

**BUILDING STANDARDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 10 DECEMBER 2008**

AGENDA ITEM 4.4

SECTION 1 - STRUCTURE

1. Introduction

A Working Party has been set up to review the guidance given in Section 1 Structure of the Technical Handbooks. This review focuses on:

1. The Introduction of the Structural Eurocodes to guidance.
2. Revision to guidance on Disproportionate Collapse following publication of the National Annex to Structural Eurocode BS EN 1991-1-7 Accidental Actions.
3. Clarification of the scope for extensions in the Small Buildings Structural Guidance.

The first meeting of the Working Party was held on 7th November. Summarised below are the discussions and conclusions of this meeting.

2. Introduction of Structural Eurocodes

The Working Party concluded that the loading and design standards referenced in Section 1 should be changed to Structural Eurocodes and that reference to any British Standards that will be superseded by the new Structural Eurocodes should be removed. This would not prevent engineers from using British Standards as an acceptable alternative approach to the Eurocodes, provided they can satisfy the verifier that the design complies with Standards 1.1 and 1.2. However, their use should be discouraged as they will no longer be supported or maintained by the British Standards Institution and will therefore become progressively more outdated with time.

3. Revision to guidance on Disproportionate Collapse

An introduction was given on this issue. However, the final National Annex to Structural Eurocode BS EN 1991-1-7 Accidental Actions is still to be published. Therefore this will be discussed further at the next Working Party meeting. Communities and Local Government (CLG) are also looking at their guidance on disproportionate collapse so the Building Standards Division (BSD) will be monitoring this and reporting back to the next Working Party for discussion.

4. Clarification of the scope for extensions in the Small Buildings Structural Guidance (SBSG)

The SBSG currently only covers single storey masonry extensions and the Working Party concluded that this scope should be extended to also cover single storey timber frame extensions. It is hoped that this scope will be extended to 2 storey extensions. However it was felt that to meet the current programme it would be best to deal with this at a later date.

5. Next Meeting

The next Working Party will be held early next year.

6. Other Matters

To note that CLG has commenced its BRAC Working Party programme reviewing Approved Document A (Structure), working to a similar programme to BSD's review, with implementation in 2010. BSD is attending the meetings of this Working Party.

Building Standards Division
November 2008