



Research highlights report

# ***Understanding fire test data in specification***

**KNAUF**

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# Raising standards

At Knauf, we are committed to raising standards across the construction industry and supporting the development of safer buildings for the future.

As part of this commitment, we used an independent research company to survey more than 300 architects and contractors to better understand how specifiers engage with fire test data:

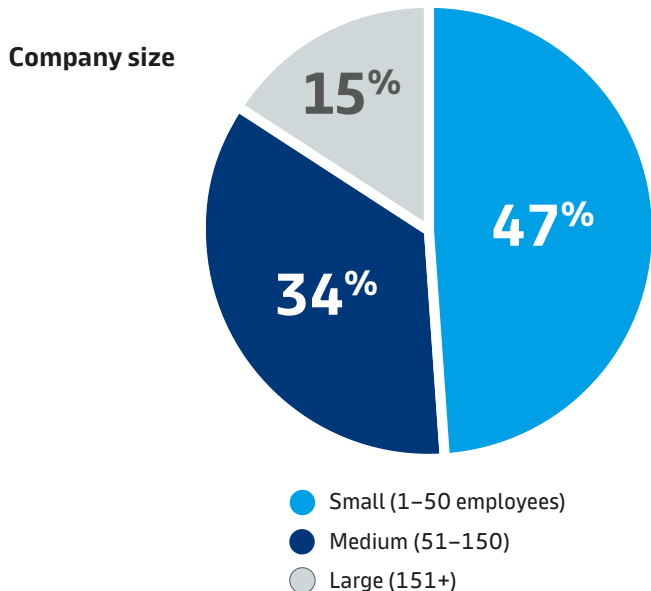
- How confident are they in interpreting test reports?
- How accessible and transparent is the data they rely on?
- What challenges do they face when questioning manufacturers?
- Where could more support and guidance make a difference?

These insights offer a timely snapshot of the industry’s confidence in fire performance data, highlighting where improved tools, training, and transparency are needed.



## Who we spoke to

All participants worked for an architectural firm or contractor and were responsible for specifying or advising on systems based on performance requirements, as well as regularly sourcing fire test data from manufacturers.



### Experience

From early career professionals through to 15+ years in the industry



### Sectors

Represented a wide cross-section of UK construction



### Regions

A balanced spread across the UK

# 1 *KEY INSIGHTS*

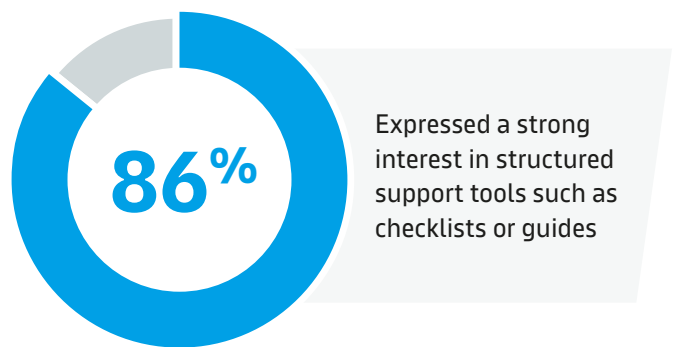
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# Confidence in assessing fire test data

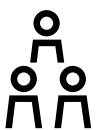
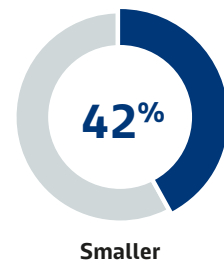
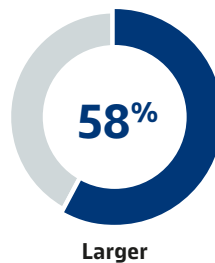
Interpreting fire test reports is a fundamental responsibility for specifiers; yet confidence is uneven across the industry. While most professionals feel capable, experience level and company size appear to strongly influence how assured people are in applying the data to real-world projects.

How confident are you in your ability to interpret manufacturer product or system fire test reports, and their subsequent suitability for a project you are specifying?



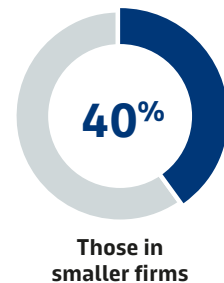
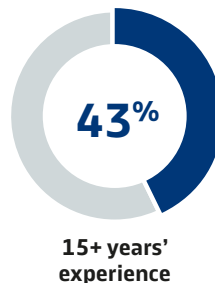
### Training

Larger practices were more likely to have received recent training.



