Information Sheet No. 2015 - 2

Limits for Cutting, Notching and Drilling of Trussed Rafters

The cutting, notching or drilling of trussed rafters is not generally permitted unless the Trussed Rafter Designer has allowed this for in the design. With the specific exception of the rules for cutting and drilling shown below, it should be assumed that trussed rafters must **NOT** be cut, notched or drilled unless there are specific instructions on site, prepared by the Trussed Rafter Designer.

Standard Trussed Rafters

- Overhangs and flying rafters may be trimmed unless otherwise advised by the trussed rafter supplier.
- Cutting, notching and drilling is **NOT** permitted.

'Room in the Roof' (Attic) Trussed Rafters

The following actions are **NOT** permitted:

- Notching anywhere within the trussed rafter. (See Note 1 Below)
- Drilling of the rafter or internal members.

Drilling of the bottom member of the truss is permitted within the following constraints:

- Holes may be drilled only within the areas indicated in Fig. 1 overleaf
- Holes must be drilled on the centre-line of the member.
- Minimum spacing between adjacent holes is 100 mm.
- Maximum size of drilled holes is as shown in Table 1 overleaf.
- Under no circumstances should holes be drilled within 500 mm of a load-bearing support or within 250 mm of a plated splice joint.

'Room in the Roof' trussed rafters should never be cut to accommodate dormers or stairwells without obtaining detailed instructions from the Trussed Rafter designer.

Note 1
Notching the bottom Chords of 'Room in the Roof' (Attic) Trusses to a maximum depth of 5mm is permitted in order to accommodate gable lateral restraint straps as required by Building Regulations.

Table 1 - Maximum size of hole within permitted areas, based upon the depth of the bottom chord

Bottom Chord Depth (mm)	Maximum Hole Diameter (mm)
147	16
172	20
197 or greater	25

Drill on center-line of bottom chord - holes no closer than 100 mm

Fig. 1 - Permitted drilling areas within bottom chord

Notching is NOT permitted in any position except as indicated in Note 1 over

Drilling is NOT permitted within rafter or internal members.

Drilling is only permitted within areas shown (see exceptions over)

300 300 300 400

400 300 300 300

Overhangs may be trimmed on site

Drill on center-line of bottom chord - holes no closer than 100 mm

INFORMATION