

RADON MONITORING AND MITIGATION: EXPERIENCE IN THE UK**C.R. Scivyer***Building Research Establishment Limited, Watford, UK*

Radon has been a public issue in the UK for nearly 20 years. A major National radon measurement programme for existing dwellings was carried in the mid-1980's, which continues to be followed up with targeted local measurement campaigns. Legislation dealing with radon in the workplace was introduced at the same time followed by requirements for protective measures for new homes in 1988. There has been large number of measurements carried out (more than 500,000 homes measured), but it is only in the last few years that significant public awareness and mitigation has started to happen. This has been achieved via a programme of local authority led campaigns to develop local infrastructures to deal with and raise awareness of radon. There are essentially three approaches to carrying out radon measurement – measurement can be described as instantaneous over a few minutes, short term over five to eight days or long term over several months. Each has advantages and disadvantages but generally the longer the reading the more reliable the result. Government funded measurement programmes across the UK have all used long term measurement with measurement devices placed in homes for a three month period. Faster measurements are sometimes used for screening purposes when undertaking mitigation work or at the time of house purchase. A range of practical low cost mitigation solutions have been developed for use in existing UK buildings. These range from passive solutions such as simple sealing and improved natural ventilation, through to mechanical ventilation and radon extract systems. This paper discusses the approach being undertaken in the UK to raise awareness and increase the uptake of measurement and subsequent mitigation where necessary.