

LABSS INFORMATION PAPER INFOP22 – 2019

Version 2 – July 2026

Fire Resistance of External Timber Framed Wall Assessment of Fire Performance

This information paper has been produced by the Scottish Building Standards Hub (SBSH) on behalf of Local Authority Building Standards Scotland (LABSS).

Disclaimer – The information contained within this document is for general information purposes only. The decision to accept or reject any proposal submitted as part of a building warrant application rests with the relevant Local Authority Verifier.

Document Version Control.

Version:	Date:	Notes:
1.0	31.07.2026	Update to reference STA Pattern Book

Background

Over recent years, verifiers may have seen proposed external wall constructions similar to the detail below. This approach has become more popular as u-values have become more onerous.

The key feature of this detail is the secondary insulation layer which splits the stud and baton onto which the layer(s) of plasterboard are fixed.

Where this detail is proposed in a wall that requires fire resistance for load bearing capacity and integrity, verifiers must ensure they receive sufficient evidence to confirm the required performance criteria for this element.

In assessing any supporting evidence, verifiers must consider the relevance of any test report or other form of evidence with specific regards to the 'extended field of application' of that evidence. This type of assessment is required where test evidence varies in any way from the proposed construction.

In this respect, please consider the guidance contained within BS EN 15725:2010 - Extended application reports on the fire performance of construction products and building elements. 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.

Structural Timber Association Pattern Book

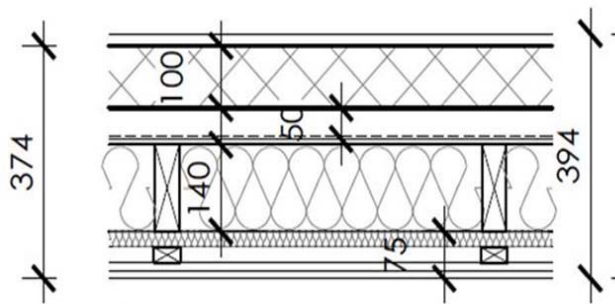
Supporting information may reference the [Structural Timber Association \(STA\) - Structural timber buildings fire safety in use Volume 1 - Pattern Book systems](#), publication.

Where this is the case, it is the position of LABSS that a verifier would not normally be required to review any original fire test data, so long as the relevant pattern has been replicated exactly or within any direct field of application rules.

The justification for confidence in the Volume 1 patterns is based on the extensive partnership working which formed the basis of the publication as well as the peer review undertaken on the fire test results through BRE Global.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: None of the external wall timber frame, party wall or spandrel panel elements presented in the STA pattern book publication may be used by non-member manufacturers operating outside of STA Assure.

TYPICAL DETAIL:



Wall Type A
(Render/Block ext)