



# TRUSSED RAFTER ASSOCIATION

Information Sheet No. 2011-01

## **Metal-Web Joists for use in Standard and Enhanced Fire Resistance Timber Frame**

The UKTFA has developed the “Design Guide to Separating Distances for Buildings during Construction”. This new guidance is primarily aimed at developments in excess of 600m<sup>2</sup> total floor area and is designed to assist clients, designers and CDM coordinators consider the risk of fire to neighbouring buildings should a fire occur in a timber frame building under construction and improve the building fabric’s defence against both accidental and arson attack

The guidance focuses principally on separating distances between a receiver (existing building) and the emitter (new timber frame build) and has established how wide these distances can be to mitigate the fire risk through newly defined Category A, B and C constructions.

Category A has the widest separating distances and Category C have the smallest.

The full specification of tested and compliant wall and floor structures within each category can be obtained from the UKTFA website, this Information Sheet should be read together with UKTFA guidance.

Metal-Web Joists have been successfully tested and approved in 2 Category B Constructions and one Category C Construction

Full details of the compliant Metal-Web Joist Construction together with the substrate is shown in Table 1 overleaf.

This table will be updated as further metal-web joist solutions comply with UKTFA requirements



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INFORMATION

Description	External Walls	Load Bearing Internal Walls	Compartment Walls	Floor / Flat Roofs	Pitched Roofs
Category A Standard Timber Frame	As UKTFA Document "Design guide to separating distances during construction – Part 3 – Timber frame build methods to reduce the separating distances Figure 3.2 – Categories of timber frame build method				
Category B Reduced Fire Spread Frames	FR Build Open Frame with 9mm FR Plywood sheathing	FR Build Studs	FR Build Frame with 9mm FR Plywood sheathing + Party wall insulation or sheathing of limited combustibility or better or none FR Build studs with sheathing of limited combustibility or better on room side – maximum centres 20m	Metal-Web Joists with UKTFA approved FR Build treatment to chords and rims with 18mm FR Build plywood deck	Trussed Rafters or Loose Rafters and Purlins
	FR Build Open Frame with FI Build insulation installed in factory with 9mm FR Plywood sheathing			Metal-Web Joists with UKTFA approved FR Build treatment to chords and rims with 18mm FR Build plywood deck	
Category C1 Fire Spread Resistant Frames	FR Build Frame with 9mm FS Build non-combustible sheathing			Metal-Web Joists with UKTFA approved FR Build treatment to chords and rims with 18mm FR Build plywood deck	

Table 1