



# Building newsflash number 382

## Alert on the potential risk of using non-compliant structural plywood

### Purpose

To alert stakeholders on the potential risk of using non-compliant structural plywood.

### Background

A research report released by the Productivity Commission, the Australian Government's independent research and advisory body, on a range of economic, social and environmental issues, indicated that non-compliant structural plywood products may be being used in building work in Australia. Similar advice was previously provided in [newsflash 213](#) issued in 2006.

### Legislation

Under the deemed-to-satisfy provisions of Building Code of Australia (BCA) Volume 1, two timber standards are referenced: AS1720.1–1997 Timber structures, design methods and AS1684–2006 Residential timber framed construction. Both standards reference AS/NZS 2269–2004 Plywood- structural which specifies the requirements for the manufacture, grading, finishing and branding of structural plywood as well as other qualities for nominated stress grades. In BCA Volume 2 these two timber standards are also referenced, along with a direct reference to AS/NZS 2269–2004 in relation to structural plywood used as a cladding and as a water-resistant floor substrate.

### Interpretation

When structural plywood is used in building work, to comply with the deemed-to-satisfy provisions of the BCA, the building certifier must be satisfied that the plywood complies with the AS/NZS2269 and be labelled to show this compliance. Suitable evidence should be provided to support the use of the product in accordance with BCA Part A2 or 1.2. If the product does not satisfy the BCA requirements or suitable evidence is not provided, the plywood should not be permitted to be used for building work.

An extract from the research report is attached and a full copy of the report can be obtained from the Productivity Commission's [website](#).

### Contact for further information

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