

BUILDING SYSTEM

Building regulation advisory note

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Related	

Thermal insulation – Building Code of Australia compliance issues

This circular is to advise councils, certifiers, relevant government agencies, industry groups and other stakeholders of compliance issues that have been raised regarding thermal insulation materials.

The issue

Some members of the insulation industry have raised concerns with the Commonwealth Government regarding the quality of certain insulation products currently on the market and their compliance with relevant building controls.

The Building Code of Australia

The Building Code of Australia (BCA) applies to new buildings and new building work and regulates (among other things) the thermal performance of buildings to achieve energy efficiency. This includes regulating standards for thermal insulation.

Compliance with the BCA means compliance with its Performance Requirements. This can be achieved by:

- complying with the deemed-to-satisfy (DTS) Provisions (prescriptive requirements deemed to meet the Performance Requirements); or
- formulating an alternative solution; or
- a combination of the above.

Building practitioners are urged to check that insulation products that form part of new building work comply with the BCA.

Compliance with the DTS Provisions

The DTS Provisions for insulation require compliance with the Australian Standard AS/NZS 4859.1: 2002 (Materials for the thermal insulation of buildings – Part 1 General criteria and technical provisions).

Checks for compliance with the DTS Provisions should include:

- requesting a copy of a report by an accredited laboratory showing that the insulation product complies with all the requirements of the Australian Standard i.e. test methods for a range

of thermal properties; packaging and labelling; and quality assurance

- checking that labelling or manufacturing supply documentation includes a statement that the insulation product complies with the Australian Standard
- checking that the labelling or manufacturing documentation declares the R-value of the product, and that this meets the R-value specified in the BCA for the climate zone location of the building.

Note: AS/NZS 4859.1 only deals with thermal performance. Other matters such as fire properties or acoustic performance of insulation need to be assessed under other BCA provisions.

Formulating an alternative solution

Where an alternative solution is proposed for insulation, evidence needs to be provided that it complies with the relevant Performance Requirements or it is shown to be at least equivalent to the DTS Provisions.

Further information

The Australian Building Codes Board has also placed information regarding this issue on its website www.abcb.gov.au

If you have further enquiries, please contact:
NSW Department of Planning
23–33 Bridge Street, Sydney NSW 200
GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001
Tel: 02 9228 6111 Fax: 02 9228 6455
Email: information@planning.nsw.gov.au

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Authorised by:

Donna Rygate
Executive Director
Corporate Governance and Policy

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