

# Perimeter support to plasterboard ceilings clarification

(Withdrawn - January 2024)

The Technical Guidance Notes are produced by NHBC as guidance solely for our builder customers as to how to interpret the technical requirements in relation to the warranty cover provided by NHBC under its Buildmark, Buildmark Choice, Buildmark Link, Buildmark Solo, Buildmark Connect or any similar product from time to time. It has not been created or intended for distribution or use outside of that purpose. The information contained in this Technical Guidance Note does not constitute advice and is not to be relied upon by any third party. Nothing in this Technical Guidance Note is intended to, nor should it be taken to, create any legal or contractual relationship. Any third party who chooses to rely upon the information contained in the Technical Guidance Notes shall do so entirely at their own risk and NHBC accepts no duty of care or liability, however caused, in connection with its use or reliance by any third party.

## Background

NHBC Standards Chapter 9.2 Table 5 sets out when and where timber noggings should be included to provide adequate support to the plasterboard during normal use and in the event of a fire. Table 5 was updated in NHBC Standards 2020 to reflect the plasterboard manufacturer's current recommendations particularly in respect of fire resistance of intermediate floors.

A footnote was added to Table 5 which potentially allows the omission of perimeter noggings to 15mm plasterboard with supports at maximum 600mm centres to intermediate floors. This however only applies to two or three storey dwellings and the following justification is required;

Justification from either the floor joist manufacturer or the plasterboard manufacturer that the floor achieves 30 minutes fire resistance without perimeter noggings.

Or, a fire test for a particular floor construction that demonstrates that the floor achieves 30 minutes fire resistance.

## Considerations

- Where two layers of plasterboard are required to meet the fire performance, timber noggings, both within the ceiling area and at the perimeter edges, should be provided to support the second layer of plasterboard.
- Perimeter noggings are not required for support of 15mm plasterboard on supports at 600mm centres where the ceiling is part of a non-fire rated structure, e.g. ceiling to trusses under a roof void.
- Noggings should always be provided behind all plasterboard joints where a vapour control plasterboard is used to inhibit the movement of water vapour through the joint.



**NHBC, NHBC House, Davy Avenue, Knowlhill, Milton Keynes, Bucks MK5 8FP**  
**Tel: 0344 633 1000 Web: nhbc.co.uk**

National House-Building Council (NHBC) is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority for carrying on insurance business and insurance distribution activities.

NHBC is registered in England and Wales under company number 00320784. NHBC's registered address is NHBC House, Davy Avenue, Knowlhill, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, MK5 8FP. Note that only certain parts of our products and services are within the scope of UK financial services regulations. For more information on our products and services, please see our website [nhbc.co.uk](http://nhbc.co.uk) or your NHBC product documentation.