

DOCUMENT Q

INFORMATION GUIDE

We have set up this fact sheet to provide customer easy reference information on conforming to Document Q requirements, Q1 of Schedule 1 to the Building Regulations 2010. Which took effect on the 1st October 2015 for use in England. It does not apply to work started before 1 October 2015, or work subject to a building notice, full plans application or initial notice submitted before that date provided the work started on site before 1 October 2015.

WHAT IS DOCUMENT Q?

From 1 October 2015 all accessible windows and doors installed in new properties in England must meet certain requirements to "resist unauthorised access". These are detailed in the recently published Approved Document Q of the Building Regulations.

This means that windows and doors must be manufactured to a design that meets the requirements outlined in Document Q: Unauthorised access. This states "reasonable provision must be made to resist unauthorised access".

Requirement Q1 - Unauthorised access

This applies to easily accessible doors and windows that provide access:

- a. into a dwelling from outside
- b. into parts of a building containing flats from the outside
- c. into a flat from the common parts of a building

In the Secretary of State's view, doors and windows will meet requirement Q1 if they can resist physical attack by a casual or opportunist burglar by being both:

- a. sufficiently robust
- b. fitted with appropriate hardware.

SECTION 1: DOORS

1.1 All easily accessible doors (inc. garage doorsets and communal entrance doors) that provide access into a dwelling, or a building containing a dwelling, should be secure doorsets in accordance with 1.2 and 1.4.

NB: If a garage does not have an interconnecting doorset which provides access into the dwelling, the garage doorsets need not to be secure doorsets. If access to the dwelling can be gained via an interconnecting doorset, then either the garage doorset or the interconnecting doorset should be a secure doorset.

1.2 Secure doorsets should be either:

- a. manufactured to a design that has been shown by test to meet the security requirements of British Standards publication PAS 24:2012.
- b. designed and manufactured in accordance with Appendix B.

1.3 Letterplates where provided, should:

- a. have a maximum aperture of 260mm x 40mm, and
- b. be located and/or designed to hinder anyone attempting to remove keys with sticks and/or hand, for example incorporating a flap or other feature to restrict access.

1.4 The main doors for entering a dwelling (usually the front door) should have a viewer, unless other means exist to see callers, such as clear glass within the door or a window next to the doorset. The same doorset should also have a door chain or door limiter.

NB: In some situations a door chain or limiter is not appropriate, for example where a warden may need emergency access to residents in sheltered housing. Alternative caller-identification measures, such as electronic audio-visual door entry systems, can be used to identify visitors.

Please read [Approved Document Q \(OCT 2015\)](#) here for notes on 'Installation & Fixing of Secure Doorsets'.

SECTION 2: WINDOWS

2.1 Ground floor, basement and other easily accessible windows (including easily accessible rooflights) should be secure windows in accordance with 2.2 and 2.3.

2.2 Windows should be made to a design that has been shown by test to meet the security requirements of British Standards publication PAS 24:2012.

NB. Windows satisfying other standards that provide similar or better performance are also acceptable. These can include STS 204 Issue 3:2012; LPS 1175 Issue 7:2010 security rating I; LPS 2081 Issue 1:2015 security rating A.

2.3 Frames should be mechanically fixed to the structure of the building in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions.

This document is intended as a guide only and is provided in good faith. **PLEASE READ THROUGH THE FULL VERSION OF APPROVED DOCUMENT Q (OCT 2015) HERE** for more detailed information of what has been outlined as well as the full Appendixes and key terms