Housing Standards Handbook – updates since publication

Housing standards change at an incredibly fast pace. The Housing Standards Handbook is a comprehensive guide to design quality following the Governments’ review of housing standards, and is the most up-to-date publication of its kind.

To ensure that the book keeps pace with any changes to standards, this document will update with useful commentary on any new standards of relevance to the book since it was published in January 2016.

Secured by Design 2016, February 2016
A new version of Secured by Design responding to the new Part Q of the Building Regulations, which the Housing Standards Handbook covers, and deals with existing as well as new homes. It incorporates the latest security standards, includes references to Building Regulations and other statutory requirements across the UK.

BRE Home Quality Mark
This document was under development at the time of writing the Housing Standards Handbook, and is now live. The Home Quality Mark (HQM), developed by the Building Research Establishment (BRE) is a national voluntary standard for new homes. It enables housebuilders to showcase the quality of their new homes through a simple 5-star rating.

Building Regulations – Approved Document M, March 2016
An updated version of Approved Document M relating to access and use of buildings and Volume 1: Dwellings.

An updated version of Approved Document G relating to sanitation, hot water safety and water efficiency.

Minor Alterations to the London Plan (MALP), March 2016
The MALP was undertaken in order to bring the London Plan in line with new national housing standards and regulation following the 2012–2015 Housing Standards Review, and revised car parking policy. The alterations were under preparation at the time that the Housing Standards Handbook was being written and were formally adopted on 14 March 2016.
London Housing Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG), March 2016

The Housing Supplementary Planning Guidance was published in March 2016 to reflect the alterations to the London Plan. It provides updated guidance on a range of strategic policies including housing supply, residential density, housing standards, build to rent developments, student accommodation and viability appraisals. The SPG replaces the 2012 Housing SPG and the Mayor’s Housing Standards Policy Transition Statement.

Nationally Described Space Standard, May 2016

An updated version of the Nationally Described Space Standard already referenced in the Housing Standards Handbook is now available. The updated version adds additional notes under Table 1 confirming that built-in storage and bathrooms are included within the overall GIA figures detailed in Table 1.

Building Regulations – Approved Documents L1A/L1B, L2A & L2B, April 2016

An updated version of the Approved L Documents. These relate to the conservation of fuel and power in new (L1A) and existing (L1B) dwellings, along with the conservation of fuel and power in new buildings other than dwellings (L2A) and the conservation of fuel and power in existing buildings other than dwellings (L2B).

Health and Wellbeing in Homes, July 2016

The UK Green Building Council (UKGBC) has recently published a report Health and Wellbeing in Homes. The report is aimed at all those with a role in developing, designing, delivering or managing housing, and is focused on general needs homes in the UK housing sector. It aims to gather and distil the most compelling evidence and advice about building and neighbourhood design features which can enhance the health and wellbeing of residents.

Other changes expected soon

- An FAQ is due to be added to Approved Document M.
- The Government has consulted on a new Part R to the Regs ‘Physical Infrastructure for High Speed Electronic Communications Networks’ which is likely to be published soon.