need a new test?

ONE SIDE OF THE BALANCE

Not every junction needs a new physical test[5,6,8]

Approved Document B recognises assessment in lieu of a specific test where sufficient relevant test evidence is available (B1(c), B3).[5,6]

The independent testing review accepted that "whatever assembly is tested will, at some point, get fixed to something else – and that is just as capable of being the problem", and concluded that "there must be some reliance on competent and well-informed design and execution, rather than expecting every proposition to be proved by testing" (Morrell and Day, §29.3).[8]

THE OTHER SIDE

...and testing keeps its place

The review added that, given the importance of elements performing a safety function, "it must be wrong to assume that there is no value in additional testing in the gap between product testing and the limited testing of completed work required by the Building Regulations".[8]

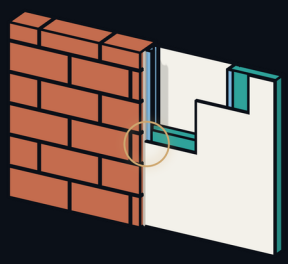
Equally, an assessment is not a way to avoid a test where one is necessary (B3).[6]

PART 4 · PUTTING IT TO WORK

8 What should you check next?

A practical evidence-review checklist

From reading to checking: six steps, one worked example, and the limits of this note.



These six steps do not decide whether a junction is acceptable. They establish what the evidence covers, so that the right person can make that decision on a clear basis.

WHAT SHOULD YOU CHECK?

Treat the cover page, title and headline result of any document as a pointer, not an answer. The scope, the specimen description and the field of application are where applicability is decided.

1	**Identify each assembly** Which constructions meet at the junction, and which documents relate to each?	RECORD Document list
2	**Define the proposed detail** How will the junction be built: alignment, interface, fixing, finish and sequence?	RECORD Drawing reference
3	**Read each document's scope** What was tested, classified or assessed? For which property: fire resistance, reaction to fire or something else? Within what field of application or stated scope? Does any document address the junction itself, and is it current?	RECORD Per document
4	**Compare the conditions** Substrate, fixing method, joints, dimensions, insulation, air gaps: do they match the proposed detail?	RECORD Matches / differs
5	**Name what remains open** What does the evidence considered not reach? State it plainly, in the evidence language.	RECORD Category
6	**Confirm and record** Who can confirm scope in writing (system holder, test house, assessor)? Is an assessment based on sufficient relevant test evidence, or a test, needed? Record the design decision and its reasoning, agreed with the building control body where approval is required.	RECORD Owner, date, location

