



MOBBTA technical update - June 2022

Following previous papers detailing the knowledge harvested by MOBBTA we believe that the time is right to provide a further update as to the position of MgO boards in the UK market.

In the summer of 2021 we were proud to announce the publication of PAS 670 (Publicly Available Specification) So what is a PAS?

From the British Standards Institute (BSI) *'A PAS is a standardization document – the result of an expert consulting service from BSI. It defines good practice for a product, service or process. It's a powerful way to establish the integrity of an innovation or approach'*

MOBBTA funded this project and worked with insurers, warranty providers, third-party verifiers, manufacturers, contractors, research labs and academic institutions, towards this goal -all working under BSi control. PAS 670 is a performance standard that the contributors believe will ensure the production of UK suitable boards, PAS 670 it is not a recipe for how to make a good board, a point that is often lost or miss understood. MOBBTA firmly believe that the creation of PAS 670 is a result of the most in depth and up to date scientific study of boards and we clearly therefore believe that this benchmark is a robust means of determining good quality boards for the UK market, It's important to look at the basis for this view....

Among the members of the steering group committee were Queens university of Belfast, a world -renowned academic institute who were commissioned (at a cost of several hundred thousand pounds) to carry out an in- depth study of magnesium oxide based boards. The study took several years to complete and included the testing of many specimens of various MgO boards.

From September 2020 the following papers were published:

[*Magnesium oxychloride boards: understanding a novel building material*](#)
[*Exposure of magnesium oxide boards to various conditions for extended durations*](#)
[*Physical and mechanical performance of magnesium-based construction boards: A comparative study*](#)



Queen's University, Belfast

Those familiar with the publishing of such research papers will understand that in each case they must undergo a peer review process where other such academic bodies are able to comment and challenge any points that they do not agree with.

MOBBTA members are now working to show full compliance with the PAS 670 and it is the intention to achieve insurer approval for products used within the scope of third party Agreement certificates (such as BBA or Kiwa BDA) where clear compliance with the PAS is demonstrated. PAS 670 compliance is not a quick process considering that some of the tests required take over 3 months to complete.

It is hoped that early discussions with the principal warranty providers in the UK construction market, will lead to universal acceptance of PAS670-standard boards.



**Magnesium Oxide
Building Board
Trading Association**

MOBBTA members are still confronted with points relating to academic papers published much earlier than the Queen's research, papers that MOBBTA no longer consider to be 'state of the art' compared with the more in- depth work carried out by Queens University. MOBBTA have previously addressed* points raised within earlier papers published as a result of issues in Denmark and Australia.

*MOBBTA reference previous paper published on the topic of Danish and Australian reports detailing performance issues of badly made MgO boards (available at the following link)

[Mobbta Denmark-Australia Report Sep19 \(squarespace.com\)](https://squarespace.com)

MOBBTA general information: Putting research work in Denmark and Australia into context On-going update from MOBBTA: September 2019