



Building Newsflash

Peer review guideline for energy-efficiency assessments of new housing

Purpose

This newsflash is to advise that the *Peer review guideline* to support the proposed introduction of 5-star energy equivalence for new housing in Queensland from 1 January 2009, is available for viewing at www.dip.qld.gov.au/guidelines/index.php.

Background

This guideline outlines how the peer review process is intended to be used to confirm compliance for new houses (Class 1 buildings) where innovative designs are used.

The peer review process will be an alternative compliance method to assess new housing using expert judgement under the Building Code of Australia 2008 (s1.0.9, Volume 2)(BCA). The process will only relate to the assessment of the building design against BCA energy efficiency provisions. It will provide applicants with a compliance option for designs that may not readily comply with the deemed-to-satisfy (DTS) provisions of the BCA or accredited computer simulation software—BERS Pro, AccuRate or FirstRate5.

The guideline has been developed by Building Codes Queensland (BCQ), in consultation with relevant industry bodies.

Legislative basis

The guideline will be made pursuant to section 258 of the *Building Act 1975*. It is intended to provide building certifiers with guidance on how to comply with the Act, particularly with respect to using expert judgement as defined by the BCA.

Peer review process

Peer reviews will be undertaken by approved building energy efficiency specialists from a range of relevant disciplines, such as architecture, building design, building physics, engineering etc. Panel members will be selected by the peer review committee (industry representatives) and approved by BCQ. A list of panellists will be displayed on the BCQ website.

Applicants may submit design plans to a panel member who will assess the plan and provide either a 'pass' or 'fail' report justifying their decision. The report would form part of the relevant building approval if it is issued by the building certifier.

Peer review fees

Fees for the peer review process will need to be agreed with the panel member.

Peer review process evaluation

BCQ will periodically monitor and evaluate the Peer Review process.

Comments



A copy of the *Peer review guideline* is attached to this newsflash and can be downloaded from www.dip.qld.gov.au/guidelines/index.php. Alternatively, the guideline can be requested by emailing buildingcodes@dip.qld.gov.au or calling (07) 3239 6369.

Comments may be emailed to BCQ or submitted to your industry association representative for consideration through the Building Industry Consultative Group network.

Legislation

Building Act 1975

Building Regulation 2006

Building Code of Australia (BCA)

Queensland Development Code

Contact officer

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