

## **Building Regulation**

# **News Update**

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### **TWO NEW ENERGY EFFICIENCY HANDBOOKS NOW AVAILABLE**

The current BCA 2010 has introduced significant changes, and therefore to assist practitioners to understand and apply the BCA, the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) has produced two new handbooks related to the energy efficiency provisions of BCA 2010.

The two new handbooks are:

- **Energy Efficiency Provisions for Electricians and Plumbers**
- **BCA Section J – Assessment and Verification of an Alternative Solution**

These handbooks are not regulatory documents and contain general information only. They have been provided as a guide to nominated energy efficiency provisions and should not be taken as providing specific advice on any specific issue. The handbooks do not address State and Territory variations or additions to the BCA.

#### **I. Energy Efficiency Provisions for Electricians and Plumbers**

Information for electricians includes:

- The amount of insulation on a ceiling, usually over electrical wiring
- Implications for insulation when installing downlights
- Switching and controls for lighting, fans, garage exhaust systems, pumps, space heaters, swimming pool heaters and boiling and chilling water appliances
- Maximum power capacity of lights, fans, pumps and other air-conditioning plant
- Energy monitoring and metering facilities
- Restrictions on the use of electric heaters
- Specifications for a range of control gear

Information for plumbers includes:

- Insulation and installation of ductwork
- Insulation and installation of heating water and cooling piping
- Insulation and installation of hot water piping (through AS/NZS 3500)
- Maximum power capacity of fans and pumps and impacts on duct and pipe sizes
- Restrictions on use of electric water heaters and pool heaters
- Use of solar heaters for domestic pools.

## **2. BCA Section J – Assessment and Verification of an Alternative Solution**

The aim of this handbook is to provide an explanation of methods of assessing and verifying alternative solutions to the ‘deemed-to-satisfy’ provisions of Section J of the BCA and addresses topics such as:

- evidence of suitability
- comparisons with deemed-to-satisfy provisions
- use of software
- Verification Method JV3.

### **Handbook availability**

Both ABCB handbooks are free and are available for download by going to the ABCB website at [www.abcb.gov.au](http://www.abcb.gov.au) and clicking on the ‘products and services’ tab in the main menu, then clicking on ‘ABCB handbooks’.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

For more details about building or plumbing legislation, contact the Workplace Standards Tasmania Helpline:

Phone: (in Tasmania) 1300 366 322. Phone: (outside Tasmania) (03) 6233 7657.

Fax: (03) 6233 8338.

Email: [wstinfo@justice.tas.gov.au](mailto:wstinfo@justice.tas.gov.au) Website: [www.wst.tas.gov.au/building](http://www.wst.tas.gov.au/building)