

CORRECTION: MAY *GUIDELINE* 'NAILS AND THEIR DURABILITY'

Contrary to what was stated in the May *Guideline* a number of new timber treatments which contain much higher levels of copper may, according to a research project just completed, result in an increased risk of fixing corrosion. Specifiers must ensure that fixings are correctly specified for the type of treated timber being used to reduce the potential risk of corrosion affecting the fixings. For example, stainless steel or silicon bronze fixings are recommended for naturally corrosive timbers such as cedar and redwood when used externally.

GLASS SAFETY

The New Zealand Building Code (NZBC) classifies glass as a "Hazardous building material". According to the NZBC Acceptable Solution (F2/AS1), glazing subject to human impact must comply with NZS 4223.3: 1999 *Code of practice for glazing in buildings – human impact safety requirements*. Safety glazing materials are those that reduce the likelihood of cutting and piercing injuries resulting from human impact.

NZS 4223.3: 1999 requires all safety glass to be permanently marked.

For more information and an easy-to-use flowchart for choosing the right glass for any situation, see the window industry website www.wanz.org.nz/Glass%20Files/human_impact_safety.htm

Bathrooms (with their risk of slipping and the likelihood of hot water spraying on cold glass) are an especially high-risk area requiring safety glass, since most glass-related accidents in bathrooms are potentially very serious.

DEBATE IS GOOD

Again in the May *Guideline*, we highlighted some aspects of construction that did not show a great amount of thought. One reader has replied to Item 3, namely "a ramp leading to the front door of an accommodation unit where the grooves in the timber decking ran parallel to the ramp".

Our reader writes: "Item 3 implies that everything would have been fine if the grooves were running across the ramp. However, this direction would not appear to comply with NZBC D1 Acceptable Solution AS1 Table 2, where you will note that 'grooved' (i.e. profiled) boards do not comply when used on steps and ramps, either across or along the access route".

Guideline replies: Grooved timber laid parallel to the direction of travel is more slippery when wet than plain boards in all situations and, as described, certainly does not meet the performance requirements specified in D1 Access Routes. Surfaces for ramps are deemed to comply if they meet the slip resistance requirements of Table 2 D1/AS1 or can be shown by test to provide sufficient slip resistance (D1/VM1). The slip resistance of grooved timber can vary widely, so Table 2 does allow its use on a ramp only when the specific slip resistance of the board has been determined by test.

SUBMISSIONS REQUESTED

The Department of Building and Housing has released a consultation document on proposed dam safety regulations. Legislation introduced with the Building Act 2004 covers dam construction and safety management for large dams.

Smaller dams are not affected by the dam safety scheme. The regulations will apply to reservoirs of any fluid under constant pressure that has a depth of at least 3 m and a volume of at least 20,000 cu m (about the capacity of 5–6 Olympic-sized swimming pools).

Dam owners and those with an interest in dam safety have been asked for feedback on the proposals, which can be viewed on the Department's website. To receive a hard copy, call 0800 242 243 or contact info@dbh.govt.nz stating 'Dam Safety Consultation' in the subject line. Submissions close 31 August 2006.

NZS 3604 AMENDMENT 2

Amendment 2 to NZS 3604 has now been released by Standards New Zealand. The Standard, including Amendment 2, can be downloaded from their website (cost applies).

The amendments to NZS 3604 have resulted from the recent Amendment 4 to NZS 3603. Changes were required because structural and framing timbers were not reliably achieving the engineering properties (stiffness and strength) that were originally specified in the Standard.

The key changes in Amendment 2 to NZS 3604 are to the tables used to select framing timbers for given use and load situations. The Amendment has also made a number of minor corrections to NZS 3604 and replaced the term "Territorial Authority" with "Building Consent Authority".

CITE Future Events

<p><u>CITE Weathertight Design</u> Auckland Week 1: 24-26 July 2006 Week 2: 21-25 Aug 2006 <i>Cost: \$3,937.50 incl. GST</i></p>	<p><u>CITE Fire Design</u> Auckland Week 1: 8-11 Aug 2006 Week 2: 12-15 Sep 2006 <i>Cost: \$3,375 incl. GST</i></p>
<p><u>CITE Domestic Sprinkler Design</u> 15-16 Aug 2006 – Auckland 5 - 6 Sep 2006 – Christchurch <i>Cost: \$956.25 incl. GST</i></p>	<p><u>CITE Adjudication</u> Christchurch 14-18 August 2006 <i>Cost: \$2,250 incl. GST</i></p>

Contact Natasha Breen, CITE Coordinator, phone 04 238 1291 or email BRANZCITE@branz.co.nz.

SEMINARS

Building Blocks – a seminar presentation on solid masonry construction is well underway.

Centres being visited are: July 3 Napier, 4 Palmerston North, 5 New Plymouth, 6 Wanganui, 10 Timaru, 11 Greymouth, 12 Christchurch, 17 Invercargill, 18 Queenstown, 19 Oamaru, 20 Dunedin, 24 Manukau, 25 Hamilton, 26 Rotorua, 27 Tauranga, 31 Masterton and August 1 Trentham.

Online registration is now available on www.branz.co.nz. Please note that these registrations will close three working days before each seminar.

For more details contact Gail King, Seminar Coordinator, phone 04 237 1170 or email GailKing@branz.co.nz.