



Building newsflash number 384

Cyclone testing station—technical alert: fixing of window frames

Purpose

To advise stakeholders that the James Cook University Cyclone Testing Station has released a technical alert on housing damage caused by storms that occurred in south east Queensland in November 2008.

Background

Following the November 2008 storms, the cyclone testing station was commissioned by the Department of Infrastructure and Planning to investigate the damage and identify causes for the damage. The cyclone testing station has subsequently issued a technical alert on the fixing of window frames.

Issues

The cyclone testing station technical alert 09/1 (attached) has identified a number of common construction defects associated with fixing of window frames. In particular, there were a significant number of cases where window and door assemblies were not adequately fixed to their structural support. This resulted in the window or door assemblies being pulled out of the wall frame.

The Building Code of Australia includes mandatory performance requirements for structure and weatherproofing that all assessable and self-assessable building work must comply with. These mandatory performance requirements extend to the fixing and weatherproofing of window and door assemblies.

The technical alert includes the following recommendations for the fixing of window assemblies:

- select the appropriate design wind loading for the location and wind exposure of the building
- specify the glass type and thickness based on the relevant standards
- select an appropriate window frame
- obtain written advice on window fixing from the manufacturer, a building professional or an engineer, including number and type of fixings, maximum allowable gaps and whether packing is required
- install the windows in accordance with this advice.

For additional information on the technical alert, stakeholders may contact the cyclone testing station on telephone (07) 4781 4754. The full report (report TR55) on the November 2008 South East Queensland storm damage is available on James Cook University's [website](#) under 'Technical research reports' located under the heading 'Publications'.

Contact for further information

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