



Building Newsflash

Building Certifiers

Building Designers

Architects

Amendment No. 9 to the BCA

Purpose

The purpose of this Newsflash is to advise of the main changes to the Building Code of Australia (BCA) as a result of Amendment No 9.

BCA Amendment No 9

Amendment No. 9 to BCA96 took effect in Queensland on 1 July 2001 and includes, in both volumes-

- updates of referenced Australian, Australian/New Zealand and International Standards;
- minor technical changes;
- termite management requirements amended to reflect more suitable terminology; and
- more significant issues as identified below.

The internet links to the Australian Building Codes Board's '**List of Amendments**' for both volumes follow:

<http://www.abcb.gov.au/content/publications/amdt9listVol2.pdf>

<http://www.abcb.gov.au/content/publications/amdt9listVol1.pdf>

The lists give information regarding the **amendment of each individual clause**. Further information regarding more significant aspects of Amendment No. 9 follows:

Windows and glazing

With Amendment No. 9, after a substantial lead-in period, the current option of compliance with either of two glazing standards will be replaced with a requirement for specified glazed assemblies to comply with AS 2047- *Windows in Buildings-Selection and Installation*, which addresses glazed assemblies as building elements. The BCA amendment requires compliance with those provisions of the standard regulating structural adequacy and resistance to water penetration only. The amendment lists the types of glazed assemblies that must comply with AS 2047, including sliding doors, adjustable louvres and windows not excluded below.

The amendment also lists glazed assemblies to which AS 2047 is **not applicable** and requires compliance with AS 1288- Glass in buildings- selection and installation in these situations. This Standard only deals with the structural adequacy of glazing and framing. Under Amendment No. 9, glazed assemblies such as one-off architectural windows, second hand and reused windows, heritage windows, and timber windows in wind classification N3 or C1, must comply with AS 1288.

Protection from bushfires

The requirements for protection of buildings from bushfires is amended by the referencing of AS 3959- Construction of buildings in bushfire prone areas, Amendment 2, which specifies new criteria for fire retardant treated timber. The amended Standard requires that fire retardant treated timber must meet the parameters specified in AS 3959 Amendment 2 relating to ignition and heat release, following exposure to a specified weathering regime.

Note that timber protected from exposure to the weather in applications as specified, need not be subjected to the prescribed weathering regime prior to testing. Also, some timbers may satisfy the new criteria of AS 3959 Amendment 2, without any treatment. (For information on timbers able to meet the criteria naturally, contact the Timber Research and Development Advisory Council www.tradac.org.au or telephone (07) 3358 1400.)

Stair shafts in certain car parks

In Volume One, the fire resisting construction requirements for car parks in Type B construction (Table 4.2 of Specifications C1.1) have been amended by the addition of a requirement for a fire resistant stair shaft to have an FRL of 60/60/60 in order to be consistent with other requirements of the BCA for a stairway to be “fire-isolated”, and for its doorway to be protected with a fire door.

Sanitary facilities for women

In response to community feedback, new provisions are added to Volume One requiring additional sanitary facilities for women in single auditorium theatres and cinemas in order to alleviate excessive waiting times during peak load periods.