

Untreated timber options for framing

The options available for the use of untreated timber for structural purposes are given in B2/AS1 incorporating Amendment 7 and NZS 3602:2003 *Timber and wood-based products for use in building*.

Amendment 7 to B2/AS1 removed from NZS 3602 the use of untreated radiata pine as framing. B2/AS1 Amendment 7 does allow the use of untreated Douglas fir provided all 10 conditions given in paragraph 3.2.2.2 are met. B2/AS1 is available for free download from the [DBH website](#).

Options for using species other than pine or Douglas fir for framing are given in the tables in NZS 3602.

Compliance documents – end of transition period

From 1 February 2012, the transition period where more than one version of the Acceptable Solution may be used for compliance ceases for B1/AS1 *Structure* and E2/AS1 *External moisture*.

All consent applications submitted from 1 February that use either of these Acceptable Solutions as the means of compliance must be in accordance with:

- B1/AS1 incorporating Amendment 11
- E2/AS1 third edition incorporating Amendment 5.

Previous versions of the two Acceptable Solutions are no longer deemed-to-comply solutions for Code compliance.

Also from 1 February, B1/AS2 for timber barriers is withdrawn. A guidance document [Guidance on barrier design](#) for designers, manufacturers and installers of barriers is now available on the DBH website.

It explains how to design, install and maintain New Zealand Building Code (NZBC)-compliant barriers. Based on the loading demands of AS/NZS 1170 *Structural design actions*, it covers a range of materials that are now commonly used for barriers. It is applicable to:

- barriers to decks, stairs and landings

- walls, glazing (including screens and full-height glazing), fences and other building elements intended to safeguard against a fall of 1 metre or more.

NZS 3604:2011 Timber-framed buildings

From 1 February, NZS 3604:2011 becomes the cited document in B1/AS1 as the only deemed-to-comply solution for the structural design of light timber-framed buildings.

Retrofitting of insulation to external walls requires a building consent

Before fitting any insulation material into exterior walls, a building consent must be obtained before the work is started.

Schedule 1 of the Building Act, which lists the work that does not require a building consent says in clause (jg) that: Insulation may be fitted to walls of an existing building except:

- a) external walls
- b) internal walls that are fire separation walls.

Fitting of insulation to existing external walls may have implications with respect to weathertightness, structural bracing and wiring condition. Insulation fitted to an existing fire-rated wall may adversely affect fire safety properties.

Building work not requiring a building consent

Schedule 1 of the Building Act and the DBH document [A guide to building work that does not require a building consent](#) issued in December 2010 outlines building work that can be carried out without obtaining a building consent.

NZS 4218:2009 calculator on the BRANZ website

The [NZS 4218:2009 calculator](#) on the BRANZ website has now been modified to allow designers who have recently upgraded their computers to access the drop-down menus.

There has also been an addition of a window and door schedule to cover vertical glazing. This addition allows the user to input all doors and windows on a separate sheet, and their values are automatically calculated into the program.

Clearance from gas installations

When designing, specifying and installing gas appliances, the minimum requirements that must be met are given in NZS 5261:2003 *Gas installations* and G11/AS1.

These documents specify the criteria applicable to the installation of gas meters, appliances and flues (refer NZS 5261 Figure 3) such as:

- the required distances from windows for appliances
- separation required between flue terminals (Table 16) and other building elements such as eaves, windows, air inlets, electrical switchboards or meters
- the splashback requirements for gas hobs
- location requirements for gas containers (NZS 5261 Appendix G).

New BRANZ publications

New editions of the BRANZ [House Building Guide](#) (updated to reflect the changes in NZS 3604 and E2/AS1) and [Selecting Timber](#) are now available for purchase.

Revised DBH publication

The DBH has recently published the [Revised guidance on repairing and rebuilding houses affected by the Canterbury earthquake sequence](#) (November 2011), which updates the previously issued document *Guidance on repairing and rebuilding houses affected by the Canterbury earthquake sequence*.

BRANZ Seminars 2012

Post-earthquake fire protection systems

All of New Zealand should be aware of the impact on passive and active fire protection systems of catastrophic events such as the Canterbury earthquake. There is much to be learned about the structural performance of buildings and possible resulting fires after an earthquake. The seminar will also cover how people responded in an emergency evacuation.

This seminar will help attendees to understand and raise awareness of:

- what happened in the Canterbury earthquakes
- areas of concern – what worked and what didn't
- what could have happened if fires had got out of control
- structural fire protection

- regulations and whether they are pitched at the right level
- the balance between active and passive fire protection
- post-earthquake structural/passive fire performance
- compliance requirements.

Dates and venues for this first seminar are:

Dunedin	1 Feb	Municipal Chambers
Christchurch	2 Feb	Sudima Hotel Christchurch Airport
Wellington	3 Feb	Amora Hotel
Napier	7 Feb	War Memorial Conference Centre
Tauranga	8 Feb	The Sebel Trinity Wharf
Albany	9 Feb	Harbour Function Centre
Ellerslie	10 Feb	Ellerslie Events Centre

These seminars will run from 1.00pm to 4.00pm, cost is \$87.00 and online registration via the BRANZ website is now open – go to www.branz.co.nz/seminar_register.

Learnings from the Canterbury earthquake

The second 2012 seminar will be a 2-hour presentation that will cover:

- what happened in the Canterbury earthquakes, with emphasis on structural performance
- the on-going understanding of which buildings performed and those that did not
- why the damage occurred
- the role of the Building Code
- what regulations might need to change.

Dates and venues for this second seminar are:

Tauranga	12 March	1.00 pm
Hamilton	13 March	1.00 pm
Albany (Note am start)	14 March	9.00 am
Auckland City	14 March	1.00 pm
Napier	15 March	1.00 pm
Dunedin	19 March	1.00 pm
Wellington	20 March	1.00 pm
Palmerston North	21 March	1.00 pm

The cost for this seminar is \$69.00 and online registration will be available in mid-February.

Guideline is a free monthly update on building issues prepared by BRANZ and funded by the Building Research Levy.

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