Department of
Building and Housing
Te Tari Kaupapa Whare

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codewords

Faster building consent processes and reduced costs

Legislation to speed up the building consent process and reduce costs for builders has been passed by Parliament and that's good news for both consumers and builders.

The Building Amendment Act 2009, which came into force on 1 August, is a practical first step in the Government's plan to cut red tape.

Under the new Act, people who intend to construct buildings at different locations using the same or similar plans could seek a 'national multiple-use approval' from the Department of Building and Housing. This single multiple-use approval can be used throughout the country and will minimise potential costly delays in obtaining consents.

Another provision will save applicants time and money by streamlining processes for making minor changes to buildings. This means that in most cases builders and homeowners won't have to go back to the beginning of the consent application process to amend plans. Minor variations to approved plans will be able to be made quickly and easily during construction.

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Faster building consent processes and reduced costs continued

Regulations needed to implement this streamlining process are expected to be in place by the end of the year.

Another provision of the new Act removes the mandatory requirement to apply for a project information memorandum (PIM) when applying for a building consent. Where the information in the PIM is not considered relevant for a particular building project, building consent applicants can choose not to apply for a PIM. PIMs will be voluntary from 1 February 2010.

Building and Construction Minister Hon Maurice Williamson said the Act signals a move to more efficient and practical approaches to building.

'The downturn of the economy is continuing and building firms need as much help as they can get. This Act will help boost efficiency and greater productivity at a time when it is most needed. And if builders pass on the cost savings, then consumers will benefit too,' Minister Williamson said.

Work on a wider review of the Building Act 2004 is under way and Minister Williamson expects to announce further streamlining measures in due course.

A copy of the Building Amendment Act is available electronically at **www.legislation.govt.nz**

New licensing and registration system for electrical workers and building practitioners

A new licensing and registration system for electrical workers and building practitioners is being developed by the Department of Building and Housing.

The new system will complete the transfer of electrical workers' licensing and registration from the Ministry for Economic Development, which started at the end of 2006 when the staff moved to the Department.

The second stage is moving licensing and registration, with the new system due to go live in February 2010.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS

For electrical workers the system will retain the same functions as the previous electrical workers' system. Electrical workers will still be able to log on and:

- change their personal details
- complete their re-licensing applications
- go to secure parts of the Standards New Zealand website
- record their safety training
- view their exam results when they are released
- use the online bookshop
- complete online forms
- search the public register.

Users of the current system will notice marked improvements, including a sleeker website with a user-friendly search function, more online forms, and new functions such as changing password details and doing Certificates of Compliance online.

BUILDING PRACTITIONERS

For the first time licensed building practitioners will be able to log on to the system and see and correct their own personal information. Once the system is in place, they can amend their personal details, complete forms and re-licensing applications online, maintain their skills records and search the public register.

Codewords readers' survey

A big thank you to the hundreds of readers who completed our *Codewords* survey in the June issue, either in print or online.

Responses were overwhelmingly positive and included many appreciative and supportive comments. It appears we are getting the technical level and contents of the articles about right, and that people really like the design and presentation.

The most popular articles were sector news, technical guidance and determinations summaries. Readers were particularly interested in information about new technologies and changes to relevant legislation.

It's great to have a better idea of which articles and topics you are interested in and we will endeavour to incorporate your preferences in the future.

Many readers also offered helpful suggestions for improvement and we will be taking these on board. The majority prefer to receive hard copies of *Codewords* – someone even suggested: 'It is about the right size for me to read while at traffic lights in Auckland traffic!'

As a direct result of your feedback, starting with this issue, there is a printer-friendly PDF available online as well as the PDF of the full colour printed version.

Codewords is now being issued less often, but with more content. The next issue is scheduled for the beginning of October, with another at the start of December.

We were pleased to receive your feedback and are using it to inform our ongoing *Codewords* review.

Cantilever Roofs – AS/NZS 1170 – change proposed as wind loading may be underestimated

This article is to advise structural designers that, as a result of recent research, a change to wind loading requirements for cantilevered roofs is being proposed. Any structural designer analysing roofs of this type (eg, grandstands of rectangular plan form) should be aware that current requirements may significantly underestimate bending moments on the cantilever.

