

# Independent Technical Approval Authorities

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NHBC Standards Technical Requirement R3 requires all materials, products, and building systems to be suitable for their intended purpose and provides acceptable ways to comply.

For materials, products, or systems that are not covered by a relevant standard, the provision of certification by an independent technical approval authority acceptable to NHBC is potentially another way of meeting the Technical Requirement. Relevant standards may be:

- British standards
- harmonised European standards
- European Assessment Documents
- UK Designated standards
- UK Assessment Documents.

Independent technical approvals authorities which could be considered by NHBC are typically certification bodies experienced in the business of conformity assessments.

Independent technical approvals authorities would be expected to:

- be currently accredited for their certification schemes by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) to ISO/IEC 17020 or ISO/IEC 17065 to demonstrate that their schemes can be relied upon
- provide independent information to demonstrate that a material, product, or system is fit for purpose in respect of its intended use.

Such third-party assessments can assist in demonstrating compliance for Buildmark warranty purposes; however, builders/developers must demonstrate that all Technical Requirements in the NHBC Standards are complied with.

#### **Please note:**

Third-party assessments must be valid.

NHBC may request third-party assessments to determine if a product or system meets the Technical Requirements of the NHBC Standards and is being used within the scope of assessment.

Certain systems and products which hold third-party assessments may not be acceptable to NHBC if they are considered an enhanced risk for Buildmark warranty cover purposes.

Please refer to latest NHBC technical updates/guidance for further clarification.

### **Transitional arrangements**

To allow time for independent technical approvals authorities to obtain UKAS accreditation, NHBC will continue to consider non-accredited certification up until 1st January 2026. For every NHBC registered home whose foundations are begun on or after 1st January 2026, NHBC will only consider assessments of materials, products, and systems from independent technical approvals authorities who are UKAS accredited.



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