

## 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.

## 5.0 Combustible elements of structure: Introducing a height threshold for use of Approved Document B

Updates on the guidance related to buildings in which the structural elements are made of materials which can contribute to a fire.

Ref ID	5.01
ADB Volume	1& 2
ADB Paragraph Ref	To follow Vol 1 (6.4) Vol 2 (7.5)
Title	Combustible structures
Current text – 2029 amendment	
n/a	
Proposed text	
<p><b><i>Combustible elements of structure</i></b></p> <p><b><i>6.i</i></b> <i>In buildings with a storey more than 11m above ground level, loadbearing elements of structure should be constructed using materials or products achieving a minimum classification of A2-s3, d2 or better.</i></p> <p><i>NOTE: This provision does not apply to intumescent and fire-stopping materials where the inclusion of the materials is necessary to meet the requirements of Part B of Schedule 1.</i></p> <p><i>NOTE: The provisions in Table B1 and Table B2 still apply.</i></p> <p><b><i>6.ii</i></b> <i>In all other buildings, loadbearing elements of structure that do not achieve class A2-s3, d2 should not be exposed. This provision does not apply in the following cases.</i></p> <p><i>a. In buildings with occupied storeys up to 4.5m above ground level. In this case, the total area of exposed elements of structure should not exceed 50% of the room’s floor area, up to a maximum of 20m<sup>2</sup>.</i></p> <p><i>b. In single storey industrial buildings (purpose group 6).</i></p> <p><i>NOTE: ‘Exposed elements of structure’ in this provision refers to loadbearing elements that are not encapsulated or otherwise protected from direct fire exposure and could contribute as a source of fuel during a fire.</i></p> <p><i>NOTE: The provisions in Table 4.1, Table B1 and Table B2 still apply.</i></p>	
Reviewer Comment	