An amendment to Appendix D5 of AS/NZS 1170.2:2002 is being proposed and public comment will be invited by Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand shortly.

To ensure you are notifed when public comment is invited on this draft amendment, please contact Standards New Zealand (**craig.killey@standards.co.nz**) to be added to the mailing list.

The Department recommends, pending approval of the amendment by the Standards New Zealand Council and citation by the Department, that either the proposed changes be applied to this type of roof or, as a minimum, the implications of the revised loading be examined.

The proposed change follows a comprehensive study of equivalent static wind loads on typical cantilevered stadium roofs of rectangular plan form. Reasons for the higher loads include:

a inclusion of shielding from other structures in past tests
b use of dynamic displacements rather than pressure measurements to derive wind loading from tests
c inconsistencies in the conversion from hourly mean wind speed to 3-second gusts, and
d use of a more realistic pressure distribution on the roof.

The Department is grateful for information provided by Dr John D Holmes of Melbourne, Chair of the BD006-02 Committee of Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand.

Use stainless steel fasteners with new high copper timber treatments

In the past there have been timber fastener durability concerns with the use of new high copper treatment options as an alternative to the traditionally used CCA treatment (refer to *Build* magazine February/March 2007). In that article it was recommended to use stainless steel fasteners or durable equivalents such as silicon bronze, when using these new treatments in timber exposed to the weather.

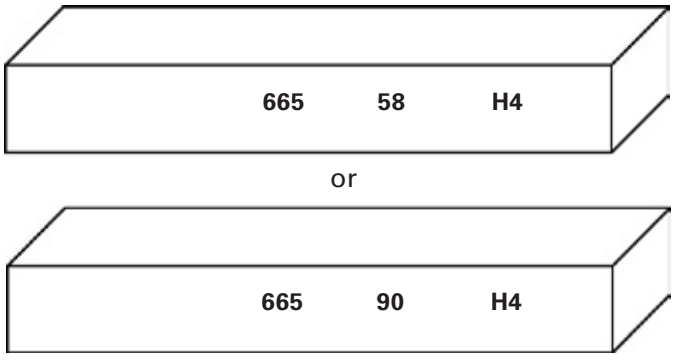
This led to the Department co-sponsoring further research. BRANZ is now publishing details of this three-year study confirming that significant corrosion rates are being experienced by both mild steel and galvanised nails and screws used as fasteners in Copper Azole (CuAz) or alkaline copper quaternary (ACQ) treated timber (refer to *Build* article August/September 2009).

Market analysis shows that only a very small amount of these high copper treatments have been used to date. A review of NZS 3604, Timber Framed Buildings, is under way and this research will be used to inform any amendments made to this Standard.

IDENTIFICATION OF CuAz AND ACQ TREATED TIMBER

Timber treated with Copper Azole (CuAz) or alkaline copper quaternary (ACQ) will be marked in accordance with the requirements of NZS 3640. This Standard requires the timber to be identified – either on one end of each piece, or at 1500 mm centres along the length – by marking the treatment plant number, the preservative number and the hazard class number.

Identification of CuAz and ACQ treated timber



Treatment plant number	665
Preservative code number	58 is the preservative code number for CuAz 90 is the preservative code number for ACQ
Hazard class number	H4

RECOMMENDATION

We recommend the use of 304/316 grades of stainless steel or durable equivalents such as silicon bronze for all timber fasteners, including nail plates, bolts and nails, for all CuAz or ACQ treated timber exposed to the weather.

The research confirms the corrosion concerns that initiated the study. The Department's recommendation endorses that made by BRANZ in the *Build* February/March 2007 edition and confirmed in the recent *Build* publication.

The Department has checked, as far as possible, to confirm that these treatments have not been used to date in locations that might cause danger to the public. If owners know these treatments have been used, they should check critical connections for signs of corrosion. It is likely most have been used as decking timber and corrosion will be readily apparent.

For further advice, please contact the Department on 0800 242 243.

Correction needed to Compliance Document B1 Structure

A printing error has been detected in Amendment 8 of the Compliance Document B1 which relates to structure.

