



Building Newsflash

Local Governments

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AMENDMENT NO 10 TO THE BUILDING CODE OF AUSTRALIA

Purpose

The purpose of this Newsflash is to advise of recent changes to the Building Code of Australia (BCA).

Background

Changes to the BCA resulting from Amendment No 10 took effect in Queensland on 1 January 2002. A summary of the more significant changes follows and the complete list of changes as provided by the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) is attached. Note the list of amendments is also available on the ABCB website www.abcb.gov.au.

BCA Vol 1

Non-fire-isolated exits (D1.3)

Previously, the BCA permitted a non-fire-isolated exit (eg a stairway) to connect or pass through one storey more than usually permitted if the building was sprinklered. An extra storey for carparking was also permitted for a Class 2 or 3 building.

Amendment 10 extends the situations in which an extra storey is permitted in Class 2, 3 and Class 5 to 9 buildings. Now included are situations where the exit is separated from the extra storey by fire rated construction and no connection with the extra storey is provided (ie no access or egress is provided and there are no openings which could permit the passage of fire or smoke).

Braille and tactile signage (D3.6 and Specification D3.6)

Braille and tactile signage is now required to identify-

- sanitary facilities;
- accessible spaces with hearing augmentation;
- accessible entrances and lifts; and
- paths of travel from the principal public entrance to accessible lifts and other accessible entrances where their location is not apparent to building occupants with a vision impairment.

The new Specification D3.6 provides the design and installation requirements for Braille and tactile signage required by D3.6.

Fire hose reels in schools (E1.4)

Fire hose reels are no longer required in classrooms and associated corridors in primary and secondary schools. The reason for this change is that the policy followed in these schools during a fire is to evacuate students immediately and not to stay to fight the fire. The concession does not apply to other areas of the school such as an assembly hall, or to other educational establishments such as universities.

However, if hose reels are not provided, E1.6 requires the installation of portable fire extinguishers.

Sanitary facilities for people with disabilities (F2.4)

Where two or more sanitary facilities for people with disabilities are required for a building, the number of left hand and right hand layouts must be as equal as possible. This change is part of the ongoing process of enhancing the BCA access provisions to make the BCA suitable for referencing as part of a suitable access standard under the Commonwealth's *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*.

BCA Vol 2

Concession for windows in non-habitable rooms (3.7.1.5)

Previously, 3.7.1.5(d) exempted certain small windows in a non-habitable room (bathroom, laundry etc) in a Class 1a or Class 10 building not less than 600 mm from the boundary from being fire protected.

Amendment 10 extends the concession to also-

- apply to a window facing another building on the same allotment not less than 1200mm away; and
- allow larger windows in bathrooms, laundries and toilets with no restriction on materials. This recognises the low fire hazard of these uses.

Bushfire construction requirements (3.7.4.3)

The clause now requires fire-retardant-treated timber to be tested to AS/NZS 3837 (instead of AS/NZS 1530.3), and unless the timber is protected from the weather, it must be exposed to specific weathering before testing. A new explanatory note advises when external timber can be regarded as protected. The note also advises some timbers may be capable of meeting the fire retardant test parameters without any fire retardant treatment.

Contact Officer

If you require further information please contact Ron de Veer on 07 32371232.



Australian Building Codes Board

LIST OF AMENDMENTS

AMENDMENT NO. 10 – VOLUME ONE OF BCA96

This list of amendments has been prepared by the Australian Building Codes Board to assist BCA users in identifying changes incorporated in Amendment No. 10 to BCA96 Volume One.

While the Australian Building Codes Board has attempted to include all amendments made to the previous version of BCA96 Volume One, the Board does not give any warranty nor accept any liability in relation to the contents of this list of amendments.