PART 4 · PUTTING IT TO WORK

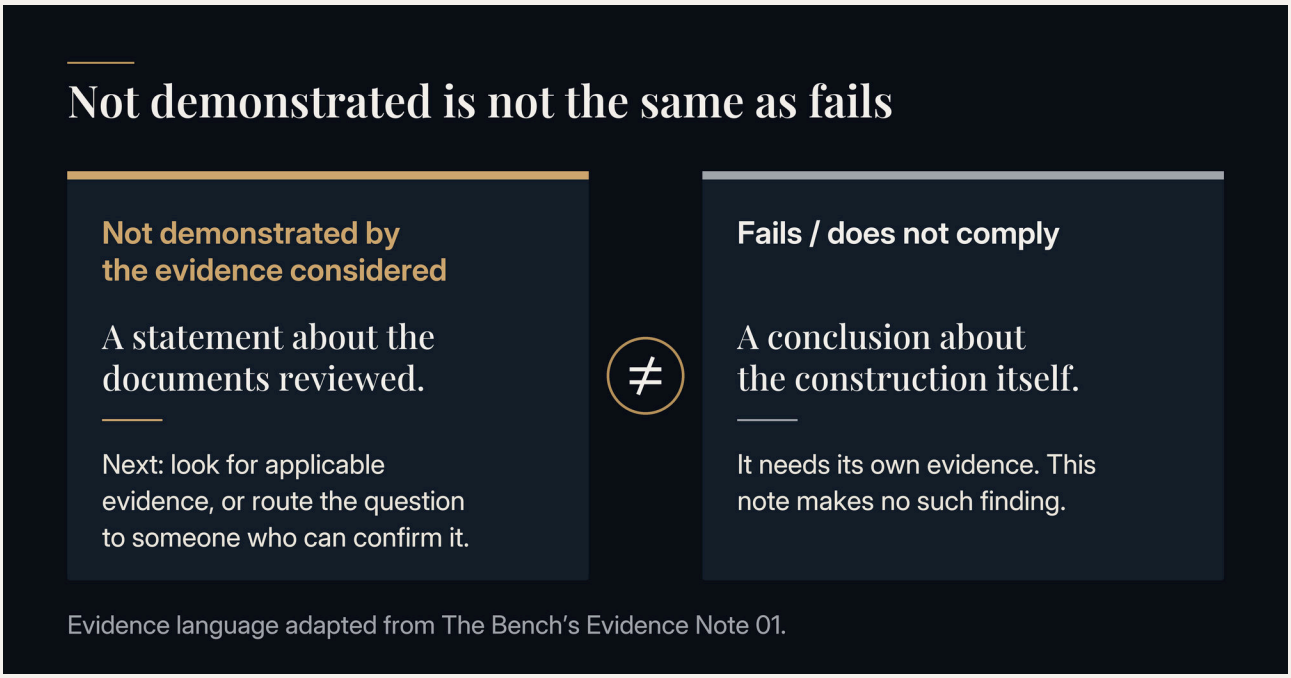
9 A worked example

Worked conceptual example

Suppose, hypothetically, that the project holds one set of documents for each wall in Figure 4. The example below shows how the evidence language reads. It is an illustration of method only: no real documents were reviewed, and no conclusion about any real construction follows.

ITEM	WHAT THE HYPOTHETICAL DOCUMENTS SHOW	HOW IT READS
Wall B (masonry)	A test report and classification for the masonry wall as tested, with a stated field of application	**Supported subject to stated conditions**, where the proposed wall falls within that field of application

ITEM	WHAT THE HYPOTHETICAL DOCUMENTS SHOW	HOW IT READS
Wall A (framed)	A test report and classification for the framed wall as tested, with its own stated field of application	**Supported subject to stated conditions**, on the same basis
The junction	Neither tested arrangement included an abutment with the other construction; no extended application, assessment or documented detail resting on such evidence has yet been identified	**Not demonstrated by the evidence considered.** A statement about these documents, not about the junction's performance
Next step	Ask the system holders or assessors whether any test, extended application or assessment covers this abutment. Where none does, decide whether an assessment based on sufficient relevant test evidence, or a test, is needed, and record the design decision, agreed with building control where approval is required	**Requires project-specific confirmation**



EXPLAINER C **Not demonstrated is not the same as fails.**[1] The junction row of the worked example reads "not demonstrated by the evidence considered": a statement about the documents, which leads to a next step, not a verdict on the wall.

Conceptual.

Change one fact and the reading changes. If either system holder can show a tested arrangement, extended application or assessment that includes this kind of abutment, within conditions that match, the junction could move to *supported subject to stated conditions*. The method, not the outcome, is the point.

PART 4 · PUTTING IT TO WORK

10 What this note does not cover

Limitations, open questions and status

A note this focused has edges of its own. These are the main ones.

FIRE ONLY.
A junction between two wall constructions can raise other performance questions: depending on the building and the wall's role, sound, structural movement between dissimilar constructions, heat loss, air leakage or moisture. Each needs its own evidence, read against its own requirements. Those Approved Documents were not examined for this note, which makes no statement about them; the method in §§6–8 still applies.

JURISDICTION.
England (Building Regulations and Approved Documents) and Great Britain (product regime). Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland have their own regulations.

NO PRODUCT OR PROJECT IS ASSESSED.
The example is conceptual. No statement is made that any junction, product or assembly is safe, unsafe, compliant or non-compliant.

STANDARDS.
Cited by published scope only. The note does not describe the content of any test method, including methods for linear joint seals.

NO FREQUENCY CLAIM.
The note does not say how often junction evidence is missing or how often junctions cause problems; no verified source gives that figure. The Bench's external wall review recorded that "No reliable industry-wide defect rate exists" (Investigation 001, Issue 02).[21]

THE ILLUSTRATED WALL'S ROLE.
Whether the wall line is fire-separating is left open; the guidance on joints in fire-separating elements is quoted conditionally.