This will affect geotechnical and structural engineers who have designed short free head piles in accordance with Verification Method B1/VM4 since 1 December 2008 when the amendment became effective.

In Verification Method B1/VM4, Paragraph 4.3.2 (a) (i) the formula for the ultimate lateral strength of a short free head pile should read:

$$H_u = 9 s_u D_s \left[\sqrt{2\left[(f+l)^2 + (f+f_o)^2\right]} - (L + 2f + f_o) \right]$$

In the current paper and web versions of Amendment 8 an additional f was inserted after the square root component in the equation. For a free head pile, f is defined as the distance above the ground surface at which the horizontal shear is applied. This additional f was inadvertently added when preparing the document for publication. The ultimate capacity of the pile to resist lateral load calculated using the incorrect formula would be:

- a negative capacity (which is not possible) where f is less than one metre;
- a conservative estimate of capacity when f is almost one metre; and
- an overestimate of the capacity when f is greater than one metre, which could lead to a non-conservative design.

As far as the Department has been able to determine the number of buildings likely to have been adversely affected by this error is very small, if any. It is asking engineers who may have used the formula as published to review their design calculations.

Any queries about this matter may be addressed to **stephen.lee@dbh.govt.nz**

The Department intends to correct the error in the next amendment of the Compliance Document B1. In the meantime if you have a copy of Amendment 8 of the Compliance Document B1 you will need to delete the additional f after the square root component in the equation.

NEW COMPLIANCE DOCUMENT FOR BACKCOUNTRY HUTS

Department of Conservation backcountry huts have been exempted from certain Building Code requirements as a result of amendments to the Code in late 2008.

The exemptions include the requirements to have:

- fire safety systems eg, fire hydrants, smoke alarms and emergency lighting
- access and sanitary facilities for wheelchair users
- drinkable water supply and artificial lighting.

The Department of Conservation manages a network of more than 800 backcountry huts throughout New Zealand. They offer a unique experience for domestic and foreign visitors alike, emphasising self-reliance and providing only basic services.

Many of the huts will be coming up for replacement in the next few decades. The simplified Building Code requirements will ensure that DOC is able to undertake this task without undue costs and difficulties. Under the amendments, the Director-General of Conservation will specify those huts deemed to be 'backcountry huts'.

The Department of Building and Housing has published a Compliance Document for backcountry huts, which is intended to supplement the Building Code amendments. The document is available on the Department's website.

Determination issued

DETERMINATION 2009/31:

Amendment to a compliance schedule for an industrial building

This determination arose from a dispute between the applicant and the building consent authority (BCA) about the decision of the BCA not to amend the compliance schedule for an industrial building.

Background

The building concerned was a manufacturing and office building consisting of two storeys of offices and a manufacturing area with a mezzanine floor. The compliance schedule for the building was issued in 1994 under the Building Act 1991. The determination was about eight ventilation and air conditioning systems that had been installed in the building from about 1988 to 2008, and whether the systems were required to be listed on the current compliance schedule. The systems included extract systems to toilet areas and wall-mounted air-conditioning units (some units providing both heating and cooling).

Discussion

The wording of the compliance schedule provisions of the Building Act 1991 restricts the need for compliance schedules for mechanical ventilation or air conditioning systems to those serving 'all or a major part of the building'. The Building Act 2004 does not have a similar restriction.

The following summary table shows the ventilation and air conditioning systems for each item, the applicable Building Act and the applicable Compliance Schedule Handbook paragraph.

Items 1 to 3 in the table below are systems that were installed over 10 years ago and therefore the Building Act 1991 applied. The three systems did not serve 'all or a major part of the building', and the determination found that the systems should therefore not have been included in the compliance schedule.

Item 4 is a system that was approximately five years old, and there was uncertainty as to which Act applied. If assessed under the Building Act 1991, it did not serve 'all or a major part of the building'. If assessed under the Building Act 2004, the system did not fall within the examples, in the Compliance Schedule Handbook, of systems to be included on a compliance schedule, as it did not introduce fresh air into the building.

