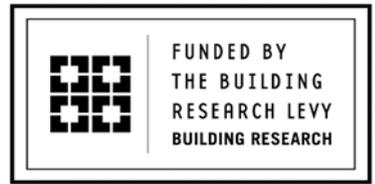


GUIDELINE

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FOLLOW THE CONSENTED DETAILS

An architect has detailed a window head flashing to be done a specific way and the BCA has consented it. The builder is about to install the window and the window supplier turns up with flashings different from those detailed and says "You don't need to do it that way – this way will be fine". Where to next?

In our view the builder must instruct the window supplier to manufacture the flashings as detailed on the drawings that were supplied to them for pricing – no argument. It is not the window supplier's role to unilaterally decide what is best (in this case) and ignore the details.

There are two issues arising from the window installer's actions. The first is that the change (if incorporated and not approved in advance by the BCA) may mean that a Code Compliance Certificate may not be issued as the consented documents have not been followed. The second is contractual – the window installer has not done what they were contracted to do.

NEW TIMBER GRADING IN NZS 3604

Amendment 2 to NZS 3604, which becomes effective on 1 April 2007, has introduced a number of new timber grades. At present not all grades and timber sizes are readily available.

Designers must check that for the timber grade and size they are specifying, particularly for grades MSG 10 and 12 and VSG 10, the timber is available before confirming consent documentation.

Where grades and sizes specified are not available, the builder will be left in the lurch because the building framing may need to be substantially altered to suit the timber sizes available and grades. For example, floor joists may need to be deeper or have the span reduced when the higher grade timber specified is not available.

Timber suppliers can choose which timber grades to stock, but they must provide the timber grade specified. Even though the properties of VSG 8 and MSG 8 are the same, they should not be swapped unless the consented documents allow either option.

Responsibility for ensuring the specified grade is used rests with the builder or the frame/truss manufacturer. Where the grade specified is changed after a consent is issued, it is likely that an amendment to the consent will be required.

MORE ON AMENDMENT 2

Table 10.6 (pages 10–21 to 10–24B) of NZS 3604 covers the sizing of underpurlins and ridge beams for the given timber grades. At the bottom of each of the 10.6 tables is a series of notes. Most have 4 except for Table 10.6(d) (pages 10–24) for No 1 framing and MSG 8 which has 5. On this page, Notes 1, 2, 3 and 5 are correctly repeated on all other tables. Note 4 on ridge beam to wall connections has been omitted from all other 10.6 tables.

Mark your copy to ensure that each table in 10.6 includes reference to Note 4 on 10.6(d). Each 10.6 table also includes fixing requirements for underpurlins. Note 4 refers readers to Table 10.3 to obtain the ridge beam fixing requirements.

SECRET NAILED TIMBER FLOORS

A number of timber floors over timber joists are being laid using secret nailing. To satisfactorily secret nail a timber board floor:

- boards must be cramped individually
- boards should be no wider than ex 100 and preferably ex 75 wide

- timber moisture content should be in equilibrium with the moisture content of the space in which they are being laid
- the profile (see Figure 15 NZS 3617) designed for secret nailing is used
- boards have a minimum dry dressed thickness of 19 mm.

CAVITY BATTEN FIXING

Under E2/AS1 cavity battens are installed to space the cladding off the wall framing and underlay to provide for water drainage should it get through the cladding. They are tacked with a couple of fixings (or adhesive) to hold them in place until the cladding is fixed through them into the framing. To ensure the cladding is adequately fixed to the framing the Acceptable Solution requires that the cladding is fixed with nails long enough to give sufficient penetration into the framing. The amount of penetration required is given by Table 24 of E2/AS1 and varies from 25 mm to 35 mm, depending on the cladding type and its finish.

The durability of these fixings under B2/AS1 is at least 15 years as for the cladding itself.

Where the battens are structurally fixed to the framing behind in accordance with BRANZ *Bulletin 475* as an Alternative Solution, the length of fixing, head type, location and their spacing is specified.

NZS 3602 specifies that timber drained and vented cavity battens must meet a 50-year minimum durability requirement. It is therefore reasonable that the fixings meet the same durability requirement.

GUN-NAIL FIXING OF BATTENS

Since gun nails are centrifuged after galvanising (to give a smooth shank to allow use in the gun) the thickness/weight of the galvanising on the nail is unlikely to be equal to that of a hot-dip (non-centrifuged) nail. BRANZ therefore recommends the use of stainless steel fixings if gun fixing is to be used.

STOP-ENDS TO HEAD FLASHINGS IN DIRECT-FIXED TIMBER WEATHERBOARDS

Under E2/AS1, stop-ends are NOT required for head flashings on direct-fixed timber weatherboards. The requirement under the Acceptable Solution for stop-ends only applies to cavity construction.

BRANZ *Weathertight Solutions Volume One: Horizontal Weatherboards* details do show a stop-end for direct-fixed as an Alternative Solution. These details also include a weatherhead which protects the cut in the weatherboard made to accommodate the stop-end.

ANOTHER YEAR FLASHES BY

As one gets older years seem to pass much more quickly, or so it seems. 2006 has been a very active year industry-wide. Thank you to those who commented on or took issue with views in *Guideline* – we appreciate the time you took to comment.



From all of us at BRANZ Ltd, to all of you in the industry, our best wishes for the festive season and a productive and prosperous 2007.