



Building newsflash number 443

Draft code for improving fire safety in residential care buildings built prior to 1 June 2007

Purpose

To advise that the draft Queensland Development Code (QDC) 2.3 – Fire Safety in Existing Residential Care Buildings (pre 1 June 2007) is available for comment until 8 October 2010.

Background

Following the Childers Palace Backpackers fire in June 2000, which resulted in 15 deaths, the State Government has implemented a staged fire safety improvement program for high occupancy buildings, including residential care buildings (RCBs).

Since 1 June 2007, new RCBs are required to comply with QDC 2.2 – Fire Safety in RCBs. The QDC requires life safety sprinklers and building-wide smoke detection systems. The code also requires a minimum number of carers to be onsite at all times to ensure residents can be effectively evacuated from smoke compartments.

Draft QDC 2.3

The next stage of the improvement program is focused on fire safety in RCBs built before 1 June 2007. A draft fire safety improvement code has been prepared in consultation with industry.

Ongoing consultations with the residential care industry and a recent stakeholder forum have informed the code's development to help reduce impacts faced by industry in implementing fire safety improvements. Following the recent forum, the Department is seeking further stakeholder feedback on the practical application of the draft QDC.

The draft code can be accessed at www.dip.qld.gov.au

Send your feedback to Shane.McKenna@dip.qld.gov.au by 5 pm 8 October 2010.



Legislation

Building Act 1975

Building Regulation 2006

Building Fire Safety Regulation 2008

Contact for further information

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