ITEM	VENTILATION AND AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEMS		YEAR OF INSTALLATION	APPLICABLE BUILDING ACT	REQUIRED ON COMPLIANCE SCHEDULE?
1	Single extract system		1988–1994	1991	No
2	Window mounted air conditioners	Fresh air available through unit, but windows provide natural ventilation	1994–1999	1991	No
3	Window mounted air conditioners	Fresh air available through unit, but windows provide natural ventilation	1994–1999	1991	No
4	Wall mounted split air conditioner	Does not supply fresh air	2004	1991(?)	No
5	Ducted split system air conditioner	Does not supply fresh air	2007	2004	No
6	Window/wall mounted air conditioner	Fresh air only available through unit	2007	2004	Yes, SS 9 (ix)* applies
7	Ducted split system air conditioner	Does not supply fresh air	2008	2004	No
8	Single extract system		2008	2004	Yes SS 9 (ii)* applies

* Refer to examples in the Compliance Schedule Handbook: SS 9 Mechanical ventilation or air conditioning systems

The determination found that item 4 should not have been included in the compliance schedule.

Items 5 to 8 are systems that were installed within the past two years and therefore the Building Act 2004 applied. Items 5 and 7 are ducted systems, but do not supply fresh air, and consequently the determination found these systems were not required to be listed in a compliance schedule.

Item 6 is a system that provides fresh air and was therefore within the examples in the Compliance Schedule Handbook, of systems that are required to be listed in a compliance schedule. Item 8 is a ducted ventilation system, and was also required to be listed in a compliance schedule.

The decision

It was determined that the compliance schedule should be modified, with respect to the mechanical ventilation or air conditioning systems, to list only the window/wall mounted air conditioner installed in 2007 (item 6) and the single extract system installed in 2008 (item 8).

MODIFICATION OF THE DURABILITY PERIODS DESCRIBED IN CLAUSE B2.3.1

A significant number of determinations have been issued that include a modification of Building Code Clause B2 Durability. This article sets out the rationale for these determinations.

Building Code Clause B2 Durability contains provisions that, in general terms, require all building elements to be durable for prescribed periods of time, assuming normal maintenance. The periods are contained in Clause B2.3.1 and range from 5 years to the life of the building, being not less than 50 years. The required durability periods for individual building elements are determined by their use in the building, ease of detection if the element fails, and ease with which the element can be accessed and replaced.

The limitation on Clause B2.3.1 states that the durability periods commence when the code compliance certificate (CCC) is issued by the building consent authority (BCA) for the work concerned.

In the normal course of events the CCC is issued at about the same time the work is completed and the durability periods therefore commence from the date of issue of the CCC. However, for whatever reason the CCC may not be sought until a significant number of years after the completion of the building and the work may be under a building consent issued under the previous Act (the Building Act 1991). In such cases, when the BCA is asked to issue the CCC it may no longer be satisfied that the building elements will comply with Clause B2.3.1. This is because the building elements have already been in service for a significant period of time, and their durability periods will have been either partly or fully expended. A building owner may therefore be in the position where a building is considered fully Code-compliant, but the BCA may refuse to issue the CCC because of concerns about compliance with Clause B2 Durability.

The Department has considered this issue in what is now a significant body of determinations issued since late 2005. It has acknowledged there are two views on the matter, but has taken the pragmatic position in such determinations to modify the requirements of Clause B2.3.1 so that the durability periods commence when compliance with Clause B2 would, to all practical purposes, have been achieved if the CCC had been issued at the time the building work was substantially completed. The modification means the building is still expected to comply with all the durability periods stated in Clause B2.3.1, but these periods start from an earlier date than the issue of the CCC.

The date when compliance with Clause B2 is achieved is agreed by the owner and the BCA. That said, the Department has taken the view in these determinations that compliance with B2 is essentially achieved when the building is substantially complete. It is reasonable to assume that this has been achieved when, for example, a house is first occupied, or when the final inspection has been completed (albeit with minor items still outstanding).

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In practical terms this means a determination may require the BCA to make an amendment to the original building consent modifying Clause B2.3.1 so that the durability periods commence from the agreed date.

