

## 2026 – ADB Proposed Text

This provides the proposed updates to Approved Document B (ADB). The updates are presented to show each change, with the existing text and the proposed text referenced.

Note:

*Blue italics text* – Additions/revisions are highlighted in blue. This is only for the 2026 consultation. All formatting will revert to the traditional ADB style if the change is accepted.

**Green text** – Is shown as it is in the existing ADB text and in the proposed text. These reference definitions located within the appendix.

~~Strikethrough~~ – Where words/items have a strikethrough, we are proposing their removal from the document in the proposed updates.

ADB volumes – Where the text for a particular section is identical across both volumes we have only shown the Volume 1 change but have included both volumes and paragraphs in the heading section for reference purposes.

To keep the proposal as short as possible we have only included the paragraphs or in some cases sections where updates are proposed. For context the text below should be reviewed against the existing approved documents available here: [Fire safety: Approved Document B – GOV.UK](#).

Comments should be entered in the rows provided (at the end of each item). Comments do not need to be added to all items listed. If you do not wish to add anything to some parts, please add a 'no comment' to those items.

The section and ref ID numbering are derived from the section numbers in the [2026 ADB Consultation](#) document.

## 4.0 Clarification of applicability of Approved Document B for existing buildings

Updates in the guidance relating to conducting building work in existing buildings and navigating the interface with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

Ref ID	4.01
ADB Volume	1&2
ADB Paragraph Ref	To follow paragraph 0.6
Title	Existing buildings
Current text – 2029 amendment	
n/a	
Proposed text	
<p><b><i>Existing buildings</i></b></p> <p><b><i>0.i Building work in an existing building must comply with the relevant requirements of the Building Regulations.</i></b></p> <p><i>Regulation 4(3) of the Building Regulations states the following:</i></p> <p><i>(3) Building work shall be carried out so that, after it has been completed—</i></p> <p><i>(a) any building which is extended or to which a material alteration is made;</i> <i>or</i></p> <p><i>(b) any building in, or in connection with, which a controlled service or fitting is provided, extended or materially altered; or</i></p> <p><i>(c) any controlled service or fitting,</i></p> <p><i>complies with the applicable requirements of Schedule 1 or, where it did not comply with any such requirement, is no more unsatisfactory in relation to that requirement than before the work was carried out.</i></p> <p><i>When meeting these requirements, consideration should be given to the impact the building work has on the level of safety of the existing part of a building. The modified parts of the premises or parts of the existing building may need to be upgraded to ensure that the level of safety of the existing part is not lowered. What may appear to be a minor modification can introduce new risks and significantly affect the level of safety in the building.</i></p> <p><i>Dutyholders should therefore assess the broader implications of the work, including its interaction with existing fire safety measures.</i></p> <p><i>Dutyholders should consider the content of the fire risk assessment required by the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 when setting the scope of the building works. In some buildings, the fire risk assessment may highlight levels of safety which met standards at the time of construction but are now lower than contemporary standards. When planning building works dutyholders should consider if improvements to the current fire safety</i></p>	

*measures of the building are proportionate under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. This can support the alignment of the fire strategy, fire safety management plan and fire risk assessment into a coherent and proportionate set of measures. Regardless of the minimum requirements of the Building Regulations, there is merit in providing additional fire protection throughout the building where reasonably practicable.*

Reviewer Comment