



GUIDELINE

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CHANGES COMING

Keeping up-to-date can be a challenging task while also keeping your design or building business working. A good source of information on changes is the DBH Building Controls publication *Codewords*.

The September issue of *Codewords* highlighted the requirements of the Building Act 2004 about access for people with disabilities resulting from the Building Amendment Act 2005. This amendment has altered the wording of several Building Act sections:

- Section 112(1) and (2) covering alterations – fire safety provisions have also been amended
- Section 115(1) covering change of use
- Section 116 (2)(a) about subdivisions.

The Building Amendment Act has also clarified Section 67(3) on waivers about access for people with disabilities.

In essence, this Act is restoring the requirements for access for people with disabilities to what was required under the Building Act 1991.

For more details obtain a copy of *Codewords* from:
www.building.dbh.govt.nz.

BEING VIGILANT

There is a lot of publicity currently about exotic pests, especially the sea squirt and *Didymosphenia geminata* (Didymo).

The building industry should also be vigilant because there are a number of potential unwelcome visitors that could arrive with imported timbers and packaging around imported products. Colonies of the destructive Australian subterranean termite have been found in New Zealand. The origins of the termite are most likely in imported Australian timber telephone poles, railway sleepers and packaging.

For example the Formosan termite – which is closely related to the Australian subterranean termite – has been intercepted at the New Zealand border on many occasions in wooden packaging. Formosan termites originated in China but have spread to other South-East Asian countries and the Pacific Islands. Populations are also found in South Africa and throughout the south-eastern United States.

Formosan termites are regarded as the world's most destructive and cause significant economic damage. The numbers and the distance the termites travel in search of food make it a threat to nearby buildings and timber. Colonies can contain several million individual termites.

Other possible unwanted that may occur on building sites include:

- Sydney Huntsman or other unknown spiders
- invasive or aggressive ants
- banjo frog
- European house borer which feeds on seasoned softwoods, particularly pine sapwood.

A website that gives more information is:
www.biosecurity.govt.nz/pests-diseases. There is also an **Exotic Pest & Disease Emergency Hotline**: 0800 809 966.

MASONRY TILE ROOFS

Did you know that under E2/AS1 Third Edition the mortar bedding to ridge tiles is required to be installed with weep holes at the pan of each tile (Figure 23 and Clause 8.2.6).

APPRAISAL VS TEST REPORT

BRANZ specialises in providing Test Reports and Appraisals, which have quite different purposes and value. The crucial difference is that Test Reports evaluate one specific aspect of a product's performance (relative to composition, time, and use conditions) whereas an Appraisal evaluates its overall performance. A Test Report is only one of the building blocks of a BRANZ Appraisal.

If you need to determine the performance of a product during development, or there is only one aspect needing evaluation, then a Test Report will provide all the information needed. However, a Test Report only provides a point-in-time assessment of how the product performed for that specific attribute.

To ensure a product meets all the requirements of the NZBC, we recommend that the BRANZ Appraisal path is followed. An Appraisal is BRANZ's premium product and covers the full range of performance factors you need to consider. It is designed to give confidence to Territorial Authorities during the consent process.

COMING EVENTS

Fabricating sustainability

39th Annual Conference of the Architectural Science Association
Victoria University of Wellington
17-19 November 2005

The conference will consider sustainability in all its dimensions, particularly for:

- human and natural environments
- construction
- digital, education, social, cultural and political issues.

Note: This conference has been awarded 36 NZIA CPA points. The register will be available on the day. For details see –
www.vuw.ac.nz/cbpr/conferences/anzasca.

Oops

We try our best but occasionally the gremlins win.

The first bullet point of Section 5.7.3 of Bulletin 465 *Domestic flashing installation* states that no upstands are required for head flashings in direct-fix systems – what it should say is that no stop-ends are required for head flashings in direct-fix systems.

For reference Bulletin 465 replaces Bulletins 305 and 448, and Bulletin 466 *Timber-framed parapets, balustrades and columns* replaces Bulletin 415.

CITE FUTURE EVENT

The course programme for 2006 should be available on the BRANZ website (www.branz.co.nz) by mid-November. In 2006 there will be a number of new courses added to the CITE programme.

Contact Fiona Street, CITE Manager, Education Development – phone 04 238 1291 or email BRANZCITE@branz.co.nz.

BRANZ SEMINARS

'Plumbed Out': A plumbing and drainage seminar on the ins and outs of AS/NZS 3500 and NZBC G13 with particular emphasis on consent documentation. Initial feedback is: this is a must-attend seminar. Locations and dates for November are:

7 Greymouth, 8 Timaru, 9 Christchurch, 14 Invercargill, 15 Alexandra, 16 Oamaru, 17 Dunedin, 21 Manukau, 22 Hamilton, 23 Rotorua, 24 Tauranga, 28 Trentham.

Contact Gail King, Seminar Coordinator, phone 04 237 1170. Online registration is available at www.branz.co.nz.