In using this approach the Department considers building work consented under the Building Act 1991 is still 'live', and able to be amended under the transitional provisions of the Building Act 2004. The Department's approach has been to effect the change by amending the original building consent, and not by placing a condition on the CCC. The date when compliance with Clause B2 was achieved is agreed between the owner and the BCA; rather than being simply imposed by the BCA. It is also strongly recommended that decisions be recorded on the property file and any LIM (land information memorandum) issued for the property concerned.

The first determination incorporating a durability modification was issued in October 2005, and since that time a significant number of similar determinations have been issued. Of the 124 determinations issued in 2008, 38% contained a durability modification. A significant number of BCAs are now making durability modifications themselves and consequently the numbers of this type of determination have declined.

The modified periods typically range from six to 14 years, and are not usually considered for buildings less than five years old, as at this time even the shortest period specified in B2.3.1 has not yet expired. Buildings to which modified B2 periods are applied may also require some remedial work in order to comply with the remaining Building Code clauses. In such cases the modified B2 periods apply to all the building elements, except those requiring the remedial work.

A B2 modification may not be considered appropriate where a building exhibits widespread failure, because a clear distinction cannot be made between work that is Code-compliant, to which the B2 modification would apply, and the required remedial work.

These are summaries only. The full determinations (along with all other determinations issued) can be viewed on our website: www.dbh.govt.nz/determinations

Standards New Zealand update

(The information in this update is reproduced courtesy of Standards New Zealand – www.standards.co.nz)

NEW PUBLICATIONS	
Building – including plumbing, gas and building services	
AS/NZS 1260: 2009	PVC-U pipes and fittings for drain, waste and vent application Specifies requirements for PVC-U pipes and fittings for sewer, drain, waste and vent applications above ground or below ground and is intended to be used where the pipeline is operating under gravity flow and the operating pressure is low. The Standard includes requirements for both plain and structured wall pipes and fittings. Pipes manufactured to this Standard should be used and installed in accordance with AS/NZS 2032, AS/NZS 2566.1, AS/NZS 2566.2, AS/NZS 3500.2, AS/NZS 3500.5, WSA 02 and WSA 06. Supersedes AS/NZS 1260: 2002

AS/NZS 4130: 2009	Polyethylene (PE) pipes for pressure applications Specifies requirements for polyethylene pipes for the conveyance of fluids under pressure. Such fluids include, but are not restricted to, water, wastewater, slurries, compressed air, and fuel gas. Fuel gas includes natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) in the vapour phase and LPG/air mixtures. Gas pipes are not intended for service temperatures outside of the range -20°C to +35°C. Pipes that do not contain carbon black, in compliance with this Standard, are not intended for extended exposure in direct sunlight. Supersedes AS/NZS 4130: 2003
NZS 3106: 2009	Design of concrete structures for the storage of liquids Specifies design information that meets the requirements of the New Zealand Building Code and is intended to be used by engineers and others involved in new storage tank projects. It provides a basis for designing concrete structures for the storage of liquids that will require only limited periodic maintenance to remain serviceable for their design life, and will not allow an uncontrolled, rapid loss of the liquid contents in extreme events such as a major earthquake. Supersedes NZS 3106: 1986 which remains current until further notice.
NZS 4218: 2009	Thermal insulation – Housing and small buildings Specifies the thermal insulation requirements for housing and small buildings. It provides three methods for demonstrating compliance with the New Zealand Building Code: Schedule, Calculation and Modelling methods. It guides the achievement of minimum thermal resistance through balancing solar gains from glazing, insulation, and thermal mass, in order to significantly reduce the energy requirements to heat and cool buildings. Supersedes NZS 4218: 2004 which remains current until further notice.
Fire protection	
NZS 4514: 2009	Interconnected smoke alarms for houses Specifies requirements for the installation and commissioning of externally-powered interconnected smoke alarms. It also provides information on the selection, installation, and maintenance of smoke alarms. Additional guidance has been provided for the selection of smoke alarms, and their location to avoid nuisance activations. Supersedes NZS 4514: 2002 as of 29 July 2009.
Occupational safety	
AS/NZS 2243	Safety in laboratories
AS/NZS 2243.9: 2009	Recirculating fume cabinets Specifies safety requirements and gives recommendations for the design, manufacture, use and maintenance of recirculating fume cabinets, sometimes incorrectly referred to as 'ductless fume cupboards', and the test methods to determine their performance. Supersedes AS/NZS 2243.9: 2003.
NEW AMENDMENTS	
Building – including plumbing, gas and building services	
Amendment 2 to AS/NZS 2033: 2008	Installation of polyethylene pipe systems Applies to Tables 9.1 and 9.2.
Fire protection	
Amendment 1 to NZS 4541: 2007	Automatic fire sprinkler systems A correction amendment to fix a small number of editorial errors in the Standard.

