BBA (The British Board of Agrément)

The BBA is a multi-faceted organisation. Its original function was to award its Agrément Certificates to those companies whose products could be shown to allow compliance with relevant Building Regulations across the UK. This was then extended to Approved Installer schemes – the most successful and best known of these was the approval scheme for installers of cavity wall insulation.

More recently, the BBA has been providing inspection and assessment services for the ODPM -authorised Competent Persons Schemes, FENSA and ELECSA, covering installation of replacement windows and electrical work in dwellings respectively.

The BBA is designated by Government as a body to issue European Technical Approvals in the UK and also as the UK spokesbody in the co-ordinating European Organisation for Technical Approvals.

The BBA is a Notified Body for testing in support of European Technical Approvals and harmonised European Standards, allowing CE marking by manufacturers in line with the requirement of the European Commission's Construction Products Directive.

The BBA places a strong emphasis on the accreditation of its own services and is monitored by UKAS (United Kingdom Accreditation Service). This accreditation is held for product testing, quality management systems certification, product conformity certification, and calibration.

**BBA and the injected cavity wall insulation sector**

The BBA is proud to have helped the sector raise standards since the mid-1970s, which in turn has helped improve customer confidence. The scheme operates at two levels: we approve the insulation systems made by ***System Suppliers*** and a separate but complementary approval scheme for ***Installers***.

***System Suppliers***

In common with other BBA Approved products, the BBA has to carry out a rigorous and thorough evaluation of the insulation system put forward by the supplier for Approval. As part of this, the BBA considers the:

- Practical and legislative demands on the system and how these are satisfied

- Science behind the system by undertaking a full technical analysis of the design
- Consistency of manufacture, by visiting the factory and ensuring suitable management system controls are in place to maintain product quality continuously

In addition the BBA carries out:

- Laboratory tests to confirm supplier's claims of performance are achieved in practice
- Site trials to ensure system suppliers intended installation practices can be achieved on site.

Only when our skilled product specialists are satisfied can a manufacturer be awarded the coveted BBA approval. The detail on the product is described in a well-presented BBA Approval document (many of which are available free of charge on www.bbacerts.co.uk) , which gives assurance and valuable guidance to specifiers, users, and customers alike.

**Installers**

The effectiveness of injected cavity wall insulation is dependent upon its correct application and for this reason the BBA controls ***Installers*** with their own specialist scheme.

Installers can apply for approval to install any BBA Approved injected cavity wall insulation system, which requires the BBA to undertake some demanding and rigorous checks on the installer to ensure that;

- The application has been endorsed by the ***System Supplier***
- All staff have been trained in the installation process.
- Office processes are in place that ensure suitable planning of new works and complete records of work completed.
- Surveys take place before work commences
- Requirements of the ***system supplier***, and conditions of the BBA Approval for the system being installed, are being met.
- The installer is receiving regular quality audits from the system supplier

Only when these aspects have been satisfactorily demonstrated to the BBA will we allow the installer to join the scheme.

From this point on the installer received regular inspections, both on work in progress and completed works, to ensure that the work done is to the required standard. Last year the BBA undertook inspections on nearly 4000 properties.