

## Christmas Greetings!

From all of us at BRANZ Ltd to all of you in the industry we serve,  
our best wishes for the festive season and a prosperous 2006.



### WHAT'S IN A NAME?

A number of different terms are used within our industry to describe the same item. One common example is dwang, nog or nogging.

A variety of terms are used to describe the material installed over the wall framing to provide some initial protection before cladding installation, to hold the insulation within the framing cavities, and to provide a last line of defence behind a cladding or cavity. Terms used include:

- building wrap, wall underlay, non-rigid wind barriers (B2/AS1)
- building paper, building wraps, synthetic wrap, air barrier, rigid sheathing (E2/AS1 Table 23)
- underlays, sheathings, non-rigid wall cladding underlay or sheathing, rigid wall cladding underlay or sheathing (NZS 3604)
- pliable building membranes, underlay, sarking membrane (AS/NZS 4200)
- building wall wrap, wall wrap, membrane (BRANZ Appraisals on synthetic wall wrap material).

In BRANZ publications we have been using the term 'wall underlay' to generically describe the material fixed over the framing. Within the general classification of wall underlays there are specific materials used:

- Kraft-based (bitumen soaked and fire retardant) building papers
- absorbent synthetic wall wraps
- non-absorbent synthetic wall wraps
- plywood and fibre-cement sheet rigid sheathing.

The use of the term 'wall underlay' is in line with the generally accepted usage of 'roof underlay' (flexible material installed under roof claddings) and 'concrete underlay' (material used to provide damp-proofing under concrete slabs).

### OR SIMILAR

Two words that should not be seen in a specification or on drawings are "or similar". Another term often used is "or equal approved". BRANZ believes designers should be specific, that is, say exactly what you want when you are defining the materials and finishes to be used in buildings. If designers consider two options are appropriate, then both should be named.

### BASEMENT CONVERSIONS

The December/January BUILD *Build Right* article on insulating basement walls details ways to improve insulation levels of

existing masonry basement walls when the use of the space changes from a basement to a habitable space. For this type of change of use, BRANZ still recommends that the insulation levels should be improved for the health of anyone living in the space.

### BUILDING OFFICIALS UPDATE – BRANZ APPRAISALS

BRANZ Appraisals have made some changes recently to improve ways for you to contact us directly about any appraisal enquiries. You can visit our website at [www.branz.co.nz](http://www.branz.co.nz), click on Appraisals and view:

- our new Appraisals Guide
- the Appraisals News Page which shows newly issued Appraisal Certificates and any other Appraisal news.

BRANZ Appraisals now have a direct free-phone number for their enquiries only – 0800 080 063 (ask for Mrs Darrell Signal). There is also a direct email – [appraisals@branz.co.nz](mailto:appraisals@branz.co.nz) – to help make contacting us that bit easier.

### CITE FUTURE EVENTS

BRANZ Construction Industry Training Enterprise (CITE) is registered by the NZQA as a Private Training Establishment under the provisions of the Education Act 1989 and its subsequent amendments.

BRANZ Certificates are offered to those in the construction industry who wish to extend their qualifications and employment prospects.

STOP PRESS: NZQA approval of the BRANZ CITE Fire Design course has just been received.

The 2006 course programme and the outlines of the content of each course are now available on the BRANZ website: ([www.branz.co.nz](http://www.branz.co.nz)).

The 2006 course prospectus is available and those of you on the CITE mailing list should be receiving it shortly.

To request a copy of the prospectus, to make bookings for the 2006 courses, or for further information contact: Natasha Breen, CITE Administrator, ph 04 238 1291 or email: [BRANZCITE@branz.co.nz](mailto:BRANZCITE@branz.co.nz).

### SEMINARS

The 2006 BRANZ seminar calendar has been distributed through our mailing list. For those with eagle eyes you will have noted the seminar dates in the October/November BUILD differ from the calendar – the calendar dates are correct.

Dates and locations are also available on: [www.branz.co.nz](http://www.branz.co.nz).

For further information, particularly about possible participation through sponsorship, contact Gail King, Seminar Coordinator (ph 04 237 1170).