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STANDARDS WITHDRAWN	
Building – including plumbing, gas and building services	
AS/NZS 1260: 2002	PVC-U pipes and fittings for drain, waste and vent application Superseded by AS/NZS 1260: 2009.
AS/NZS 4130: 2003	Polyethylene (PE) pipes for pressure applications Superseded by AS/NZS 4130: 2009.
Occupational safety	
AS/NZS 2243	Safety in laboratories AS/NZS 2243.9: 2003 Recirculating fume cabinets Superseded by AS/NZS 2243.9: 2009.
DRAFT STANDARDS FOR COMMENT – Free to download from the Standards New Zealand website: **www.standards.co.nz**	
Building – including plumbing, gas and building services	
DZ 3122	Specification for Portland and blended cements (General and special purpose) The aim of NZS 3122 is to specify requirements and methods for testing hydraulic cements consisting of Portland cement, or of mixtures of Portland cement and one or both of fly ash and ground granulated iron blast-furnace slag. The outcome is to ensure that the end user of the Standard benefits from being up to date with current technology and in line with current industry methods and practices. Public comment on this draft closed on 12 August 2009.
DZ 3123	Specification for pozzolan for use with Portland and blended cement The previous edition of the Standard, NZS 3123: 1974, specified the requirements for blended hydraulic cement comprising Portland cement and a pozzolan of appropriate type and quantity. NZS 3122: 2009 now includes provisions for blended hydraulic cement containing natural pozzolan, superseding the NZS 3123: 1974 provisions for Type PP cement. NZS 3123: 2009 now only includes requirements for pozzolans that may be added directly to concrete or used to manufacture Type GB cement. Together, NZS 3122: 2009 and NZS 3123: 2009 reflect current technology and current industry methods and practices. Public comment on this draft closed on 12 August 2009.
Fire protection	
DZ 4515	Fire sprinkler systems for life safety in sleeping occupancies Key changes in the draft include: • clarification to users of the Standard concerning what is and is not a sleeping occupancy, to more clearly differentiate between this Standard and NZS 4517 Fire sprinkler systems for houses • alignment to NZS 4541: 2007 Automatic Fire Sprinkler Systems, where appropriate • incorporation of any formal interpretations that have emerged since NZS 4515 was last published in 2003. The Standard is intended to provide building owners, specifiers, users, manufacturers, suppliers, installers, and maintenance persons with requirements and guidance to assist in the design, construction, and maintenance of a life safety sprinkler system for a building used solely as a sleeping occupancy. This includes elderly care institutions, guest accommodation, apartment buildings, sleeping areas in hospital wards, and supervised accommodation homes. A sleeping occupancy could also include self-care units in, for example, prisons or other institutions. The purpose is to reduce risk to occupants in the event of a fire by maintaining conditions at a level to facilitate a safe evacuation, and to minimise fire and smoke damage to property. Public comment on this draft closed on 07 August 2009.