### Experience

Confidence dropped significantly among those with 15+ years' experience and those in smaller firms.




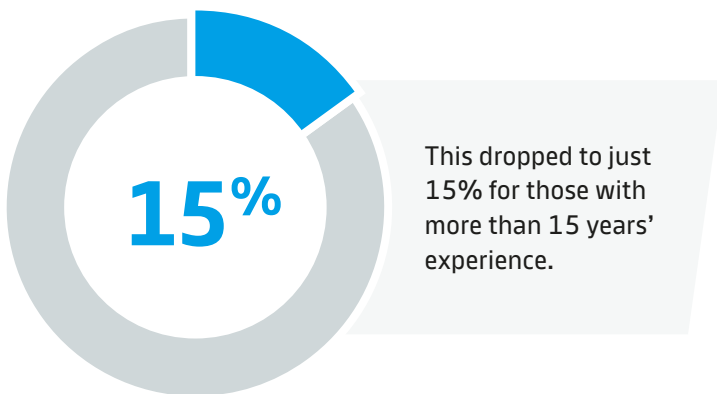
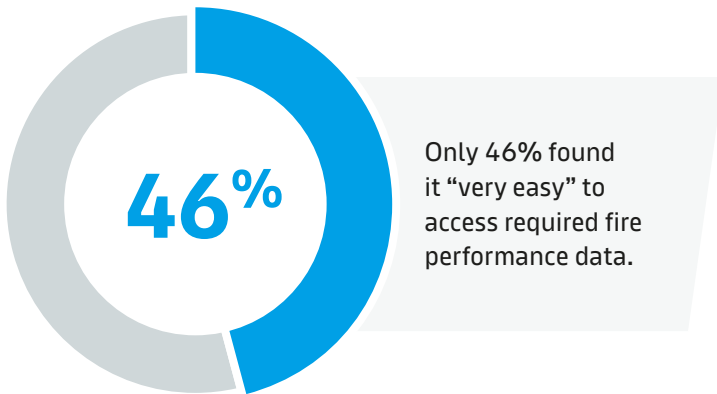
### OUR VIEW:

Later this year, we will launch our new guide, *Understanding Fire Classification Reports and Test Reports* – a practical framework to help specifiers assess fire test data with confidence and ensure compliance with the Building Safety Act.

Want early access to our new guide once it's ready? [Sign up here](#)

# Accessing the data they need

Being able to locate the right performance data quickly is essential for safe and efficient specification. However, our research indicates many specifiers – even those with more experience – find it difficult to access the fire test data they need, despite the shift to digital platforms.



*The shift towards digital platforms such as NBS has expanded access, but also increased complexity*



## OUR VIEW:

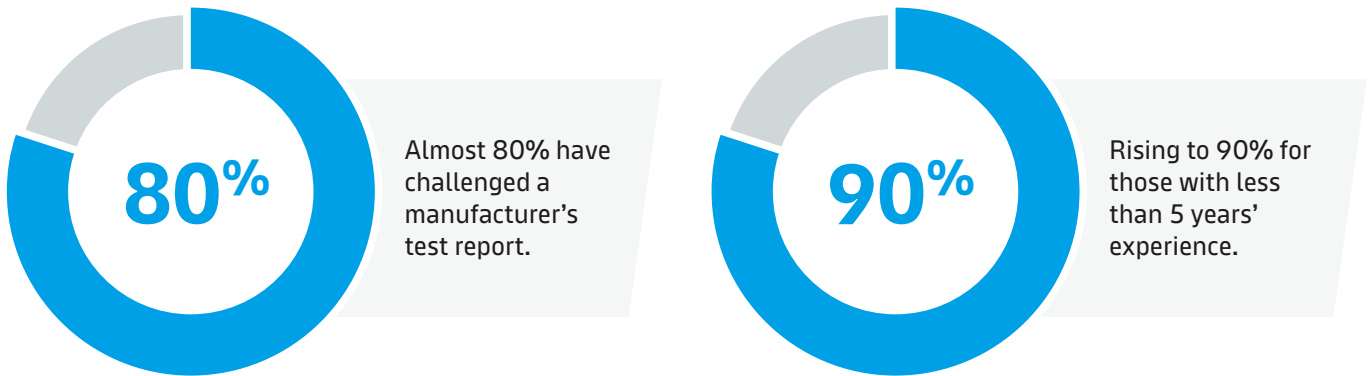
To ensure Gateway 2 submissions are robust, Knauf provides all fire test reports and classifications alongside every system on NBS.

