



CERTIFICATION

STRUCTURAL DESIGN

The purpose of this leaflet is to explain how structural design work carried out by suitably qualified and experienced professional engineers can be certified as complying with building regulations.

Certification of work is optional but there are benefits including reduced fees and faster turnaround of applications by local authorities.

A building warrant application may be accompanied by a certificate of design that confirms the building structure meets the requirements of building regulations.

This leaflet explains the background to certification and the benefits of using an approved certifier of design on your projects.

1. What is Certification?

A building owner may employ Approved Certifiers to ensure work meets building regulations. The status of 'Approved Certifier of Design' is only given to people who hold appropriate qualifications and have sufficient experience to certify that a design is compliant.

Using an Approved Certifier is an option open to an owner or developer carrying out work that requires a building warrant. The work done must comply with the building warrant and building regulations. A Certificate of Design provides assurance that the work as designed will comply. The work constructed must comply with the building warrant and building regulations.

Approved Certifiers are members of a scheme **approved by Scottish Ministers**.

This leaflet provides information on the structural design scheme provided by Structural Engineers Registration Ltd (SER).

This organisation is operated by Professional Bodies that represent all Structural Engineers working in Scotland.

Certified structural designs do not require checking by the local authority verifier and a valid certificate attracts a 10% discount on the warrant fee.

Certification may be extended in the future to cover more building works. **The intention is that certification will raise standards and improve public safety.**

2. How does it work?

If you decide to support your application for a building warrant with a certificate from an Approved Certifier of Design (Building Structures) you should –

- Contact an Approved Body (generally a firm of consulting Engineers) that offers certification of structural design and arrange for the work to be carried out by a Chartered Structural or Civil Engineer who is an Approved Certifier.
- When the design is complete you will be given a Certificate of Design. This certifies the compliance of the entire building with the Scottish building standards 1.1 and 1.2 for Structure.
- Send your building warrant application to the local authority together with the certificate signed by the approved certifier of design.

Approved Certifiers of Design (Building Structures) must be Chartered Engineers with generally a minimum 5 years experience of building structures.

This person will assess the design of the structural work you plan to do and provide a certificate stating that the entire structure has been designed to comply with building regulations.

3. What are the benefits?

- Quicker handling of building warrant applications as there is no further checking of design work that has been certified.
- A discount is given on the warrant fee when a Certificate of Design is submitted with the application for building warrant.
- Approved certifiers are able to provide an assured service, and ensure compliance of a design with building regulations.
- A firm employing at least one Approved Certifier must meet criteria to be appointed as an Approved Body.
- Approved Bodies are required to hold adequate insurance cover for any project to be certified.
- Members of a certification scheme have their work audited by the scheme provider.
- Construction professionals must have met high levels of qualifications and experience necessary to be accepted into the scheme as an Approved Certifier.
- The skills and experience of construction professionals are recognised.

4. How do I find an Approved Certifier?

The SBSA runs the online Certification Register. This is the only authentic source of information on all Approved Certifiers.

Open the Register at:
<http://www.sbsa.gov.uk/register/Default.asp>

The Register is used to find firms that employ at least one Approved Certifier offering certification services in your local authority area.

The Register is also used by Building Standards Surveyors to check the validity of certificates submitted to them.

You can use the Register to find firms that have gained approved body status under the scheme by their registration number or simply by their trading name.

To find an Approved Certifier:

- choose a scheme and
- choose a local authority area
- view all the member firms that offer certification services in that area.

Alternatively, type in the name of a firm you know to see if it is registered with the scheme.

View the chosen firm's details and contact the Certification Co-ordinator in the firm to make all the necessary arrangements.

5. Information and Contacts

For further information about Certification and the new system of building standards in Scotland contact the SBSA at the following address:

Scottish Building Standards Agency
Denholm House
Livingston. West Lothian, EH54 6GA
Email: Certification@sbsa.gsi.gov.uk
Web: www.sbsa.gov.uk
Telephone: 01506 600400

Further information can also be provided by the

Scottish Association of Building Standards Managers
Web: www.sabsm.co.uk

Details of the certification scheme can be requested from the scheme provider:

Structural Engineers Registration Ltd
11 Upper Belgrave Street
London, SW1X 8BH
Email: admin@ser-ltd.com
Web: www.ser-ltd.com
Telephone: 020 7235 4535