CERTIFICATION.
Third-party certification scope at interfaces was not examined.

STATUS · CHECKED 29 OCTOBER 2026

Edition of Approved Document B

Approved Document B is quoted from the 2019 edition incorporating the 2020, 2022, 2025 and 2026 amendments; its GOV.UK page was last updated on 16 September 2026.[22] The published 2029 amendments take effect on 2 September 2029, with transitional arrangements, and concern the removal of national classes for fire resistance.[22] The wording of paragraphs B1(a)–(c) and B2–B4 quoted in this note is the same in the current text and in the 2029 amendment text. The page of Appendix F (Standards referred to) that lists BS EN 15725 [2010] is marked as deleted by the 2029 amendments;[22] BSI lists the 2010 edition as withdrawn on 24 March 2023, and BS EN 15725:2023 (published 31 March 2023) as current.[14] Which edition applies is a project question for the building control body.

Where reform and review stand (status checked 29 October 2026)

Government's diagnosis is that "Safety depends not just on individual products but on how they interact as part of a system", and that current regulations "do not adequately address system-level risks" (Construction Products Reform White Paper, CP 1515, para xiii). It proposes that a national regulator would "Determine 'safety critical scenarios' where enhanced obligations would apply", with "the final combination of products that make up a system" as the focus (para 6.8.7).[23] These are proposals, not law. The consultation ran from 25 February to 20 May 2026; at 29 October 2026 the GOV.UK consultation page states "We are analysing your feedback" and lists no government response.[24]

The Building Safety Regulator's consultation *Review of Approved Document B: Fire Safety* opened on 25 March 2026 and closed on 1 July 2026; at 29 October 2026 no outcome is published on the consultation page.[25] The consultation includes proposed revised Approved Document B text; the quotations in this note are from the text current at the status date above.

FURTHER READING

Where to go next

Free resources from The Bench that take these ideas further

EVIDENCE NOTE 01

The Fire Rating Is Only the Start

The Bench's first Evidence Note, September 2026. The evidence language in this note is adapted from it.

Read Evidence Note 01 at thisisthebench.co.uk

INVESTIGATION 001

Cavity vs No Cavity?

The Bench's external wall evidence review, External Issue 02, August 2026.

Read Investigation 001 at thisisthebench.co.uk

THE SHORT FILM

The film behind the figures

The wall illustrations in this note (Figures 1 to 4) come from The Bench's short film on the same junction question.

Watch the short film at thisisthebench.co.uk

> **A project-specific question?** This note does not answer project-specific design, compliance or approval questions; those sit with the appointed project professionals, the relevant manufacturers or system holders, and the building control body. If you would like The Bench's help with a project question, start with the enquiry route at thisisthebench.co.uk.

THE PRINCIPLE

Evidence first. Claims second.

Two sets of sound evidence are a strong start. The junction is where the next question begins.

BACK MATTER

11 Sources

Accessed 27–29 October 2026. The Notes give the pinpoint reference for each cited statement.

