

Class "1" is a classification defined by **BS476 Pt 7 – Surface spread of Flame**.

The test measures the distance and time a flame will spread across a surface.

Results range from:

The worst: Class 4 – i.e. longest distance and fastest of flame spread.

The best: Class 1 – i.e. least distance and slowest of flame spread.

For example:

A good Class 1 result would be the flame not spreading further than 165mm from the point of ignition over the total test time of 10 minutes.

Class "0" is not a fire test but in fact a classification from The Building Regulations 1991 – Fire Safety, Approved Document B.

In order for a system to achieve a Class 0 rating it must meet the following requirements:

Achieve a Class 1 fire rating from **BS476 Pt 7 – Surface spread of Flame**

& pass the **BS476 Pt 6 – Fire Propagation** test.

In Summary

Class 1: Protects your surface from the spread of flames.

Class 0: Protects your surface from the spread of flames AND limits the amount of heat released from the surface during a fire.

The surface finish of walls and ceilings should be of a standard not lower than that indicated in the table below.

ROOM OR CIRCULATION SPACE	SURFACE CLASS FOR BOTH WALLS AND CEILINGS	
	NATIONAL CLASS BS476-7	EUROPEAN CLASS BS EN 13501-1
Rooms not exceeding 4m ²	3	D-s3,d2
All other rooms	1	C-s3,d2
*Circulation spaces	0	B-s3, d2 or higher

* A Circulation space in an architectural term for circulation which refers to the way people move and interact through a building. Elements such as staircases, lobby's, communal walkways and fire escapes are all examples of Circulation Spaces.