PROPOSAL TO WITHDRAW	
Fire protection	
NZS 9231: 1971	Model bylaw for fire prevention Proposed for withdrawal without replacement. Comments on this proposal closed on 11 August 2009.
STANDARDS IN DEVELOPMENT	
Building – including plumbing, gas and building services	
Timber framed buildings	Committee: P3604 Project Manager: Mani Taare Estimated Publication Date: Late 2010, early 2011 Comments: The project is in the draft development stage. The organisational structure for the project is a Leadership Group, P3604 Technical committee and there are five workgroups covering Loadings, Durability, Bracing, Roof framing and Design appearance and clarity. Several meetings have now been conducted with the focus being on having the revised draft ready for public comment by November 2009.
Installing insulation – Amendment 1	Committee: P4246 A1 Project Manager: Vicki Allison Estimated Publication Date: October 2009 Comments: The committee has met to agree the draft content of the amendment. This was released for public consultation in mid-June.
Revision of NZS 3404 Steel structures – Phases 1, 2 and 3	Committee: P3404 Project Manager: Jono East Estimated Publication Date: To be confirmed Comments: The committee is confirming final changes to 3404.1 draft resulting from public comment review. Once all alterations have been agreed, the draft will move to committee ballot.
WS-013 Review of domestic wastewater systems	Committee: WS-013 Project Manager: Jono East Estimated Publication Date: September/October 2009 Comments: The committee is revising AS/NZS 1547 draft in light of comments received during the ballot stage.
Water efficient appliances	Committee: WS-032 Project Manager: Bruce Taylor Estimated Publication Date: No publication Comments: Standards New Zealand has been commissioned by the Ministry for the Environment to set up and facilitate an advisory group to coordinate New Zealand's input to a joint Australia/New Zealand Standards committee (WS-032). This committee is responsible for amendments to the joint Standard (AS/NZS 6400: 2005) on the rating and labelling of water efficient products such as taps, showers and other water-using appliances. The New Zealand advisory group met again on 11 June to discuss progress on Amendment No. 4 to AS/NZS 6400, which takes account of New Zealand's appliances designed for low pressure systems. The group also discussed the introduction of water efficiency labelling regulations in New Zealand in July 2009, and issues around compliance and consumer information requirements.
Amendment 2 to NZS 4229:1999 Concrete masonry buildings not requiring specific engineering design	Committee: P4229 Project Manager: Jono East Estimated Publication Date: To be confirmed Comments: Standards New Zealand is reviving an amendment project which originally commenced in 2006. The project was put on hold until a full revision of NZS 3604 commenced as any changes to the seismic zones in NZS 4229 needed to be considered in conjunction with NZS 3604.
Fire protection	
Fire-resistant doorsets and smoke doors adoption	Committee: P4520 Project Manager: Jono East Estimated Publication Date: 2010 Comments: P4520 committee has been constituted with the purpose of adopting AS 1905.1: 2005 and AS 6905: 2007 as a new New Zealand Standard (NZS 4520: 20XX). The committee is currently reviewing the initial draft document

Learning curve

Barrier Free NEW ZEALAND TRUST

BARRIER FREE NZ TRUST SEMINARS

The Barrier Free NZ Trust runs seminars throughout the year. Participants have the opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding of the Accessible Journey for all people, including people with disabilities.

The seminars cover the correct application of the Building Act 2004, Building Code and Compliance Documents, Building Regulations, and NZS 4121: 2001 in regards to access, as well as how to apply theoretical knowledge in practice to the built environment.

Upcoming seminars for 2009:

2-day Barrier Free Seminars (Modules 1-4) for 2009	
Auckland:	15–16 September 2009 Confirmed – Limited places remaining
Wellington:	14–15 October 2009 Open for registration
Christchurch:	17–18 November 2009 Open for registration

Creating the Accessible Journey: Half-day seminar for Architects and Designers	
Wellington:	5 October 2009 Open for registration
Auckland:	7 October 2009 Open for registration

Becoming a Barrier Free Advisor Courses (Module 5) for 2009	
Wellington:	23 November 2009 Confirmed – places remaining

For more information about the content of each seminar and to register online see **www.barrierfreenz.org.nz**

Legality of Department of Building and Housing interpretations
Only the courts can issue binding interpretations of the Building Act 1991 and Building Act 2004 and Regulations. Indications and guidelines issued by the Department of Building and Housing, either in *Codewords* or other communications, are provided with the intention of helping people to understand the legislation. They are, however, offered on a 'no-liability' basis and, in any particular case, those concerned should consult their own legal advisors.

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