BCA reference	Changes & commentary
Section A	
Specification A1.3	Referenced documents updated in Table 1 as follows:
AS 1428.1	New reference to Specification D3.6 inserted as a consequence of the new Specification being inserted.
AS 1670.1	Fire detection, warning, control and intercom systems - Systems design, installation and commissioning. Reference to amendments amended to refer to Amendment 4, November 2001.
AS 2444	Portable fire extinguishers and fire blankets – Selection and location. 2001 version referenced to replace 1995 version.
AS 2665	Smoke/heat venting systems - Design, installation and commissioning. 2001 version referenced to replace 1983 version.
AS/NZS 2918	Domestic solid fuel burning appliances - Installation. 2001 AS/NZS version referenced to replace 1990 AS version. Hyphen removed from the title of the standard.
AS 3700	Masonry structures. 2001 version referenced to replace 1998 version.
AS 3786	Smoke alarms. Reference to amendments amended to refer to Amendment 3, November 2001.
Section C	
C3.11	The NSW flag to 3.11(d) corrected to refer to C3.11(d).
Section D	
Contents	New reference to Specification D3.6 inserted.
D1.3	Both (a) and (b) amended to allow, subject to certain conditions, a non-fire-isolated exit to connect, pass through or pass by an extra storey in Class 2, 3 and Class 5 to 9 buildings. These conditions require the exit to be separated from the extra storey by walls having an FRL consistent with those required for a public corridor in a Class 2 or 3 building. By having separation by walls with an FRL and by preventing any access to or egress from that storey, the extra storey is considered not to present any higher level of risk to people using the exit when compared to the additional storey currently permitted.
D1.6	Typographical correction in (a) by changing “,” to “,”.
D3.6	Amended to require Braille and tactile signage for identifying facilities, features and paths of travel that are not apparent to the building occupants with a vision impairment.

BCA reference	Changes & commentary
Section D (continued)	
Page 12,002	Reference to 'End of tab' changed to refer to next page being 12,501 due to insertion of the new Specification D3.6.
Specification D3.6	New specification included setting out the design and installation requirements for Braille and tactile signs as referred to by the changes made to D3.6.
Section E	
E1.4	Amended to exclude classrooms and associated corridors in primary and secondary schools from being provided with hose reels. It should be noted that E1.6 will require portable fire extinguishers if fire hose reels are not installed. The SA flag for SA E1.4(c) has also been deleted as a consequence of the South Australia variation to E1.4 being resolved at a result of changes to this clause.
E1.6	Amended to clarify which sections of AS 2444 "Portable fire extinguishers and fire blankets – Selection and location" are referenced as part of the BCA Deemed-to-Satisfy Provisions. The other sections of AS 2444 deal with "Selection and distribution of portable fire extinguishers in vehicles and small craft" and "Selection and location of fire blankets", neither of which are applicable to the BCA.
Table E1.6	The brackets around the 'E' in referencing Class E extinguishers, have been removed to align with the updated Standard.
Specification E2.2a – Clause 5(b)(iii)	The sub clause has been deleted due to the requirements for smoke detectors to activate smoke-and-heat vents being included in the revised standard AS 2665 "Smoke/heat venting systems - Design, installation and commissioning" as referenced in Table 1. The following sub clauses have been renumbered as a consequence.
Specification E2.2c – Clause 1	Clause amended to provide consistency with new version of AS 2665 "Smoke/heat venting systems - Design, installation and commissioning" referenced by Table 1. Requirements in relation to smoke reservoirs and smoke and heat vents within the same smoke reservoir have been incorporated into the standard and, as a consequence, have been removed from the BCA.
Specification E2.2c – Clause 2	Sub clause (b) and (c) deleted as a consequence of the new version of AS 2665 "Smoke/heat venting systems - Design, installation and commissioning" being referenced by Table 1. Requirements in relation to manual controls have been incorporated into the standard and are not required to be referenced in the BCA.
E3.6(e)	Amended to refer to the appropriate section of AS 1735.12 which the lift car control buttons must comply with.
Section F	
F1.13	Has been amended to clarify that windows must comply with AS 2047. The exclusions listed in (b) and (c) have not been changed. This editorial change was made for consistency with B1.3 and similar wording in the Housing Provisions.
F2.4(d)	New provision added for the construction of mirror image (left and right handed) facilities for people with disabilities, when two or more facilities are required.
Section G	
G2.2(b)	As a consequence of changes to Table 1, the reference to AS 2918 has been updated to AS/NZS 2918.

