



The Scottish
Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

IRCC Workshop
10 June 2015 Edinburgh
**Verifying Fire Engineered
Solutions as Part of a Building
Regulatory System**

Bill Dodds Chair of IRCC and
Head of Building Standards
Scottish Government



Agenda for Today



- 09.00 **Introductory Session** Welcome and workshop objectives
Bill Dodds (IRCC Chair)
- 09.15 **Scottish Perspective**
Jim McGonigal ,Russell Cartwright, Glen Forrest , Alan Smith and
Tony Kilpatrick
- 10.30 *Tea and Coffee*
- 10.50 **International Perspective**
Dr.IJsbrand van Straalen , Dr.Brian J. Meacham, Dr. Vidar Stenstad,
Dr.Tomohiro Naruse, Caroline Bernelius Cronsioe and Nicholas Lee
- 12.05 **Plenary Session**
- 13.30 *Close and Lunch*



Inter-Jurisdictional Regulatory Collaboration Committee (IRCC)



- Advance at an international level - framework, guidance and support documents on construction related regulatory environment issues
- Support the development and implementation of performance-based regulatory systems
- Advance a common understanding of the international regulatory environment
- Identify the broad public policy, regulatory infrastructure, education and technology issues
- Promote the exchange of information and facilitate a more open environment of inter-jurisdictional commerce in the areas of building design and construction





Contact IRCC

Inter-Jurisdictional Regulatory Collaboration Committee

Click [here](#) for the IRCC Charter of Membership.

The purpose of the IRCC is to advance, at an international level, framework, guidance, and support documents on construction-related regulatory environment issues relative to the development, implementation, and support of performance-based regulatory systems. The focus of the IRCC is to identify the broad public policy, regulatory infrastructure, education, and technology issues related to managing the successful implementation and continuation of construction-related performance-based regulatory systems. The intent is to advance a common understanding of the international regulatory environment, to promote the exchange of information, and to facilitate a more open environment of inter-jurisdictional commerce in the areas of building design and construction.

Australian Building Codes Board ([ABCB](#)), Australia
Austrian Institute of Construction Engineering ([OIB](#)), Austria
Building and Construction Authority ([BCA](#)), Singapore
China Academy of Building Research ([CABR](#)), China
Department of Building and Housing ([DBH](#)), New Zealand
Institute for Research in Construction, National Research Council ([NRC](#)), Canada
International Code Council ([ICC](#)), USA
Ministry of Housing ([MOH](#)), Spain
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism ([MLIT](#)), Japan
National Board of Housing, Building and Planning, ([Boverket](#)), Sweden
National Institute for Land and Infrastructure Management ([NILIM](#)), Japan
Norwegian Building Authority ([NBA](#)), Norway
Scottish Government Directorate for the Built Environment ([DBE](#)), Scotland
Singapore Civil Defence Force ([SCDF](#)), Singapore



Drivers for Today's Workshop (1)



Government

- Growing number of enquiries and requests for assistance
- Developers frustrated that alternative approaches are not accepted more readily
- Concerns that alternative approaches are not developed from first principles but are expressed as comparisons with technical guidance to prove equivalence
- Growing trend to trade off passive fire protection v active protection: such as provision of sprinklers to permit deletion of second staircase
- A need for national consistency in approach

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

- Relatively new service currently 'bedding in'
- Are a statutory consultee but being drawn in more and more as peer reviewers
- Increased use of modelling with concerns over reliability of data and assumptions made



Drivers for Today's Workshop (2)

