
MP 2.3 – DETENTION CENTRES

Index

Purpose.....	2
Application.....	2
Referral Agency.....	2
Associated Requirements	2
Referenced Standards	2
Definitions.....	2
Fire Resistance and Stability	3
Bounding Construction	3
Number of Exits Required	5
Doorways and Doors.....	5
Open Space	6

Purpose

To protect occupants of *detention centres* against fire and smoke without reducing or adversely impacting on the security required of *detention centres*.

Application

This standard applies to those parts of a *detention centre* used for residential accommodation (Class 3), in which the occupants are not permitted free movement within or egress from the building. The standard is to be read in conjunction with the Building Code of Australia (BCA). Only matters of variance to the BCA proper have been included.

This standard does not apply to premises where occupants are being held for less than twenty-four hours.

Referral Agency

There is no referral required for this standard.

Associated Requirements

- *Workplace Health and Safety Act and Regulations 1995*
- *Sewerage and Water Supply Act 1949.*

Referenced Standards

There are no referenced Australian Standards.

Definitions

Note: Italicised words within the body of the text are defined.

Accommodation cell – a room or space occupied by a person or persons who are not permitted free movement within or egress from the building.

Competent person - as defined in the *Building Regulation 2006*.

Detention centre – a building in which persons are securely detained including a prison, remand centre, juvenile detention centre, holding cells or secure mental health facility.

Open space - a space on an allotment or a roof or similar part of a building adequately protected from fire, that is open to the sky (but may include a mesh cover) and having a horizontal dimension of at least 6m in every direction.

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS

Fire Resistance and Stability

P1 The minimum type of construction must provide for enhanced opportunities to survive a fire, given occupants may be confined to premises.

A1 All elements within a building comply with the provisions of Part C1 of the BCA for all types of construction as defined in Table C1.1 of the BCA.

Note: BCA Clause C1.5 does not apply to Class 3 parts of *detention centres*.

Bounding Construction

P2 A building must have elements which will, to the degree necessary, avoid the spread of fire and smoke to –

- (a) exits;
- (b) *accommodation cells*;
- (c) access corridors; and
- (d) inner parts of a building,

These elements must be appropriate to-

- (i) the function or use of the building;
- (ii) the fire load;
- (iii) the potential fire intensity;
- (iv) the anticipated fire hazards;
- (v) the number of storeys;
- (vi) the proximity to other property;
- (vii) any active fire safety systems installed in the building;

A2 (a) The Class 3 component of *detention centres* complies with Clause C3.11 of the BCA except that-

- (i) doors need not be self-closing; and
- (ii) doors need not close automatically.

(b) A system of mechanical smoke extraction is provided to the *accommodation cells*, access corridors, hallways, and rooms or non fire-isolated stairways serving as required exits, where doors do not comply with BCA Clause C3.11(d) and (e).

(c) Fire doors, smoke doors, fire windows and shutters comply with the provisions of clause 3 of BCA Specification C3.4 except that doors need not-

- (i) swing in the direction of egress; and
- (ii) return to the fully closed position after each opening, and
- (iii) close automatically.

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA	ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (viii) the size of any fire compartment; (ix) fire brigade intervention; (x) other elements they support; and (xi) the evacuation time. 	
<p>P3 All building elements, assemblies, furnishings, fixtures and fittings impacting on the fire safety achieved within each occupied space within the premises must, to the degree necessary, resist the spread of fire to limit the generation of smoke and heat, and any toxic gases likely to be produced appropriate to –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the evacuation time; (b) the number, mobility and other characteristics of occupants; (c) the function or use of the building; and (d) any active fire safety systems installed in the building. 	<p>A3 (e) Building elements, assemblies, furnishings, fixtures and fittings have the following Early Fire Hazard Indices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) For ceilings – a spread of flame index of 0 and a smoke developed index of not more than 3. (ii) For walls – a spread of flame index of not more than 2 and a smoke developed index of not more than 5 except that skirtings of up to 1500mm above the floor may be considered as, and have the early fire hazard indices of, the floor covering. (iii) For floors – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) a spread of flame index of not more than 3 and a smoke developed index of not more than 5; or (B) a spread of flame index of 0 and a smoke developed index of not more than 6.

**PERFORMANCE
CRITERIA**
**ACCEPTABLE
SOLUTIONS**
Number of Exits Required

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| P4 | Access must be provided, to the degree necessary, to enable safe movement of people to and within a building. | A4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Access complies with Clause D1.2 of the BCA. (b) The entrance doorway of an <i>accommodation cell</i> is not more than 30 m from an exit or a point from which travel in different directions to two exits is available. In the latter case the maximum distance to one of those exits is not more than 40m. <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The provisions of D1.4 do not apply to the Class 3 parts of <i>detention centres</i>. (b) Class 3 parts of <i>detention centres</i> are not subject to BCA Clause C1.5. |
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Doorways and Doors

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| P5 | Access ways must be provided, as far as is reasonable, to and within a building so that occupants can evacuate safely appropriate to- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the number and other characteristics of occupants; and (b) the function or use of the building. | A5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) A doorway serving as a required exit, or forming part of a required exit may be fitted with a roller shutter or tilt-up door provided- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) it can be opened, without mechanical assistance, manually under a force of not more than 110 N; or (ii) it is a mechanically operated door, and contains a personnel doorway complying with BCA Clause D1.6; and (b) Class 3 parts of <i>detention centres</i> comply with D2.20 except that doors need not swing in the direction of |
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**PERFORMANCE
CRITERIA**
**ACCEPTABLE
SOLUTIONS**

egress; and

- (c) a door in a required exit, forming part of a required exit or in the path of travel to a required exit must be capable of being released by a person or persons, specifically nominated by the owner, properly instructed as to the duties and responsibilities involved and available at all times when the building is lawfully occupied so that persons in the building or part may be escorted to *open space* or other place of safety if there is a fire or other emergency.

P7 Suitable fire fighting equipment must be provided to allow prison personnel and fire brigade to safely undertake attack on a fire appropriate to—

- (a) the size of the fire compartment; and
- (b) the function or use of the building; and
- (c) any other fire safety systems installed in the building; and
- (d) the fire hazard.

Open Space

P8 Adequate *open space* must be provided within the secure boundaries of the *detention centre* to enable all occupants of the *detention centre* to be safely assembled during emergency evacuation situations.

A7 Fire fighting equipment complies with the provisions of BCA Part E except that fire hose reels are not required.

A8 *Open space* is provided equal to or greater than 0.5 m² per person at locations to suit **A4**.

