

builder's mate



INDUSTRY NEWS

Insulation standard updated

NZS 4246:2016 *Energy efficiency – Installing bulk thermal insulation in residential buildings* came into effect on 30 August. Its guidance covers new builds and retrofits and now includes steel-framed construction, concrete slabs and updates on insulation around recessed lights. The standard is available free on the Tenancy Services website: www.tenancy.govt.nz/maintenance-and-inspections/insulation/

Glass barriers rule change

From 1 June 2016, Amendment 13 of B1/AS1 applies to the construction of frameless glass barriers. All frameless glass barriers require laminated heat-strengthened or laminated toughened glass to retain broken glass, to comply with NZS 4223.3:2016 *Glazing in buildings – Part 3: Human impact safety requirements*.

Framed barriers as defined in NZS 4223.3:2016 may be either laminated toughened glass or toughened glass. They must have an interlinking top rail to meet load requirements for barriers in AS/NZS 1170 *Structural design actions*, plus:

- continuous bottom support, or
- two edges, point fixed, or
- continuous two-edge vertical support, or
- three-edge support.

FACILITIES REQUIRED ON BUILDING SITES

Heading to a less-visible part of a building site for a quick pee when you're caught short isn't uncommon. Nor is putting down the power tools and picking up a sandwich without washing your hands because there is nowhere to clean up.

In fact, access to toilets and somewhere to wash your hands are among the facilities that workplaces, including building sites, must have by law.

What's required is set out in regulations that came into force this year, tied to the Health and Safety at Work Act. >

WIN!

The Tool Shed

0800 948 665
www.thetoolshed.co.nz



A Milwaukee tool bag, power tool accessories and hand tools worth \$250

HAMMER 'N' NAILS





First aid equipment must be accessible on site.



Drinking water must be available.



Toilet facilities must be available.

The person in charge of the business must ensure as far as reasonably practicable that:

- the site is set up so people can enter and exit and move within it safely
- there is enough lighting and ventilation for workers to carry out work safely
- workers doing their job in extreme heat or cold can do so safely
- adequate facilities are provided for workers, including:
 - toilets
 - drinking water
 - hand-washing facilities
 - a place where workers can eat and take breaks

- adequate and accessible first aid equipment
- facilities where workers who become unwell can rest if it is not reasonable for them to leave the site
- an adequate number of workers on site are trained in first aid, or workers have access to other people trained to give first aid.

Other facilities that must also be provided if the sort of work being done makes them necessary are:

- facilities for washing the body
- a place to change wet or contaminated clothes
- a place to keep clothes not used for work clean and dry.

All these facilities must be clean, safe, accessible and kept in good working order. What's provided should take into account the sort of work done and the hazards on site and the size and location of the site and number of workers there.

The wording we've used here is our summary of some key elements of the new regulations. You can find the full wording in clauses 10, 11, 12 and 13 of the Health and Safety at Work [General Risk and Workplace Management] Regulations 2016. This can be downloaded from www.legislation.govt.nz.



Mouthpiece

New excavations guidelines

You can't build anything much without solid foundations, and that means digging some pretty serious holes, trenches, pits and shafts.

Of course, any excavation work brings the risk of collapse, so it's important to know what you're doing and put in place proper plans to manage risks. To help, WorkSafe New Zealand has just published new *Excavation Safety Good Practice Guidelines*.

The guidelines replace the 1995 *Approved Code of Practice for Excavation and Shafts for Foundations* and show how far the industry has come in 20 years. WorkSafe worked closely with contractors, unions, shoring suppliers, engineering groups, the Electricity Engineers Association and industry training organisations to develop the guidelines.

WorkSafe's Construction Manager Marcus Nalter says bringing expertise and real-world experience together was vital to make the guidelines up to date and practical.

"We were really pleased with the buy-in from industry. They were very supportive and

responsive, and I think that's reflected in the final document."

Key points covered include:

- watch for underground services and don't undermine nearby structures
- check the excavation each day before starting work
- provide safe access to get in and out
- prevent collapse – shore, bench or batter back
- prevent people and materials falling in.

"At almost 80 pages, the excavation guidelines cover the basics and much, much more, including detailed technical information and advice. It's a great resource and one I'm sure the industry will find useful and relevant," says Marcus Nalter.

The Excavation Safety Good Practice Guidelines are available at construction.worksafe.govt.nz with other advice and information. You can also sign up for WorkSafe's construction newsletter on the WorkSafe website.

Working with materials that have a **BRANZ Appraisal**

Products with a BRANZ Appraisal may be specified on new house builds or renovations. It is crucial that everyone working with these products understands what BRANZ Appraisals mean and the guidance on using them.

BRANZ Appraisals cover a wide range of products including wall claddings, panel systems, insulation, membranes, underlays, floor systems, pipe systems and more. In some cases, only a specific component in a building product or system may be covered. For example, an Appraisal may cover a flashing or a sealant, but more usually, they cover a building system.

When BRANZ issues an Appraisal, it means that a building product, material or system or a design or construction method is fit for purpose and complies with the Building Code. BRANZ carries out a rigorous and in-depth assessment to reach its opinion.