The Knauf System Finder helps specifiers build accurate, compliant, specifications quickly and efficiently whilst NBS enables comparisons with other products and systems on the market, along with supporting data and technical details.

[Look for the Knauf systems and the data you need on NBS.](#)

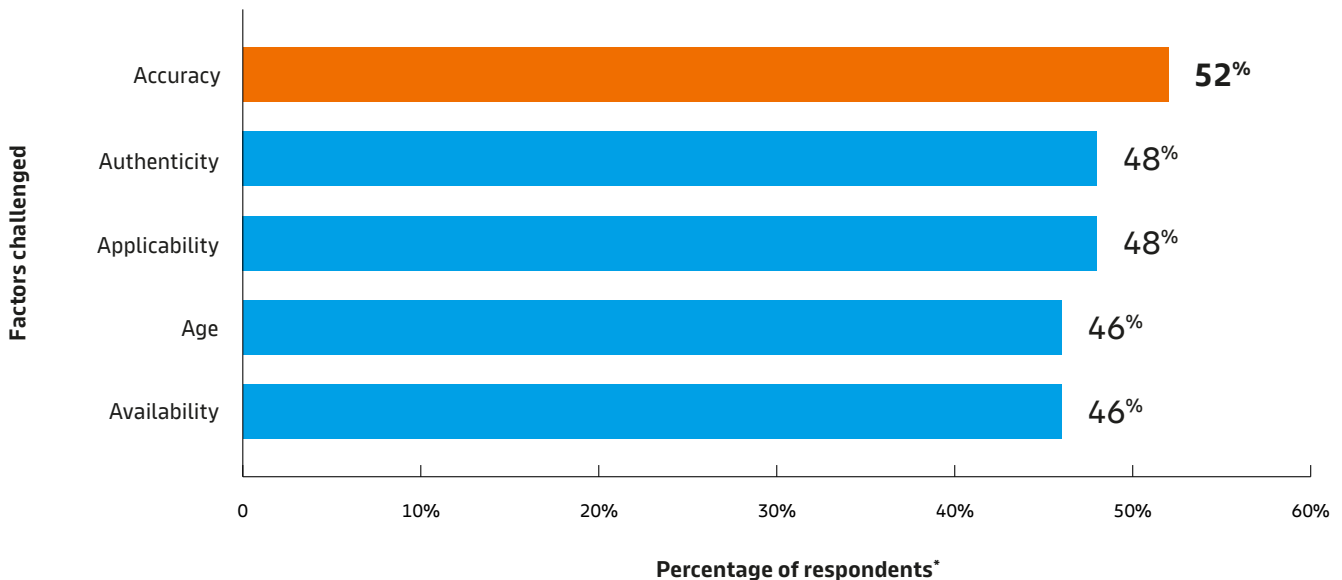
# Challenging manufacturers

Specifiers have a duty to ensure that the fire test data they rely on is robust. Encouragingly, most are confident enough to question manufacturers, with those who are earlier in their careers showing particularly high levels of vigilance.



## What was the reason for the challenge?

The most common concerns were around the accuracy of the data; however, authenticity, accuracy, age, availability, and applicability of data had all been challenged.



\* Respondents could select multiple answers



### OUR VIEW:

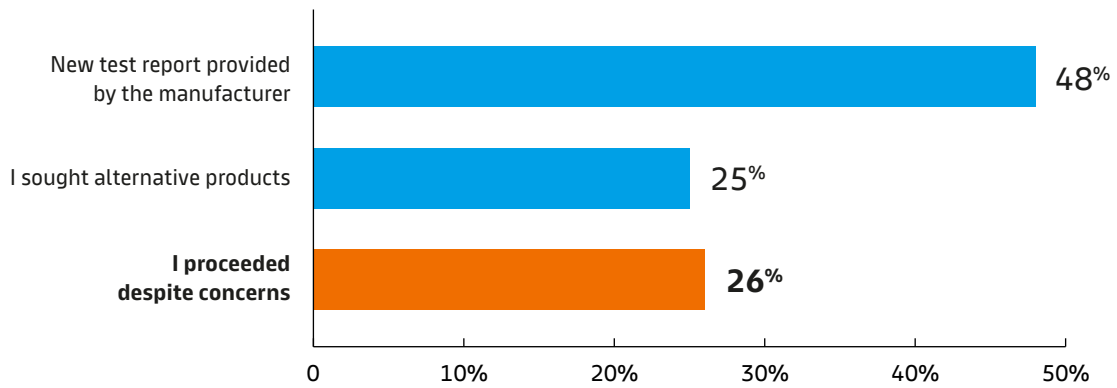
We encourage specifiers to challenge where they see a lack of transparency. Our technical team provides direct access to experts who can help you understand the application of our data and support with queries. [Contact us to find out more.](#)

