NON-COMBUSTIBLE CONSUMER UNIT ENCLOSURES

CAN A METAL BOARD GO ON A WOODEN PANEL?

All new consumer units are now made of a **non-combustible material**, usually **metal**. Domestic consumer units must be **made of non-combustible material** or **installed inside a non-combustible enclosure**.

- There are still **tens of thousands** of **plastic** boards in service. The rule applies to boards being **installed**, so an existing plastic board isn't automatically non-compliant.
- The point: a fire that starts **inside** the board (for example at a loose connection) takes **much longer to spread** out of a metal box. It will still get hot, but the building has more time.
- **Misconception:** some people think a metal board can't be fixed to a combustible surface. Because the enclosure itself is non-combustible, **fixing it to a wooden panel is fine**.

> **BS 7671** · Reg 421.1.201 · consumer units and similar switchgear assemblies in domestic premises: non-combustible enclosure

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