

CERTIFICATION

STRUCTURAL DESIGN

1. What is Certification?

A building owner may employ approved certifiers to ensure work meets building regulations. The status of 'Approved Certifier of Design' is only given to people who hold appropriate qualifications and have sufficient experience to certify that an installation is compliant.

Using an approved certifier is an option open to an owner or developer carrying out work that requires a building warrant. The work done must comply with the building warrant and building regulations. A Certificate of Design provides assurance that the work as designed will comply.

Approved certifiers are members of a scheme approved by Scottish Ministers. The structural design scheme is provided by Structural Engineers Registration Ltd (SER) and is operated by Professional Bodies that represent all Structural Engineers working in Scotland.

Certified structural designs do not require design checking by the local authority and informing that a valid certificate will attract a 10% discount on the warrant fee.

2. How does it work?

If you decide to use an Approved Certifier of Design (Building Structures) you should –

- Contact SER for the list of approved certifiers and arrange for the structural design work to be carried out. Approved Certifiers of Design (Building structures) must be Chartered Engineers with generally a minimum 5 years of experience of building structures. This person will assess the structural work you plan to do.
- When the design is complete you will be given a Certificate of Design, along with appropriate drawings detailing the certified structural design. This certifies the compliance of the entire building with the Scottish Building Standards 1.1 and 1.2 for structure.
- Send your building warrant application to Inverclyde Council together with the Certificate of Design and the appropriate drawings detailing the certified structural design.

3. What are the benefits?

- Quicker handling of building warrant applications as there is no further checking of design work that has been certified other than to ensure adequate drawings have been submitted to allow the design to be transferred to completed works.
- A discount is given on the warrant fee is given
- Approved certifiers are able to provide a quality service, and ensure compliance of the design with building regulations.

- A firm employing at least one approved certifier must meet criteria to be appointed as an approved body.
- Approved bodies hold adequate insurance cover for any project to be certified.
- Members of a certification scheme have their work audited by the scheme provider.
- Construction professionals and trades-people must have met high levels of qualifications and experience necessary to be accepted into certification schemes.
- The skills and experience of construction professionals and trades-people are recognised.

4. How do I find an Approved Certifier?

The Scottish Government's Building Standards Division runs the online Certification Register. This is the only authentic source of information on all approved certifiers.

Open the Register at: <http://www.certificationregister.co.uk/>

The Register is used to find firms that employ at least one approved certifier offering certification services in your local authority area.

The Register is also used by Building Standards Surveyors to check the validity of certificates submitted to them.

You can use the Register to find firms that have gained approved body status under the scheme by their registration number or simply by their trading name.

To find an approved certifier:

- choose a scheme and
- choose a local authority area
- view all the member firms that offer certification services in that area.

Alternatively, type in the name of a firm you know to see if it is registered with the scheme.

View your chosen firm's details and contact the Certification Co-ordinator in the firm to make all the necessary arrangements.

5. Information and Contacts

For further information about Certification and the new system of building standards in Scotland contact the Scottish Government's Building Standards Division at the following address:

Scottish Government Building Standards Division
Denholm House
Livingston, West Lothian, EH54 6GA

Email: buildingstandards@gov.scot

Web: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Built-Environment/Building/Building-standards>

Telephone: 0131 244 6511

Details of the certification scheme can be requested from the scheme providers:

Structural Engineers Registration Limited

47-58 Bastwick Street

London

EC1V 3PS

Email: admin@ser-ltd.com

Telephone: 020 7201 9116