



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

STAPLES

A question was asked of Eddie on the BRANZ Helpline about using stainless steel staples to fix the galvanised mesh used to reinforce stucco. NZS 4251 *Solid plastering* Part 1, Clause 4.3.5.1 of the Standard states that “the reinforcement shall be fixed with hot-dip galvanised nails or type 304 or 316 stainless steel staples”.

While stainless steel and zinc are well separated on the electro-galvanic table (usually a precursor for avoiding use together), the staples do not cause a corrosion problem because they are small in relation to the mesh.

A similar situation is where stainless steel screws are regularly used to connect the frame components of an aluminium window.

Note that staples for fixing mesh in stucco must be sized to provide sufficient pull-out resistance to ensure the mesh is held in place once the plaster has been applied.

DETERMINATIONS

An application for a DBH determination can only be made to solve an issue or dispute about Building Code compliance. A determination is binding, but it can be appealed on points of law only.

General determination information and a list of resolved determinations can be found on the DBH website:
www.bulding.dbh.govt.nz/e/publish/determinations.shtml.

READ ALL THE RELEVANT BITS

The fine print is usually the bit we don't read, yet it is the most likely part of any information that can come back and bite us. It's the same with reading documents like E2/AS1 or NZS 3604. When deciphering a particular requirement read the text (plus any cross-referenced clauses) – and any supporting figure or table (plus the notes to the table) – so you are able to absorb all the information relevant to your particular concern.

One example about E2/AS1 is related to waterproof decks. Not only is the choice limited under the Acceptable Solution to butyl rubber or EPDM, the material used on a walk-on deck must be at least 1.5 mm thick.

LIMITATIONS ON USE

One of the key aspects of building material selection is where that material is NOT suitable for use. When reading manufacturer's literature or a product appraisal, always check for the exclusions or limitations on that product's use. Many products used in the building industry have limits placed on the particular use, whether it is a particular environment or location on a building. One example commonly seen is the use of profiled steel roofing where the underside of the cladding is exposed. This type of use is not typically covered by the manufacturer's warranty, because the exposed surface does not get rain-washed and therefore the risk of corrosion is much higher.

VERTICAL CORRUGATED METAL

Did you know that under E2/AS1, while vertical corrugate profile metal wall cladding can be direct-fixed, a closer is required at the bottom of the wall cladding. Figure 93 of E2/AS1 shows the requirement.

If self-drilling screws are used to fix profiled zinc/aluminium alloy-coated steel they must be hot-dip galvanised to at least Class 4 as defined by AS 3566 Part 2.

NEW PUBLICATION

Late in May 2006, BRANZ will release *Timber Cladding Good Practice Guide* (2nd edition). This larger version has been rewritten to reflect changes in E2/AS1.

To be one of the first to know when it is available for sale, join the BRANZ Bookclub by emailing HelenAnderson@branz.co.nz with Bookclub in the subject line. Bookclub members are among the first to be informed of new publications and receive exclusive offers.

CITE Future Events

- ★ CITE Weathertight Design
Week 1: 22–24 May – Taupo
Week 2: 12–16 June – Taupo
\$3,500 excl. GST (\$3937.50 incl. GST)
- ★ CITE Plumbing Inspection
Week 1: 19–23 June – Auckland
Week 2: 17–21 July – Auckland
\$2,500 excl. GST (\$2,812.50 incl. GST)
- ★ CITE Building Controls
Week 1: 12–16 June – Christchurch
Week 2: 17–21 July – Christchurch
\$3,500 excl. GST (\$3,937.50 incl. GST)
- ★ CITE Fire Design
Week 1: 20–23 June – Wellington
Week 2: 25–28 July – Wellington
\$3,000 excl. GST (\$3,375 incl. GST)

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

SEMINARS

Work is starting on the preparation for the next seminar series – *Building Blocks* – a presentation on solid masonry construction. Seminars kick off in mid-June so watch this space for further details.

Online registration will be available from 15 May on www.branz.co.nz. Please note that online registrations will close three working days before each seminar.

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