# Changing products because of data concerns

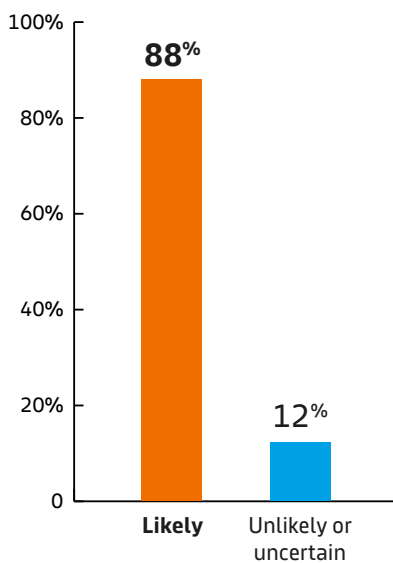
Decisions about whether to proceed with a product or system, despite unresolved data issues can have major implications for safety, compliance, and project timelines. While most specifiers say they would change products if transparency is lacking, a concerning minority still press ahead regardless.

## Of those who had challenged a manufacturer’s test report, how was the issue ultimately addressed?

Despite concerns, 26% of respondents continued using a product even without satisfactory data clarification.



## How likely are you to change a system or product if the test data lacks transparency or does not clearly support compliance with the Building Safety Act?



When there are concerns with compliance with the Building Safety Act 88% say they would be likely to change their choice of product or system.

**75%**

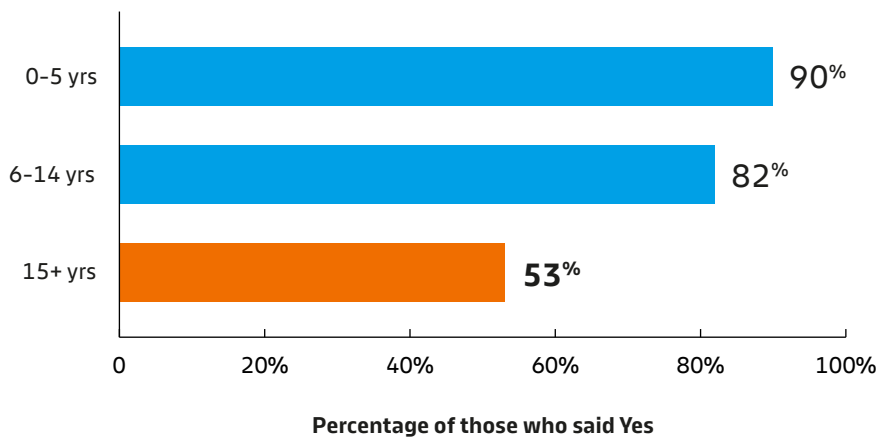
Given that up to 75% of applications to the Building Safety Regulator, for Gateway 2, are being rejected because of missing or flawed information, the risks are clear; **lost time, higher costs, alongside the obvious potential safety concerns.**

# Experience shapes perspective

Our findings highlight the importance of checking fire test data, regardless of your level of experience. It shows specifiers with more experience are less likely to challenge manufacturer's test reports, change products, or seek external consultancy.

## Have you or your project design team ever challenged a manufacturer fire test report?

More experienced specifiers are less likely to challenge manufacturers, change products, or seek external consultant support.



### Training

The research demonstrates the need for training for all specifiers regardless of experience.



### OUR VIEW:

Test reports of all kinds will have updates as standards change, or the product itself experiences materials changes. This is why it is essential to keep checking the data, know what to check for and where to find it. Our new guide, *Understanding Fire Classification Reports and Test Reports*, is a tool to help specifiers review fire test reports accurately and prevent delays at Gateway 2.

Want early access to our new guide once it's ready? [Sign up here](#)

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