

What's different between other laboratories and BEAL Testing Services (BTS) methods and fees??

This is a question often asked by applicants for either a building product appraisal or product certification (CodeMark) and who need product testing carried out to provide credible evidence of compliance with one or more 'performance requirements'.

The answer begins with the question "what is the purpose of testing?". The answer to the second question tells us about why and how testing and interpreting the results ought to be carried out.

The purpose of testing is usually decided by the applicant requesting the testing. If the result of the testing is the production of a test report that is to be used for quality control purposes, then the overall requirements including number of samples required, is quite limited.

If the result of the testing of the building product is because of a research and development project, then deciding on both the appropriate test method and any applicable special conditions, is essential to gain any meaningful benefit.

If on the other hand the result of the testing is to demonstrate compliance, then three key factors need to be considered:

- a) what conditions of use and any limitations are associated with the design, construction and use of the product are relevant;
- b) how relevant is the test method in demonstrating compliance taking a) into consideration, and
- c) what special conditions including the need to video record the process and results of testing in order to properly interpret the test results.

Without taking these three factors into account and completing an analysis for deciding the conditions and any variation to the standard methodology, no meaningful and certainly no reliance can be placed on such testing for demonstrating compliance.

In other words, unless the laboratory possesses the requisite experience, skills and processes in place, their test results cannot be relied upon. Which leads to the answer to the first question, "What's different between other laboratories and BTS. The answer is that *BTS possesses the requisite experience, skills and processes in place, so that their test results can be relied upon!*

Does this then mean that other laboratories (presumably accredited to ISO17025) do not always have these attributes. Unfortunately, they do not. In fact, few laboratories around the world possess the requisite expertise, which is a key reason many small and large entities rely on the testing results provided by BTS. That is not to say there are no others, but there are few. BTS are happy to confirm which other laboratories can be relied upon for certain types of work and those that in their view, cannot.

Needless to say, the fees charged by others will be different from those of BTS. If you have a query about the fees from BTS, please call and an explanation will be provided. BEAL Testing Services is above all an impartial entity with global resources to assist any manufacturer or importer/distributor gain access to their target market.