

Building newsflash number 419

Electrical safety notice and other requirements for insulation

Purpose

To advise a notice has been issued under the *Electrical Safety Act 2002* (ESA) about the installation of ceiling insulation and to remind stakeholders of the requirements under the *Building Act 1975* (BA) for roof and ceiling insulation.

Background

The Electrical Safety (Installation of Ceiling Insulation) Notice 2010 made under the ESA applies from 9 March 2010. The notice applies in Queensland, irrespective of any requirements or conditions of the Australian Government's proposed household Renewable Energy Bonus Scheme.

Installation of roof or ceiling insulation in a building is building work under section 5 of the BA. If roof or ceiling insulation is installed in an existing building, it would generally be self-assessable building work under schedule 1 of the Building Regulation 2006. This means the work must comply with the building assessment provisions, including the Building Code of Australia (BCA) and Queensland Development Code (QDC), but the work does not require a building development approval.

Under amendments to the BA commencing on 31 March 2010, if the work does not comply with the relevant deemed-to-satisfy provisions of the BCA and acceptable solutions of the QDC, it is not self-assessable building work under section 21 of the BA and therefore the work would require a building approval.

Issues

The new notice under the ESA relates primarily to the installation of electrically conductive ceiling insulation and the use of metal or other conductive fasteners. It also contains requirements for the assessment of electrical risk and testing of electrical components.

The notice and associated information is available on the Electrical Safety Office's [website](#).

The BCA contains a number of requirements for insulation. For example, BCA Volume 1 clause C1.10 sets fire hazard property requirements and clause J1.2 sets thermal and installation requirements. Similar requirements are contained in BCA Volume 2 clauses 3.7.1.9 and 3.12.1.1. The thermal provisions of these clauses require insulation to comply with AS/NZS 4859.1-2002, which includes labelling requirements for insulation.

Contact for further information

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