BCA reference	Changes & commentary
NSW Appendix	
Table of Contents	The title of NSW I1.2 has been changed to “Mechanical ventilation and hot water, warm water and cooling water systems” to be consistent with the changes to I1.2 at Amdt No. 9.
NSW Specification A1.3 – NSW Table 1	Reference to AS 3000 – 1991 updated to the current standard AS/NZS 3000 – 2000.
NSW H102.14(c)	Reference to AS 3000 – 1991 updated to the current standard AS/NZS 3000 – 2000.
NSW I1.2	The title of NSW I1.2 has been changed to “Mechanical ventilation and hot water, warm water and cooling water systems” to be consistent with the changes to I1.2 at Amdt No. 9.
NT Appendix	
NT Table 1	Referenced documents updated in NT Table 1 as follows:
AS 1851.3	Maintenance of fire protection equipment – Automatic fire sprinkler systems. 1997 version referenced to replace 1985 version.
AS 1851.6	Maintenance of fire protection equipment – Management procedures for maintaining the fire precaution features of air-handling systems. 1997 version referenced to replace 1983 version.
AS 3660.1	Termite management – New building work. New reference inserted in Table.
Queensland Appendix	
Qld Table 1	Referenced documents updated in Qld Table 1 as follows:
AS 1076	References to all Parts of AS 1076 have been deleted because the standard is no longer referenced in the Queensland Appendix.
AS 2208	Reference to AS 2208 has been deleted because the standard is no longer referenced in the Queensland Appendix.
AS 2381	References to all Parts of AS 2381 have been deleted because the standard is no longer referenced in the Queensland Appendix.
SA Appendix	
Table of Contents	The reference to SA E1.4 has been deleted as a consequence of the clause being deleted from the Appendix.
SA Table 1	Referenced documents updated in Table 1 as follows:
AS 2626	Reference to AS 2626 “Industrial safety belts and harnesses - Selection, use and maintenance” deleted and replaced with a reference to AS/NZS 1891 “Industrial fall-arrest systems and devices” Part 4 “Selection, use and maintenance”.
SA E1.4	Variation deleted.
SA G7.2(c)(i)	Reference to AS 2626 deleted and replaced with a reference to AS/NZS 1891 “Industrial fall-arrest systems and devices” Part 4 “Selection, use and maintenance”.
Tas Appendix	
Page 50,503	Typographical correction to clause number in the footer of the page.

BCA reference	Changes & commentary
Vic Appendix	
Table 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For consistency with other State and Territory Appendices, the Table has been re-numbered "Vic Table 1". A new reference to "FirstRate house energy rating software" has been added.
Vic F6.3(a)(ii)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In (A), reference to "Energy Victoria's House Energy Rating" deleted and replaced with reference to "Sustainable Energy Authority Victoria's FirstRate house energy rating software". In (B), reference to "Energy Victoria" deleted and replaced with reference to "Sustainable Energy Authority Victoria".
Vic H103.1(b)(ii)	The lead-in has been amended to include reference to Clause 2.2 of Specification C1.1.
Footnote	Various references to legislation under the heading of "Special Requirements for Certain Buildings and Components" have been updated to reflect changes in legislation.
Index	
Page 60,012	New index entry for Braille and tactile signs inserted due to the changes to D3.6.
Page 60,020	Under the index entry for "Fire pumps", the reference to "Spec E1.2" has been updated to refer to clause "E1.3".
Page 60,030	New index entry for Braille and tactile signs inserted under Signs due to the changes to D3.6.
Page 60,031	Under the index entry for "Smoke hazard management", the reference to "Table E2.2" has been corrected to "Table E2.2a".
Page 60,033	New index entry for tactile indicators and signs inserted due to the changes to D3.6 and D3.8.
History	
History contents	Contents have been updated to include Amendment No.10.
1.9	Adoption dates in Table 1.9 have been updated.
1.10	Clause 1.10 and Table 1.10 have been added.



