

Building Regulation News Updates are issued as and when necessary, to keep the Tasmanian Building Industry informed of developments occurring in the industry, Building Code of Australia (BCA) and its referenced documents and legislation.

Thermal insulation testing

To: All Building Practitioners and Material Suppliers

You may not be aware of the changes taking place to the Building Code of Australia (BCA) with respect to energy efficiency and, in particular, thermal insulation requirements.

The BCA already has requirements for roof, wall and floor thermal performance in the Volume 2 Housing Provisions. Testing and labelling of insulation must be in accordance with AS/NZS 4859.1. As from May next year, test certificates to the superseded AS 2464 standard will no longer be acceptable as evidence of suitability.

Also from May next year, the BCA Volume 1 will contain similar requirements for multi-residential buildings (apartments and hotels). As well as increasing the volume of insulation needing to be produced, this will also mean that insulation used in some of those buildings must meet:

- The thermal testing and labelling requirements of BCA Volume 1 when tested to AS/NZS 4859.1
- The non-combustibility requirements of BCA Volume 1 when tested to AS 1530.1
- The flammability requirements of the BCA Volume 1 when tested to AS 1530.2
- The fire-hazard properties of the BCA Volume 1 when tested to AS/NZS 1530.3

None of these fire related BCA requirements are new and the tests should have already been carried out on products being used in those situations where the BCA requires compliance. However, manufacturers with products used in houses, where there are no BCA fire safety requirements for ceiling, wall or floor insulation who now wish to have them used in other classes of buildings, may need to have them tested. The need for testing and certification depends on the Classification and type of construction of the building.

The Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) will also be releasing later this year a proposal to require similar provisions in all other Classifications of buildings.

I would appreciate you circulating this advice through your trade or association links, newsletters, seminars etc.

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