

TECHNICAL REVIEW OF APPROVED DOCUMENT B OF THE BUILDING REGULATIONS: A CALL FOR EVIDENCE

This call for evidence seeks views on the future technical guidance contained within Approved Document B (fire safety). It will be used to set the agenda, terms of reference and programme for the review and to identify what research may be needed to inform the review. The proposal is in line with the Secretary of State's commitment to conducting a full-scale review of the guidelines commencing in the Autumn. The consultation closes at 11:45pm on 01 March 2019.

● Further information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/technical-review-of-approved-document-b-of-the-building-regulations-a-call-for-evidence>

LABC STARTS 2019 WITH QUALITY MANAGEMENT SUCCESS

LABC celebrated the New Year with the news that 135 of its local authority teams have received their UKAS accredited ISO 9001 certification for quality management in just the first year.

Just under 200 teams in total have joined up for the certification process so far and the remaining teams are expected to gain accredited status in the third phase later this year.

The process began back in December 2017 when Alcumus ISOQAR conducted a full document review of LABC's quality management system to determine conformance to the standards and suitability for purpose.

A further audit began in February with a two-person day audit at LABC offices. This audit continued with a sample of eight authorities (out of 45) before the final audit in May at LABC in Vauxhall.

Every aspect of building control is subject to audit from leadership of teams to individual commitment of team members, controls to ensure smooth running of processes and tasks, training and competency across every service under the public-sector building control remit.

Phase two got underway in April 2018 with events across England and Wales and external audit of a further ten local building control teams including London, metropolitan, unitary and district councils. It is testimony to these teams that not a single item of non-conformance was identified, demonstrating the LABC network's full compliance with the International Standard for Quality. Each participating team will receive an ISO 9001 Certificate with the scope 'The provision of public sector building control and public protection services'.

Commenting, LABC Chief Executive, Paul Everall, who has personally written to each successful team, said, 'All the work on standards, competencies and validation will mean our network can contribute to the transformation of the construction sector being demanded by the government. This ISO process is a vital part of LABC's development – it illustrates to government, the LGA, decision makers, the wider industry and our partners in fire safety that public service building control has the expertise, standards and capacity it needs for the future.'

BRADBROOK CONSULTING APPOINTED TO DESIGN AND DEVELOP THE WORLD'S LARGEST VERTICAL FARM



Bradbrook Consulting, part of the Hurley Palmer Flatt Group, has been appointed by a joint venture between Agri-tech firm Crop One Holdings headquartered in Silicon Valley and Emirates Flight Catering to provide a full suite of services for a complete turnkey design for the world's largest vertical farm in Dubai. Construction is due to start early this year.

The group will provide this high-tech, low-water agricultural phenomenon with architectural, mechanical and electrical engineering services, as well as structural and civil engineering.

A state-of-the-art building is expected to comprise an education centre, VIP

lounge and a café within its 130,000-square footage.

The facility will begin by supplying food for Emirates Airline, revered for its dedication to offering an exemplary customer experience, from its base at Dubai International Airport. Emirates Flight Catering and Crop One say the facility will use 99% less water than outdoor fields, with the ambition to harvest 6,000

pounds of leafy greens daily, which will find their way into both in-flight meals and airport lounges from December next year. It is estimated the UAE imports as much as 85% of its food needs and only a small



percentage of land is considered arable. Hyper-productive indoor vertical farming built close to the consumer is, therefore, an appealing concept on paper.

The process is 'season-less' and grows produce 365 days a year. Plants feed on a nutrient solution instead of soil, and variables including temperature and humidity are tightly controlled in modular rooms to generate maximum yield. The facility will use 'a mix of renewable and utility source' electricity, and is targeting solar energy, to power the LED lighting.