1. The Building Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/2214), regulation 7. legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/2214/regulation/7. Law in force (England).
2. MHCLG, *Approved Document B: Fire safety*, Volumes 1 and 2, 2019 edition incorporating 2020, 2022, 2025 and 2026 amendments (published 2029 amendments take effect 2 September 2029); Appendix B (B1–B4), Appendix C (C4), Appendix F, Vol 2 paras 10.1, 10.26. gov.uk/government/publications/fire-safety-approved-document-b. Statutory guidance (England).
3. MHCLG and Building Safety Regulator, *Approved Document B: Fire safety — frequently asked questions* (published 23 August 2022, last updated 21 February 2025): answers on Table B3 exposure conditions and on reaction-to-fire classification. gov.uk/guidance/approved-document-b-fire-safety-frequently-asked-questions. Official guidance.
4. MHCLG, *Approved Document 7: Materials and workmanship*, 2013 edition incorporating 2018 amendments, para 1.5. gov.uk/government/publications/material-and-workmanship-approved-document-7. Statutory guidance.
5. Regulation (EU) No 305/2011, Articles 2 and 6, as it applies in Great Britain. legislation.gov.uk/eur/2011/305. Law in force (GB).
6. Morrell, P. and Day, A., *Testing for a Safer Future: An Independent Review of the Construction Products Testing Regime*, April 2023, §§12.8, 29.3. gov.uk/government/publications/independent-review-of-the-construction-product-testing-regime. Independent review.
7. Grenfell Tower Inquiry, *Phase 2 Report*, Volume 1 (HC 19-I), September 2024, Part 1, Chapter 2, paras 2.30 and 2.32 (test-method statements only). assets.publishing.service.gov.uk (Volume 1 PDF). Inquiry report.
8. MHCLG, *Construction Products Reform White Paper*, CP 1515, February 2026, paras xiii, 6.8.7. gov.uk/government/consultations/construction-products-reform-white-paper. Proposals (consultation closed 20 May 2026).
9. Health and Safety Executive for the Building Safety Regulator, *Review of Approved Document B: Fire Safety* consultation, 25 March to 1 July 2026 (status only). consultations.hse.gov.uk/bsr/review-of-approved-document-b-fire-safety.
10. BSI published catalogue scopes: BS EN 13501-2:2023; BS EN 15725:2023 (2010 edition withdrawn 24 March 2023); BS 8414-1:2020. knowledge.bsigroup.com. Scope statements only.
11. The Bench, *Cavity vs No Cavity?*, Investigation 001, External Issue 02, August 2026 (thisisthebench.co.uk/learn/investigations/001-cavity-vs-no-cavity); *The Fire Rating Is Only the Start*, Bench Evidence Note 01, September 2026 (thisisthebench.co.uk/learn/the-fire-rating-is-only-the-start).

BACK MATTER

Notes

The numbers in the text refer to these notes. Each note gives a short citation and pinpoint reference, then, where there is one, the full entry in Sources. Quotations are the sources' own words; paragraphs headed "The Bench's reading" are interpretation and carry no note unless they rest on a cited statement. Notes are numbered in the order they are first cited, and a note that applies again is cited again with the same number. The arrow (↑) at the end of each note returns to its first citation.

