



FREE MONTHLY UPDATE ON BUILDING ISSUES PREPARED BY BRANZ LTD
AND FUNDED BY THE BUILDING RESEARCH LEVY

ACCREDITED ADVISOR SERVICE DISCONTINUED

BRANZ Ltd wishes to advise that the BRANZ Accredited Adviser Service has been discontinued.

Advisers will no longer be referred to as 'BRANZ Accredited' but will continue to offer their services as independent building consultants in their respective regions.

BRANZ Ltd wishes to acknowledge the exemplary service offered by these consultants over the past 10 years and wishes them all the best in the future.

BRANZ continues to operate a short advice enquiry helpline for the industry on 0800 80 80 85.

NEW FEATURE ON WWW.BRANZ.CO.NZ

A feature added to the BRANZ Ltd website is the ability to check on amendments to BRANZ publications since they've gone to print. Click on BRANZ Bookshop and a drop down list will appear, then click on the 'Publications updater'.

STONE VENEER OVER FIBRE-CEMENT BACKING

Bulletin 476 Stone veneer construction covers the construction of stone veneers with a 40–70 mm cavity and the veneer tied back to the structure using brick ties. Construction of stone veneers where the stone is installed directly against a fibre-cement backing over 20 mm timber cavity battens was deliberately not covered by this *Bulletin*. These cladding systems need to be specifically designed to ensure:

- the performance of ties used – when used with conventional cavity masonry ties are designed to flex when a load is applied. Where the stone is installed hard against the backing the flexibility of the tie is negated
- the structural capability where ties are fixed through fibre-cement into a batten
- the detailing around openings to ensure the performance requirements of NZBC Clause E2 will be met
- separation of the damp stone/fibre-cement from the structural frame.

There are stone cladding systems currently entering the market that do have the stone installed over a fibre-cement backing. However, these are specifically designed systems that are supported by a BRANZ Appraisal.

BRANZ is also aware of a number of instances where stone veneer is being installed directly against fibre-cement fixed directly to the framing. In these instances, there is no ability for water that is absorbed into the mortar and fibre-cement to drain or dry leaving a wet cladding system in contact with the wall underlay and the framing. In our view, the risk of deterioration of the framing is high.

TIMBER GRADING CHANGES

Amendment 2 to NZS 3604 now incorporates tables for the selection of framing members using timber that is:

- machine stress graded (MSG)
- visually stress graded (VSG).

A requirement of both these grading systems under NZS 3603 Amendment 4 is that the accuracy of the grading methods is

regularly verified by subjecting samples to a strength and stiffness test.

Visually graded No 1 framing grade timber remains as an option under NZS 3604. However, verification testing is not required.

MGP

While on the subject of acronyms you may also come across MGP (machine graded pine). MGP is an Australian grading system for pine framing, however its use in New Zealand is not covered by Amendment 2 to NZS 3604.

SHELF ANGLES

A number of buildings clad with masonry veneer rely on a steel shelf angle fixed directly to the timber framing to support the masonry veneer. An example seen recently is where a large ground floor bay window has been inserted into a two storey brick veneer building and the brick veneer to the upper floor uses a shelf angle to support it.

The sizing and fixing of shelf angles and the sizing of the wall framing they are fixed to is not covered by any of the Standards that reference brick veneer – that is NZS 3604, NZS 4210 or NZS 4229.

All shelf angle installations must be specifically designed to accommodate the span, fixing type and centres, the ability of the adjacent timber framing to support the concentrated (gravity) loads acting on the angle and weathertightness.

CITE Future events

<p>CITE Domestic Sprinkler Design</p> <p>5-6 Sep 2006 – Christchurch</p> <p>Cost: \$956.25 incl. GST</p>	<p>CITE Adjudication</p> <p>Christchurch</p> <p>18-22 September 2006</p> <p>Cost: \$2,250 incl. GST</p>
<p>CITE Building Controls</p> <p>Wellington Christchurch</p> <p>Week 1: Week 2:</p> <p>2-6 Oct 2006. 30 Oct-3 Nov 2006</p> <p>Cost: \$3,937.50 incl. GST</p>	<p>CITE Weathertight Design</p> <p>Wellington – 2006</p> <p>Week 1: 16-18 October</p> <p>Week 2: 20-24 November</p> <p>Cost: \$3,937.50 incl. GST</p>
<p>Contact Natasha Breen, CITE Coordinator, phone 04 238 1291 or email BRANZCITE@branz.co.nz.</p>	

SEMINARS

Planning for the next seminar beginning in November has just begun. It will focus on examples of weathertightness failure and ways the problem could have been avoided and/or rectified.

Online registration will be available on www.branz.co.nz in late September. Please note that these registrations will close three working days before each seminar.

For more details contact Gail King, Seminar coordinator, phone 04 237 1170 or email GailKing@branz.co.nz.