



# A Manifesto for Change in British Construction

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The British Board of Agrément: utilising 60 years of experience to make the construction sector fit-for-purpose and future-ready

March 2024



# WHY THE NEED FOR CHANGE?

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The British construction sector faces immeasurable opportunities for change. The world we face is more complex than ever before. While the industry continues to face a myriad of challenges where complex inter-dependencies within the supply chain yields critical repercussions on the way we innovate, create and build, a post-Brexit, post-Grenfell world has opened up opportunity change and improvement across the board; changes and improvements where quality, safety and complexity is managed better and seeks continuous improvement to reduce risk at the heart of construction ecosystem. These challenges offer the opportunity for the construction sector to revolutionise itself.

*WE ARE DETERMINED TO PLAY OUR PART  
IN UNDERSTANDING AND TRANSLATING  
THIS COMPLEXITY FOR THE GOOD OF THE  
ENTIRE INDUSTRY, AND TO HELP THOSE  
ACTING WITHIN IT, TO NAVIGATE THESE  
COMPLEXITIES;  
DRIVING QUALITY, FITNESS-FOR-PURPOSE  
AND INNOVATION THROUGH ROBUST AND  
RELIABLE SERVICE AND VALUE DELIVERY.*

# FIT-FOR-PURPOSE & FUTURE-READY

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To make the UK construction industry fit-for-purpose and future-ready, we have ambitious plans to:

- Be a provider that addresses concerns around the capacity and quality of product certification; one of the key building blocks of the construction supply chain.
- Become a leader in the creation and distribution of data content that enables effective decision-making.
- Work alongside industry stakeholders that benefit from 3rd party certification, and align our outputs to their needs and requirements.
- Be an agile provider that enables the industry to react in making themselves reliant and ready for the 21st century and beyond, by driving reliable and robust certification of products, systems, people & place, through greater content transparency and consistency across the board.
- Implement service structures that drive accessibility for all players in the UK construction sector to raise their own quality bar in bringing their products to market
- Continue to uncover new opportunities to support and serve as an ally to the construction sector where collectively we all benefit from driving quality and change, through greater quality and cover as requirements change in the sector.
- Continue in our commitment to invest in our efforts, our technology and the skills and experience of our people to understand the direction of the construction sector, and to provide feedback, and direction through having robust, independent 3rd party oversight.
- Grow our support of the built environment through our state-of-the-art certification, while remaining open to future development and innovation in our sector.

# WHO IS THE BBA?

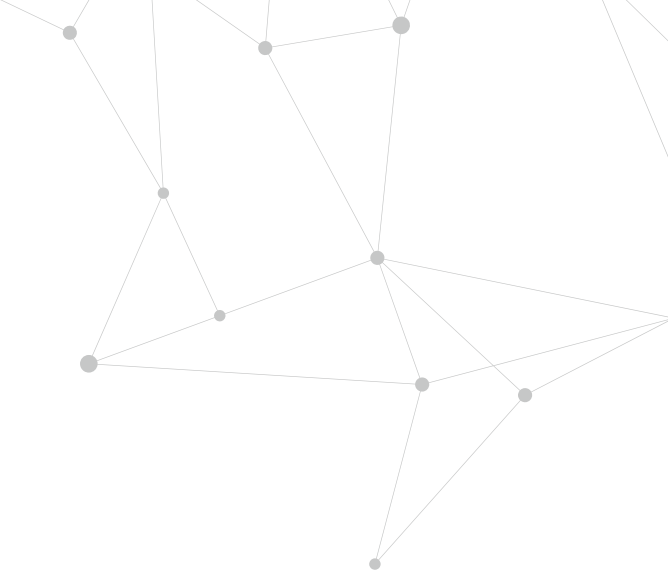
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The British Board of Agrément was established more than 60 years ago to ensure that construction products were safe and fit-for-purpose, including those gone before, and those being invented. And we are still doing that today.

With so much change affecting the industry, our role is needed more than ever to continue this purpose of driving quality and safety. In our role as an independent and impartial 3rd party, UKAS-accredited certification body, our purpose has been to understand the construction landscape and help others within that landscape navigate their way. As innovation evolves, our role is to identify the gaps in quality that present themselves and then actively bridge those gaps through the creation of products and services that enable our sector to successfully steer their own innovation and growth incentives.

The BBA's foundation lies in a close alignment to Government, putting us at the heart of safety critical deployments within the UK built environment. Our ambition remains in continuing to bring our influence to shape and mould this space, and to make the construction industry, and its products, systems, people and places, fit-for-purpose for the 21st century and beyond. We are determined to play our role to ensure that people and business in the UK receive the buildings they expect and deserve.





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*OUR RIGOROUS APPROACH TO  
CERTIFICATION, TESTING AND VERIFICATION  
IN BOTH CONTROLLED AND REAL-WORLD  
APPLICATIONS ACROSS PRODUCTS,  
SYSTEMS, PEOPLE AND ASSETS PUTS  
US AT THE HEART OF QUALITY IN THE  
CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.*

# IN PARTICULAR, WE...

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- Provide access to accurate, up to date information and data enabling quality-driven decision-making and action in the construction sector.
- Work closely with all players within the UK construction industry who embrace quality and improvement, and are open to being scrutinised and assessed by independent and impartial organisations like ours, to help them stay on top of their obligations within the built environment, both for today and as they build for the future,
- Develop a central, accessible and real-time resource for all certificates, making it easy for specifiers to find, review and compare our up-to-date and independently certified information, providing reassurance to both them and end users.
- Facilitate the development of new and innovative products that tackle the challenges of our time, in particular those created within emerging industry sectors such as the bio-content construction product space, those who are revolutionizing the way we construct, and those manufactured by emerging and growing businesses, to deliver an impact across the construction sector to help the sector as a whole achieve the best levels of quality and safety.
- Engage with the entire supply chain, from startups to multi-nationals, manufacturers, specifiers, contractors, installers alike, including organisations outside of British borders who wish to trade in the UK, throughout its complexity through delivering products and services founded built on our detailed knowledge of the UK construction sector and our heritage in the industry.

# WE CALL ON THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO:

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The Government is calling for a safer environment in construction, and aims to drive this through direct regulation. The mechanism for doing this from product fitness-for-purpose already exists in the construction sector.

The BBA has been fulfilling this safety driver since the 60s, as have many others in our industry, and more recently established the Industry Working Group; an initiative that provides an industry-wide focus group that collaborates and leads this change, as a powerful, single, sector voice.

Our ask of Government is therefor simple: To create the demand. A demand that specifies 3rd party certification as mandatory, and which sets the tone for an all-industry commitment to safety and quality.

We believe that our sector offers ample choice to players within the supply chain, to prevent this from becoming a monopolised space.

We are asking for Government to lead the change to transforming Construction.

This includes:

1

Establish concerted efforts to constructively and actively unite the built environment on the key issues of safety, quality and future-readiness

2

Put safety at the centre of all decision-making and ensure that the expertise of the BBA and other certification bodies is at the heat of shaping the future for a shared vision of a better UK built environment.

3

Clarify its ambitions in a post-Brexit, post-Grenfell tragedy world and make 3rd party certification integral in driving quality and safety in the built environment.

4

Invite the BBA to shape a collective industry vision so that the built environment – as a sector – can adjust and adapt to the challenges of delivering quality in construction and contribute to the UK's policies in delivering net zero.



# Contact Us

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