

25 October 2013

Simon Wroe
Head of Approvals - Materials
British Board of Agrément
Bucknalls Lane
Watford
WD25 9BA

Dear Simon,

Re: BBA Statement on Chemical Damp-proofing

Further to your requests for comment on the aforementioned statement, please find these set out below;

The PCA operates to further the interests of its members. We do this by ensuring that they are capable and committed to providing the best possible service to clients. It follows therefore, that it is in the interest of all parties to ensure the products that are being relied upon are fit for purpose.

Until now, the PCA has referred to BBA certification as the benchmark that all damp proofing products should be measured against. It was understood that a BBA certificate was only awarded when products are tested against real world situations and found to be effective; indeed, this was the advice provided by BBA when we contacted you in 2008. The statement you have now asked us to comment upon suggests that this may, in fact, not be the true situation.

Your position in respect of the testing and certification of damp proofing creams by the BBA is now unclear. This lack of clarity cannot be allowed to spread to those who are using these products professionally or indeed to those who are commissioning work to eradicate rising damp.

The suggestion that some products would be useful only in walls with moisture content below 6% and others may be more effective when the walls are wetter is interesting, however, it does not consider the practical implications of such statements. You must be aware that site diagnostic equipment is incapable of such accuracy and therefore if a wall is considered by the surveyor to be affected by rising damp, the contractor must be confident that the product he or she recommends will be effective regardless of the precise moisture content in the wall.

It is our considered view therefore that two stage certification for damp proofing creams is undesirable, will lead to further confusion and risks bringing a legitimate sector of the property repair industry into disrepute.

The confusion and conflicts that have arisen as a result of the BBA statement have the potential for untold damage to product manufacturers and users of damp proofing creams. This is particularly true, if the matter is not resolved quickly.

In our view, it is absolutely essential for the reputation and standing of BBA and the wider preservation sector, that clarity is brought to this situation without delay. Industry and consumers must be able to trust BBA certification unconditionally and be safe in the knowledge that products carrying the BBA brand work in all situations.

I urge you to act quickly and decisively to bring clarity to a now very confused and potentially volatile situation.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Hodgson
Chief Executive
Property Care Association