Appraisals are often included in building consent applications, and building consent authorities (BCAs) often accept an Appraisal when considering a consent. BCAs are not legally required to issue a consent based on an Appraisal but usually find them useful because of their detail and credibility.

The key thing about Appraisals is that the product must typically be used or installed in a particular way for the Appraisal to be valid. This is defined in the 'scope' along with other sections such as design information and installation.

Most Appraisals have conditions or limitations. Common ones include the following:

- The product must be installed by applicators trained and approved by the manufacturer/supplier. For example, the complexity of the product or materials means that special training is needed.
- The product can only be used in a specific location in the building. For example, a waterproofing membrane is specified for internal wet areas and is not to be used outside because it may not be resistant to UV.
- The product can only be used in certain wind zones or within certain height limitations. For example, the testing verified the product to a limiting wind load.



- The product must be installed in conjunction with other proprietary products (if it is part of a system). For example, a certain range of flashing tapes must be used with a particular range of wall underlays because they have been tested for adhesion.

The BRANZ Appraisal doesn't apply if the product or system is used outside of the scope. For example, an insulation blanket assessed for use in ceilings should not be installed in walls. It may not be dense enough to remain in place for the life of the building.

It is important to get hold of the Appraisal and read the scope and the conditions. Appraisals also provide guidance for the use of the product or system. Usually, approved technical literature goes with an Appraisal.

Some product manufacturers have wrongly claimed that their product has an Appraisal. It is easy to check if a product has a current Appraisal – all valid current Appraisals are published at www.branz.co.nz/appraisals.

build

"Do you get your free
Build magazine?"



All building contractors who are in the business of building and have paid a Building Research Levy in the current year can receive BRANZ's *Build* magazine for free. This Levy is paid as part of the building consent fee on all construction projects over \$20,000. If you are missing out on your free copy of *Build*, call 0800 80 80 85 (press 2) or email buildsubs@branz.co.nz.

Build now free online

www.buildmagazine.org.nz



ADVISORY HELPLINES

For the building and construction industry:

0800 80 80 85

For the homeowner and public enquiries:

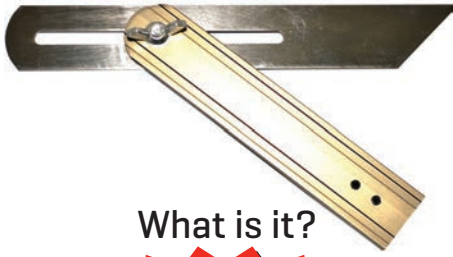
0900 5 90 90

Calls cost \$1.99 per minute plus GST

branz.nz

Competition

Here's a tool



What is it?

WIN!



**A Milwaukee tool bag,
power tool accessories and hand tools
worth \$250**

The prize is provided courtesy of The ToolShed.

All you need to do to win is tell us the name of the mystery tool [above].

Email your answer to buildersmate@branz.co.nz. Put "October Competition" in the subject line. The message should include your answer, your name, postal address and phone number. One entry per entrant please.

Don't forget to tell us where you picked up your copy of **Builder's Mate**! The winner will be the first correct entry drawn at 9 am on Friday 11 November 2016. Details will be posted on the BRANZ Ltd website (www.branz.nz) and in the next edition of **Builder's Mate** due out on 1 December 2016.



Winner of the June competition, Yvonne McKee, receives her prize from Peter Hawkins at The ToolShed, New Plymouth.

The winner of the **Builder's Mate 79** competition was Peter Frame of Napier. Peter wins a carpenter's apron worth \$99.90. The mystery tool was a router.

Terms and conditions:

Entry is open to all New Zealand residents except employees and immediate families of BRANZ and The ToolShed shops. The competition will close at 9 am on Friday 11 November 2016. The prize is not transferable for cash. The judge's decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into.

+ BUILDERS' APPS

In this series, we'll introduce some great apps and tools for your smartphone. The apps can be found in the iPhone store and/or the Android store. If you know any you'd like to recommend, email us the details at buildersmate@branz.co.nz.



CALCULATOR

There are good calculators that allow basic and scientific calculations. Some let you see your history of previous calcs and include other features such as unit converters. You can change the keyboard style on a few.



FIRST AID

There are New Zealand first aid apps that give clear instructions on how to handle accidents and emergencies. The New Zealand Red Cross app preloads content, so it is useful even if you have no reception or internet access.



eLearning Modules

Test your Building Code knowledge and gain CPD points.

Upskill a knowledge gap at a time and place that suits you with 16 self-paced, interactive learning modules. Each one takes approximately 20 minutes and includes a self-assessment component that can be submitted as part of your CPD activity log.

Each module costs **\$8.50**

Get started today!

BRANZ Learning
eLearning Modules

branz.nz/e-learning | Technical Helpline 0800 80 80 85
Inspiring the industry to provide better buildings for New Zealanders

Although BRANZ has made every attempt to ensure the accuracy of its information, it provides generic advice only, and BRANZ accepts no liability for any loss or damage incurred. Opinions expressed in *Builder's Mate* do not necessarily reflect the views of BRANZ.
Standards referred to can be purchased from Standards New Zealand. Tel: 0800 782 632 or www.standards.co.nz.

©BRANZ Ltd, October 2016.

www.branz.nz