

LABSS INFORMATION PAPER INFOP23 – Version 1 July 2019**Fire Resistance of Engineered Floor Joists in Separating Floors****Assessment of fire performance****BACKGROUND**

Over recent months, verifiers may have seen proposed separating floor constructions similar to the detail below. The use of engineered floor joists in lieu of traditional timber floor joists is becoming more popular, particularly in flatted developments.

The key feature of this detail is the use of engineered I joists.

Where this construction is proposed in a floor that requires a specified duration for fire resistance for load bearing capacity, integrity and insulation, verifiers must ensure they receive sufficient evidence to confirm the required performance criteria for this element. In assessing supporting information, verifiers must consider the relevance of any test report or other form of evidence with specific regards to the 'extended field of application' of any such evidence.

For example, a test report on a floor construction using one manufacturer's I-joist cannot automatically be used as evidence of the suitability of an identical construction using another manufacturer's product. This may be equally true of the products in a tested construction, e.g. a different plasterboard may be less dense. In both these examples the principles of the 'extended field of application' must be applied.

It should be noted that BS EN 15725 is only suitable for considering an extended field of application when there is already a test report under one of the BS EN 13501 suite of standards. Under such circumstances, as per the original BS EN 13501 report, the extended field of application should be considered and justified by a UKAS or EU equivalent accredited test lab.

Where test evidence is submitted using BS 476, the principles of BS EN 15725 should be considered when assessing the suitability of supporting test evidence where it varies from the proposed construction.

Without appropriate supporting information, this type of detail should not be accepted.

Note - This detail can be found within The BSD Example Construction and Generic Internal Constructions (for use with Section 5: Noise). It does not confirm compliance with Section 2: Fire

TYPICAL DETAIL REFERRED TO ABOVE:

Timber Frame Floor: with engineered I-joists