1. The Bench, *The Fire Rating Is Only the Start*, Evidence Note 01, September 2026: evidence-language categories. thisisthebench.co.uk/learn/the-fire-rating-is-only-the-start. Sources 11. ↑
2. The Building Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/2214), regulation 7(1)(a). legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/2214/regulation/7. Sources 1. ↑
3. *Approved Document B: Fire safety*, Volumes 1 and 2, Appendix B, para B2. gov.uk/government/publications/fire-safety-approved-document-b. Sources 2. ↑
4. *Approved Document B: Fire safety — frequently asked questions*, answer on Table B3 (fire-resistance exposure conditions). gov.uk/guidance/approved-document-b-fire-safety-frequently-asked-questions. Sources 3. ↑
5. *Approved Document B*, Appendix B, para B1 (including B1(c)). Sources 2. ↑
6. *Approved Document B*, Appendix B, para B3. Sources 2. ↑
7. *Approved Document B*, Appendix B, para B4. Sources 2. ↑
8. Morrell, P. and Day, A., *Testing for a Safer Future*, April 2023, §29.3 (independent review; recommendations are not policy). gov.uk/government/publications/independent-review-of-the-construction-product-testing-regime. Sources 6. ↑
9. About the illustrations: Figures 1 to 4 are rendered from the same model as The Bench's short film on this junction question, at the film's own states, with labels and scope lines added for this note; Figure 5 and Explainers A to C are The Bench's own conceptual diagrams in the same visual language. None represents a product, system, dimension, fixing or seal, or a tested interface or approved detail. ↑
10. Regulation (EU) No 305/2011, Article 6(3), as it applies in Great Britain. legislation.gov.uk/eur/2011/305. Sources 5. ↑
11. *Approved Document 7: Materials and workmanship*, para 1.5. gov.uk/government/publications/material-and-workmanship-approved-document-7. Sources 4. ↑
12. BSI, BS EN 13501-2:2023, published catalogue scope (scope statement only). knowledge.bsigroup.com. Sources 10. ↑
13. Morrell and Day (2023), §12.8 (independent review; recommendations are not policy). Sources 6. ↑
14. BSI, BS EN 15725:2023, published catalogue scope; BSI lists the 2010 edition as withdrawn on 24 March 2023. Sources 10. ↑
15. Grenfell Tower Inquiry, *Phase 2 Report*, Volume 1 (HC 19-I), Part 1, Chapter 2, para 2.32 (test-method statement only). Sources 7. ↑
16. BSI, BS 8414-1:2020, published catalogue scope. Sources 10. ↑
17. Regulation (EU) No 305/2011, Article 2(2), as it applies in Great Britain. Sources 5. ↑
18. *Approved Document B — frequently asked questions*, answer on reaction-to-fire classification (reaction to fire only; not evidence about fire resistance). Sources 3. ↑
19. *Approved Document B*, Volume 2, paras 10.1 and 10.26. Sources 2. ↑
20. *Approved Document B*, Appendix C, para C4(b) (fire doorsets and shutters). Sources 2. ↑
21. The Bench, *Cavity vs No Cavity?*, Investigation 001, External Issue 02, August 2026. thisisthebench.co.uk/learn/investigations/001-cavity-vs-no-cavity. Sources 11. ↑
22. *Approved Document B*, 2019 edition incorporating the 2020, 2022, 2025 and 2026 amendments: GOV.UK publication page, last updated 16 September 2026 (checked 29 October 2026); Volume 2, the page that sets out the 2029 amendments (effective 2 September 2029); Appendix F. Sources 2. ↑
23. MHCLG, *Construction Products Reform White Paper*, CP 1515, February 2026, paras xiii and 6.8.7 (proposals, not law). gov.uk/government/consultations/construction-products-reform-white-paper. Sources 8. ↑
24. GOV.UK consultation page for CP 1515: status at 29 October 2026. Sources 8. ↑
25. Health and Safety Executive for the Building Safety Regulator, *Review of Approved Document B: Fire Safety* consultation, 25 March to 1 July 2026: status at 29 October 2026. consultations.hse.gov.uk/bsr/review-of-approved-document-b-fire-safety. Sources 9. ↑

BACK MATTER

About this note

Document	What Covers the Junction? How to read separate assembly evidence where two wall constructions meet
Document type	Bench Evidence Note: an educational evidence review of one question, worked end to end against primary sources
Publication	Bench Evidence Note 02
Published by	The Bench (This Is The Bench Ltd, company number 16402880)
Written for	Specifiers, designers, fire engineers, technical consultants and building control readers, with sections written to be intelligible to clients, building owners and managers, contractors and less-technical readers
Sources	Sources checked to 29 October 2026, listed in Sources: the Building Regulations 2010, regulation 7; Approved Document 7; Approved Document B, 2019 edition incorporating the 2020, 2022, 2025 and 2026 amendments (the published 2029 amendments take effect on 2 September 2029; see §10); the Approved Document B frequently asked questions; the construction products regime as it applies in Great Britain; the independent review of the construction product testing regime (2023); the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 2 Report (test-method statements only); BSI published scopes; government reform proposals; The Bench's Investigation 001 and Evidence Note 01
Issue	Issue 01, 29 October 2026
Review	The Bench's documented internal evidence and editorial review, against primary sources. Not externally peer reviewed.
Scope	Fire performance; England (Building Regulations and Approved Documents) and Great Britain (product regime). Other performance questions are named, not answered (§10)
Evidence language	Five controlled conclusion categories, adapted from Evidence Note 01: see "How to read this note"

What this note is, and is not. This is an educational evidence note about how to read the evidence for two separately evidenced wall constructions where they meet. It is not a compliance statement, a product approval, a certificate, a fire strategy, a design detail, an installation instruction or a construction specification. It does not answer project-specific design, compliance or approval questions; those are answered by the appointed project professionals, the relevant manufacturers or system holders, and the building control body, as appropriate.

Commercial interests. The Bench and connected businesses have commercial interests in passive-fire-protection systems. This educational paper does not assess, compare, rank or recommend any individual manufacturer or proprietary product.