

# News from Kingspan

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## **THUMBS UP FOR KINGSPAN IN TIMBER FRAME**

There are many benefits to timber frame construction, but in recent months concerns about vulnerability to arson and the potential fire spread to neighbouring properties during construction have prompted the UK Timber Frame Association (UKTFA) to develop pioneering new test methods that identify suitable construction products which can help to reduce the risks.

The test methods and accompanying guidance have been endorsed by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Kingspan Thermawall TW55 and Kingspan Kooltherm K12 Framing Board are currently the only open panel insulation products listed under the UKTFA Approved Products and Systems.

The method consists of two tests: one ignition test which assesses reaction to fire spread and burn through, and the other, a room scale test measuring radiant heat and temperature away from the 'building'. Three resulting categories are used to help construction planning decisions and risk assessment on site. Identifying which category the type of timber frame construction falls into allows site managers to plan for a safer build and minimise the risk of potential damage from arson:

- Category A - Standard timber frame e.g. untreated open panel timber frame

- Category B - Reduced fire spread timber frame e.g. Kingspan Thermawall TW55 and Kooltherm K12 Framing Board in open panel treated timber frame
- Category C - Fire spread resistant timber frame e.g. non-combustible sheathings with un-insulated open panel or closed panel

The Kingspan products have achieved Category B compliance, demonstrating that their use in open panel timber frame construction does not compromise the fire performance, even when it is at its most vulnerable (i.e. before the finishing layers of plasterboard and brickwork have been applied).

The closed cell construction of Kingspan Thermawall TW55 or Kooltherm K12 rigid thermoset insulation makes them highly resistant to moisture ingress, allowing full advantage to be taken of one of the key benefits of building with a timber frame, which is that it is less weather dependent than traditional brick and block, speeding up build time and bringing greater predictability to project completion times.

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## **Notes to Editors**

A member of the fast-growing Kingspan Group plc, Kingspan Insulation produces the widest range of insulants available from any UK or Irish manufacturer. They are the market leader in the manufacture of rigid phenolic and rigid urethane insulation, and offer products for use in the industrial, commercial and housing sectors.

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**Photo and caption:**

Kingspan Thermawall TW55 and Kooltherm K12 Framing Board are currently the only insulation products compliant to Category B of the criteria set by the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) and the UK Timber Frame Association (UKTFA).