Verifiers

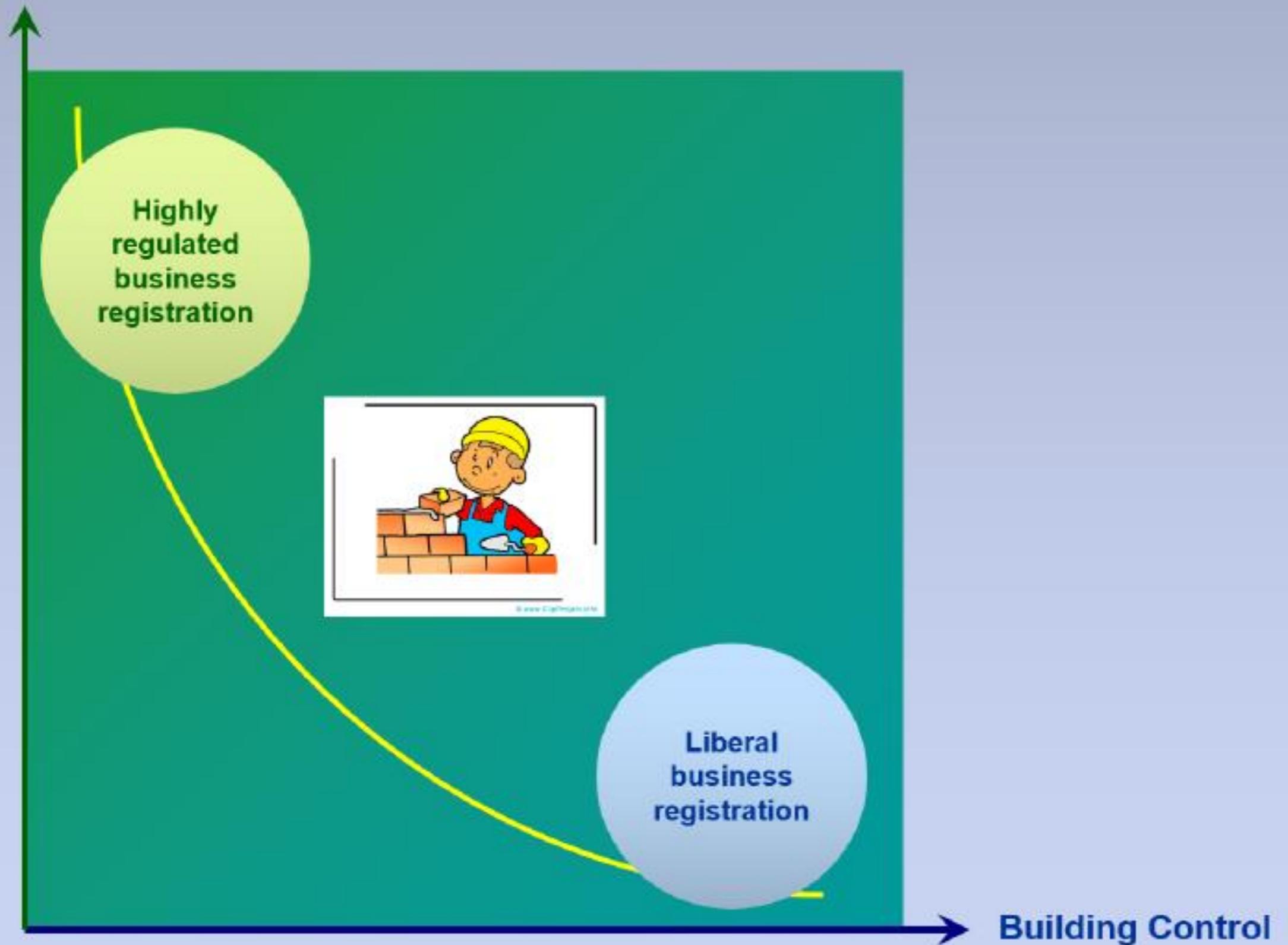
- Varying degrees of competence to assess alternative approaches
- Fairly limited national guidance on means of verifying alternative solutions
- Heavy reliance on single Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to undertake peer review
- Clarity required on how to confirm competence of Fire Engineer

Fire Engineers

- Frustration with some local authorities reluctance to accept alternative approaches and default position is to apply technical guidance rigidly
- Inconsistent approach across local authorities when assessing alternative approaches
- Concerns that solutions that are acceptable in other parts of the UK are **not** accepted in Scotland
- Inability to inform clients if a proposed solution will be accepted by a local authority



Qualification of Actors



Highly regulated business registration



Liberal business registration

Building Control

Workshop Objectives

- Gain an understanding of the current local authority practices on determining the suitability of fire engineered solutions in Scotland
- Obtain an understanding of international practices on the verification of fire engineered solutions from IRCC members
- Explore possible options for improving the consistency of verification of fire engineered solutions in Scotland for the future.

This could be:

- providing national guidance,
- developing a memorandum of understanding with all of the actors in the process,
- recognising appropriately qualified and experienced fire engineering practitioners,
- international collaboration to share best practice etc.

