



GUIDELINE

JUNE 2004



FREE MONTHLY UPDATE ON BUILDING ISSUES PREPARED BY BRANZ
AND FUNDED BY THE BUILDING RESEARCH LEVY

To those who have given time and effort and responded to our reader survey last month, sincere thanks. For those who haven't there is still time to send your survey form to BRANZ before we assess the collective view.

STEEL BENDERS

Recently we have been made aware of a popular portable hand-operated reinforcing steel cutter / bender that uses the same sized mandrel for all bends made in bars up to its maximum capacity of 16mm diameter bars. The mandrel is 34mm in diameter and is too small to allow any commonly used rebar to be bent to comply with NZS 3109, which is the Acceptable Solution, and therefore the Building Code. The Standard sets the requirements for the minimum diameter of rebar bends. In addition to having differing values for plain and deformed bars, stirrups and ties have differing requirements compared with all other bars. A 12mm deformed bar being bent as a stirrup needs to be bent around a mandrel with a minimum diameter of 4D, i.e., 48mm. The same bar used as general reinforcing must be bent using a larger 5D or 60mm mandrel, nearly twice the diameter of the mandrel provided as part of the bender.

The problem in bending bars too tightly is that they may be strained to a degree that significantly weakens them.

Bars bent with this equipment are relatively easy to detect and they, or indeed concrete proven to contain such bars, will very likely be rejected by Building Inspectors or supervising professionals.

There is available, however, a bender that uses an 80mm mandrel, which has been brought to the attention of the BIA and they will be providing further comment on the bender in a future issue of *BIA News*.

WEATHERTIGHT SOLUTIONS, VOLUME 1: WEATHERBOARDS

The revisions for E2/AS1 have been completed and in anticipation of its availability later this month, we are suspending the availability of *Weathertight Solutions, Volume 1, Weatherboards* and our Good Practice Guide *Good Timber Cladding Practice* while we bring them up to date. The alterations will include details on cavities and sill flashing in line with E2/AS1. We will let you know when they have been revised and are available so that those with the weathertight solutions (loose-leaf ring-binder) volume can bring their existing document up to date by purchasing the additional material. Both revised documents will be available at a special price in a few months.

FLIERS, BROCHURES, AND POSTERS

Intended as handy brief references, to raise awareness, as a means of clarification for customers, and to provoke discussion, these pieces of information are not substitutes for the formal documents or standards that provide the appropriate information in full. For manufacturers and designers in particular, an understanding of the formal documentation is vital. *Guideline* has been told of consent applications and specifications referencing such explanatory information as information to support consent applications. The BRANZ poster on timber treatment that was sent out with the last copy of *BUILD* magazine, for example, is designed as a means of explaining the main treatment requirements and not as a definitive explanation. It has no legal status as a compliance document, and we recommend referring to NZS 3602 and NZS 3640 for these details.

If you need further copies of the BRANZ timber treatment poster they may be obtained free by contacting the BRANZ Bookshop 0800 80 80 85 (press 2).

FUMES FROM LOSP TREATED TIMBER

When this treatment method is used in confined spaces, the fumes given off can be a serious hazard. Some LOSP treatments are now utilising a vegetable oil in conjunction with the organic solvent to reduce the amount of vapour that is given off.

BRANZ EDUCATION

CITE Training Courses

The next series of Building Compliance for IQPs and Adjudication courses are scheduled to start again in August. Please visit the website: www.branz.co.nz (CITE Industry Training) to get the list of dates and venues. Don't forget that early-bird specials may apply. More in the next issue of *Guideline*.

Seminar

Building Weathertightness: New Solutions

This is a joint BIA/BRANZ seminar presenting the content of the new E2/AS1 – External moisture, Acceptable Solution – and it is filling fast!!

To register, ring Gail King on 04 237 1170 or register online at www.branz.co.nz.