

About BRE (Building Research Establishment)

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UK

BRE is a world-leading centre of expertise for construction and fire, providing research, consultancy and information services to customers worldwide. We provide integrated 'one-stop' solutions for the whole life cycle of a structure covering:

- design
- construction
- management and use
- demolition and re-use

For over 75 years, BRE has provided authoritative advice to Government, underpinning policy, building regulations, codes and standards. Our client base also includes leading property developers, building owners and users, contractors, consultants and manufacturers - the whole supply chain.

BRE's centres of expertise in our four main Divisions cover:

Construction

- building fabric
- concrete
- codes and standards
- ground engineering and remediation
- heritage, stone and masonry
- structures
- timber
- waste and recycling
- whole life performance

Fire and risk sciences

- cable fires
- fire and security risk assessment
- fire and security testing
- fire safety engineering
- fire safety in transport
- FRS Asia
- reaction to fire
- risk sciences

Environment

- acoustics
- air pollution
- environmental engineering
- productive workplace
- safety, health and environment
- sustainable construction
- water

Energy and communications

- BRECSU (Energy efficiency best practice)
- Communications
- housing
- energy technology

BRE purchased the Loss Prevention Council in April 2000 from ABI and Lloyd's and the services of LPC including research, testing and approvals for the fire, security and insurance sectors is incorporated into BRE.

Other centres operate across BRE covering performance improvement in construction and construction IT. We also operate a sister company providing certification services and a joint venture publishing company, CRC Ltd, with EMAP Communications.

The Centre for Timber Technology and Construction (CTTC)

The Centre for Timber Technology and Construction (CTTC) is part of the Construction Division at BRE. It represents the consolidation of over 70 years' expertise and innovation in timber at BRE and at the former Forest Products Research Laboratory.

The CTTC brings together some 30 specialist scientific, technical and administrative support staff as the focus of BRE's activities in promoting and developing the effective use of timber as an important and exceptionally versatile, renewable raw material.

This expertise ranges from the evaluation of newly available timber species and sources, to the structural performance, preservation and behaviour of modern composite products. BRE's CTTC represents a unique resource of research and consultancy services that are available to all who are concerned with the production, processing, specification and use of timber.

One of the most prestigious research projects has been the TF2000 project. Speed of construction, combined with environmental performance and improved quality standards, are leading to a renaissance in the use of timber frame in the UK. The potential of medium-rise (five to eight storeys) timber frame construction is being assessed using a six-storey timber frame building – believed to be the tallest of its kind in the world – at BRE Cardington. This project, known as TF2000, is operated by BRE in partnership with the Government, TTL and the timber industry. Before construction of TF2000, an audit of several projects by leading timber frame manufacturers produced best practice benchmarks that were used to set performance targets for the future. So far, TF2000 has met or exceeded most of the benchmarks.



BRE operates from three sites:

- BRE Garston, near Watford. Our main site, with a range of special and general-purpose laboratories and test facilities.
- BRE Cardington, near Bedford, a unique laboratory for the testing of whole buildings and for large scale fire and explosion testing,
- BRE at East Kilbride, serving the particular needs of the construction communities in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Foundation for the Built Environment (FBE)

BRE is owned by the Foundation for the Built Environment, a profit-retaining organisation with members drawn from the construction and related industries, professional institutions, building owners and users. The FBE was created to ensure that BRE remains independent of specific commercial interests and retains its reputation for objectivity and impartiality. The FBE acts in the interests of the industry.