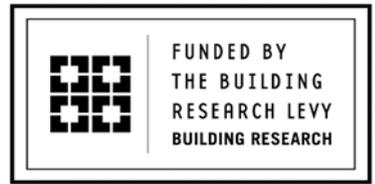


# GUIDELINE

Free monthly update on building issues prepared by BRANZ Ltd and funded by the Building Research Levy



MAY 2007

## Keeping up to date

Guideline is changing its publication date. From this issue onwards Guideline will be published at the beginning of each month, so there will be no April 2007 issue.

## Manufacturers recommending use of BRANZ details

Sometimes a manufacturer who does not have a specific construction detail for its product recommends a published BRANZ detail to the designer. In such cases, ask the manufacturer to confirm in writing that this is its preferred solution and therefore becomes part of their system.

## Construction R-values

For most timber-framed walls the R-value for the constructed wall is usually less than the sum of the R-values for the insulation material, lining and cladding. This is because the heat loss (thermal bridging effect) through the timber framing is greater than that through the insulated wall cavity. This heat loss reduces the overall performance of the wall – the more timber in the wall, the greater the effect.

## Labelling

Don't rely on the advertised name of a product to exactly describe its performance. Read all product information carefully when specifying a particular material. We are aware of products where the name of the product overstates its actual performance when installed. An example is an insulation material branded as R5 when the actual R-value specified in the fine print is only 4.6.

## Appraisals/testing and product ranges

A number of manufacturers use BRANZ Appraisals to verify the performance of a specific product or service. Each Appraisal specifically names the product or system covered by that Appraisal. Where a manufacturer has a range of products and you wish to specify an Appraised product, always obtain a copy of the appraisal certificate and check that the product you wish to use is covered by that Appraisal.

We are also aware of literature that says 'tested to E2/VM1'. Again check that the specific system that you wish to use was one of the systems tested. There is literature in the market place that implies all systems described have been tested – but the fine print outlines that some systems promoted have not been tested.

## LOSP and wall underlays

We are aware of anecdotal reports of solvents from LOSP-treated timber damaging wall underlays, but we have been unable to confirm these reports. Some initial and very basic studies done at BRANZ have raised doubts about the likelihood of such damage occurring.

If you have actual cases of damage that you believe were caused by LOSP solvents, then keep some samples and contact the BRANZ Helpline on 0800 80 80 85.

## Timber specification and treatment

When specifying timber for a particular location or use, the definitive reference is NZS 3602.

Publications such as the Timber treatments – Notes for builders published some time ago by the Building Industry Authority and Standards New Zealand, and the BRANZ

Timber treatment framing guide poster, provide general guidance only and should not be used as the basis for specifying timber.

## New publications

Available on our website for free download is Study Report 168 (2007) titled The Engineering Basis of NZS 3604. Go to "Free information" followed by "Publications".

Being published in May is BRANZ Good Practice Guide Texture Coated Cladding covering the design and installation of EIFS and texture-coated claddings (available from the BRANZ Bookshop – [www.branz.co.nz](http://www.branz.co.nz)).

## Changes to BRANZ CITE

Following an in-depth review of BRANZ CITE, BRANZ will be withdrawing CITE from the market in its current form when the courses currently scheduled have been completed at the end of June.

BRANZ believes it still has an important part to play in education for the industry, and intends for this to continue in the form of seminars, licensing current CITE courseware to other education providers, and making subject matter experts available.

BRANZ is proud that it has, by way of CITE, delivered a quality service to the industry over the past five years. We are confident that the new national qualifications for building officials, the development of which is being overseen by the Building Officials Institute of New Zealand in cooperation with the Department of Building and Housing, the Society of Local Government Managers and Local Government New Zealand, will provide appropriate education for the sector.

Those developing this qualification have made it clear that they will work with BRANZ to agree cross-crediting guidelines to the new qualification for those who have completed CITE courses. This information will be posted on the BRANZ website as soon as it is confirmed.

BRANZ would like to thank all its CITE students for their patronage over the past five years, and wish them well in their future studies and careers.

### BRANZ Seminars

Coming in June/July – **Passive Fire Protection** to be held in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch.

Other topics for 2007/2008 include:

- Construction Contracts Act
- Weathertightness for Builders

See our website ([www.branz.co.nz](http://www.branz.co.nz)) for more information on topics and dates, and to register online. We look forward to seeing you at our seminars this year.