Australian Building Codes Board

LIST OF AMENDMENTS

AMENDMENT NO. 10 - HOUSING PROVISIONS

This list of amendments has been prepared by the Australian Building Codes Board to assist BCA users in identifying changes incorporated in Amendment No. 10 to the Housing Provisions.

While the Australian Building Codes Board has attempted to include all amendments made to the previous version of the Housing Provisions, the Board does not give any warranty nor accept any liability in relation to the contents of this list of amendments.

BCA reference	Changes & commentary
Section 1	
Table 1.4.1	Referenced documents have been updated as follows:
AS/NZS 2918	Reference to AS 2918 "Domestic solid fuel burning appliances - Installation" updated to refer to the 2001 edition which is a joint standard and therefore has a prefix of AS/NZS.
AS 3700	Reference to AS 3700 "Masonry structures" updated to refer to the 2001 edition.
AS 3786	Reference to AS 3786 "Smoke alarms" amended to refer to Amdt 3, Nov 2001.
AS/NZS 3837	Reference to AS/NZS 3837 "Method of test for heat and smoke release rates for materials and products using an oxygen consumption calorimeter" has been inserted as a consequence of the standard being referenced in 3.7.4.3.
SA 2.1	Reference to South Australian Minister's Specification - Energy Efficiency - Thermal design requirements for residential buildings deleted as a consequence of changes to the SA Appendix.
House energy rating	Reference deleted and replaced with reference to "FirstRate house energy rating software".
Part 3.4	
3.4.4.4 Expl. Inf	A typographical correction has been made to Note 2 to the Explanatory Information.
Table 3.4.4.2	Definition of "moderate" and "severe" environments amended by adding a new environment category that is relative to distance from salt water not subject to breaking surf.
Part 3.6	
Figure 3.6.1	The third note at the bottom of the Figure has been altered from "Glass area>0.5 sq.m. Ordinary annealed glass - see table 3.6.3" to "Glass area<0.5 sq.m. Ordinary annealed glass - see table 3.6.3". The change is necessary to align Figure 3.6.1 with AS 1288.

BCA reference	Changes & commentary
Part 3.7	
3.7.1.5(d)	The concession for boundary windows in non-habitable rooms has been extended for such windows in a bathroom, laundry and toilet to allow a larger sized window with no restriction on the materials. The concession also allows a window in a non-habitable room to be not less than 1200 mm from a window in a non-habitable room of another building on the same allotment.
3.7.4.3	This clause has been amended so that the test for fire-retardant-treated timber must now meet specified parameters of tests complying with AS/NZS 3837 instead of AS/NZS 1530.3 after being subjected to the regime of Method B of ASTM D2898. The amendment is in line with recent changes to AS 3959. Explanatory information has also been added to give examples of external timbers regarded as protected and to note that some timbers may be capable of meeting the parameters identified in 3.7.4.3(b) without having to be subjected to fire retardant treatment.
Table 3.7.4.1	The following typographical corrections have been made– <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For consistency with other provisions in the Table, the word “that” has been added under the main heading of “Roof covering, eaves and fascias” and the sub-heading of “3. Extreme bushfire attack category”. • Under the heading “Rooflights”, the requirements for “Extreme bushfire attack category” have been amended so that the requirements are as for category of high instead of medium bushfire attack.
SA Appendix	
SA 2.2	Reference to the Minister’s Specification SA 2.1 “Energy Efficiency - Thermal design requirements for residential buildings” deleted and replaced with references to the Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme (NatHERS) and FirstRate house energy rating software.
Victoria Appendix	
Vic 1.2.3(a)(ii)	Reference to “Energy Victoria’s House Energy Rating” deleted and replaced with reference to “Sustainable Energy Authority Victoria’s FirstRate house energy rating software”.
Footnote	Various references to legislation under the heading of “Special Requirements for Certain Buildings and Components” have been updated to reflect changes in legislation.
History	
History contents	Contents have been updated to include Amendment No.10.
1.9	Adoption dates in Table 1.9 have been updated.
1.10	Clause 1.10 and Table 1.10 have been added.