

# GUIDELINE

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## DBH CONSULTATIONS

The DBH is proposing a number of changes to the requirements for home insulation, water heating and commercial building lighting. In summary the proposed changes:

- require better insulation for new homes, particularly increasing the requirements for double-glazing
- make it easier to install solar water heating systems
- improve lighting efficiency in commercial buildings.

The DBH welcomes submissions and comments on the changes. Consultation closes on 22 December 2006. After considering the submissions, the DBH will report its recommendations back to the Government in April 2007.

Download the [Energy efficiency of buildings consultation document](http://www.dbh.govt.nz/UserFiles/File/Building/Compliance/pdf/energy-efficiency/energy-efficiency.pdf) from [www.dbh.govt.nz/UserFiles/File/Building/Compliance/pdf/energy-efficiency/energy-efficiency.pdf](http://www.dbh.govt.nz/UserFiles/File/Building/Compliance/pdf/energy-efficiency/energy-efficiency.pdf).

Other current consultation documents out for comment (and closing in December) are:

- B1 Structure – amending the existing Compliance Document for B1 Structure by citing the new joint Australian/New Zealand loadings Standard *Structural design* (AS/NZS 1170). This published Standard specifies loads for designing structures
- B1 Structure – amending NZS 4229 *Concrete masonry buildings not requiring specific design* (jointly with Standards New Zealand), and citing the amendment in the Compliance Document
- G4 Ventilation – amending Acceptable Solution G4/AS1 for the ventilation requirements for household units with only one external wall e.g. apartments
- C Fire Safety (3) – amending the existing Compliance Document for 'means of escape', smoke alarms and other miscellaneous matters.

Consultation documents are listed at [www.dbh.govt.nz/upcoming-consultation](http://www.dbh.govt.nz/upcoming-consultation).

## DRAFT BUILDING INDUSTRY STANDARDS FOR COMMENT

Standards New Zealand are currently requesting industry feedback on DZ 4243.2 *Energy efficiency – large buildings, Part 1: Building thermal envelope* and *Part 2: Lighting*.

Closing date for comments is 14 December 2006. Copies of the draft can be obtained from:

<http://shop.standards.co.nz/drafts/DZ4243.1-DZ4243Part1PublicCommentDraft.PDF> for Part 1

<http://shop.standards.co.nz/drafts/DZ4243.2-DZ4243Part2PublicCommentDraft.PDF> for Part 2.

## TIMBER MOISTURE CONTENT OF H1.2 BORON-TREATED TIMBER

Boron timber treatments to prevent both insect damage and mould have been used for 60 years. Because it is treated with a soluble salt, the levels of boron in the timber increase the electrical conductivity of the timber, which causes electrical conductivity meters to read high. This becomes even more apparent when using short uninsulated needles or capacitance-type meters which measure conductivity at the surface where boron concentration tends to be highest. For accurate measurements, insulated probes should be used penetrating one-third of the timber thickness.

Some timber suppliers have produced (and made available) tables that compensate for the electrical effect of the boron, and can be used when testing moisture content to convert the meter reading to an actual moisture content of their branded timber. For example, when using insulated probes with one specific brand, if the meter reads 26%, the true MC will be 20%.

## ARCHITECTS' CPD AND BRANZ

BRANZ education programmes that provide CPD points for architects include:

- Seminars – 10 points
- CITE Weathertightness Design course – 90 points.

### CITE Future events

Course dates for the January to June 2007 period will be available on our website in early December. Register your interest early to confirm your place as numbers are limited.

Contact Natasha Breen, Programme Coordinator, phone 04 238 1291, or email [BRANZCITE@branz.co.nz](mailto:BRANZCITE@branz.co.nz).

### SEMINARS

Presentation of the seminar series *Weathertightness Beyond E2/AS1* is well underway. This joint presentation between BRANZ and the DBH focuses on how weathertightness design principles should be applied to Alternative Solutions in day-to-day situations.

Online registrations can be carried out at [www.branz.co.nz](http://www.branz.co.nz).

December dates are: 5 Timaru, 6 Christchurch (am and pm), 7 Trentham, 11 Wellington (am and pm), 12 Nelson and 13 Hokitika. **Note the late change of date for Hokitika.**

Please note that all dates differ from those published in the BRANZ 2006 seminar leaflet.

For more details contact Gail King, Seminar Coordinator, phone 04 237 1170, or email [GailKing@branz.co.nz](mailto:GailKing@branz.co.nz).