

### Bulletin 541 correction

Amendment 11 to compliance document B1/AS1 requires the use of grade 500E mesh for concrete slab-on-ground reinforcing. This change applies to slabs on ground being built to NZS 3604:2011, NZS 4229 and NZS 4299.

Bars within the foundation must also be 'E' type steel to ensure they have sufficient ductility but may be either grade 300E or grade 500E. Paragraph 4.6.1 of Bulletin 541 incorrectly asserts that all steel bars within the foundation wall must be grade 500E.

### Are you prepared?

From 1 March 2012, critical building work that is known as restricted building work must be carried out by or under the supervision of a licensed building practitioner (LBP). If you are planning to get registered as an LBP and have not yet got your application in, you are running out of time to ensure you will be licensed before 1 March.

From 1 March 2012, it will be an offence with a fine of up to \$20,000 for a building practitioner to carry out restricted building work unless they or someone supervising their work is appropriately licensed.

You can get your application information if you haven't already done so by:

- downloading the application form and the booklet from *Understanding the regulatory environment booklet* from [www.dbh.govt.nz/lbp-licensing-publications](http://www.dbh.govt.nz/lbp-licensing-publications)
- calling 0800 60 60 50 during office hours
- emailing [info@dbh.govt.nz](mailto:info@dbh.govt.nz) – be sure to include your full mailing details and the specific application packs you need.

### New DBH guidance documents

The DBH has recently issued several new guidance documents that are available to download, free of charge.

[Revised guidance on repairing and rebuilding houses affected by the Canterbury earthquake sequence](#) provides robust and well balanced engineering solutions for repairing and rebuilding houses in the Canterbury region.

It includes useful information on:

- repairs to foundations and new foundation design
- assessments of retaining walls for hillside properties
- chimney repairs
- repairs to house superstructures, pole frame houses and masonry walls.

This guidance supersedes the guidance issued in December 2010 and is issued as guidance under section 175 of the Building Act.

Other guidance documents recently released include:

- [Guidance on barrier design](#)
- [Guidance on using NZS 3604 construction on ground with potential for liquefaction](#)
- [Guidelines for the geotechnical investigation and assessment of subdivisions in the Canterbury region.](#)

### Plywood sheet bracing

Plywood sheets that are specified and installed to provide bracing must be identifiable. AS/NZS 2269:2008 *Plywood – Structural – Specifications* requires that the sheet is marked with:

- the manufacturer's name
- the reference standard – AS/NZS 2269
- the word 'structural' or a description of the product
- visual face grades (defining the face and back surface veneer quality), for example, CD has a C grade face veneer and a D grade veneer on the back
- the sheet glue bond type
- the sheet stress grade
- the panel construction code.

The markings indicate that the plywood has been tested and is suitable for use as a structural material. There are currently three manufacturers of structural plywood in New Zealand that have product tested to meet AS/NZS 2269 – Carter Holt Harvey Woodproducts, International Panel and Lumber, and Juken New Zealand.

The P21 test is used for plywood bracing, so make sure the required fixings that were used in the P21 test are used when the sheet is installed. Fixings and hold-downs must be the specifically identified type and at the spacings given in the manufacturer's technical manual.

Do not use installation and fixing instructions from one of the above suppliers for plywood sheet bracing that is not supplied by them.

Avoid using unbranded (cheaper) material for structural situations that require not less than 50-year durability – its performance cannot be guaranteed over the life of the structure. Where an unbranded product has been used, it is likely that it will have to be removed, as the consented documents are not likely to have been followed.

For further information, see the *Build* 121 article [Structural plywood](#), available for free from the BRANZ website.

### Resin bleed in preprimed timber weatherboards

Resin bleed is where natural timber resins appear on the surface of timber weatherboards, often after they have been painted. Resin bleed is more likely where the primer has been exposed to UV for too long (over 6 weeks in summer), the boards have been painted a dark colour and/or the boards are LOSP treated.

Where resin bleed occurs before the boards are installed, contact the supplier and ask for replacements.

Where resin bleed occurs after the timber has been painted, it is recommended that the boards be left for at least 12 months or until the resin stops coming out. Then scrape off the resin, sand and apply an aluminium/alkyd primer and repaint with a light colour. However, bleed may still reoccur.

Note that, where primed external timber has been exposed for longer than the period recommended by the supplier, the boards will need to be resanded and reprimed.

### Installing plasterboard on walls

Manufacturers recommend installing plasterboard wall linings horizontally to minimise the risk of cracks above and below windows and to minimise the amount of wall joints that require stopping.

Where plasterboard is installed vertically, current manufacturers' instructions require that the sheets either side of the windows have a notch taken out of them so that the vertical joint is at least 200 mm inside the jamb line of the window to reduce the chance of cracking above and below the windows. Flush-stopped joints are not to align with the jamb.

### 2012 BRANZ Seminars

#### ***Post-earthquake fire protection systems***

This seminar looks at the effects of earthquake damage on passive and active fire protection as well as the responses to the earthquake by occupants of tall buildings.

Seminar dates and venues:

1 February	Dunedin
2 February	Christchurch
3 February	Wellington
7 February	Napier
8 February	Tauranga
9 February	Auckland – Albany
10 February	Auckland – Eilerslie

Register online at [www.branz.co.nz/seminar\\_register](http://www.branz.co.nz/seminar_register).

***Learnings from the Canterbury earthquake*** will begin in mid-March. Check our website for updates – [www.branz.co.nz](http://www.branz.co.nz)

#### **It's Santa time again!**

From all of us at BRANZ who help bring you *Guideline*, have a Merry Christmas.



*Guideline* is a free monthly update on building issues prepared by BRANZ and funded by the Building Research Levy.

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