NZS 3604 Christchurch seminars – change of venue
Details for the two Christchurch seminars have changed from those originally advertised in the seminar brochure that was mailed out. The first session will now be held on Wednesday 30 March at the earlier time of 12.00–3.45 pm at Chateau on the Park. A second session will be scheduled for late May or June (details to follow).

Register now for the first Christchurch seminar at www.branz.co.nz/seminar_register

Timber framing – simplification of treatment requirements
The Minister of Building and Construction has formally announced changes to the treatment requirements for framing that make the correct choice of treated timber framing simpler. The changes are identified in Amendment 7 to B2/AS1, which has an effective date of 4 April 2011.

The key change is that there will be a single class of timber treatment – H1.2 – for almost all enclosed timber framing (internal walls, external walls and roof framing). This replaces the current requirement for the use of H3.1 treated timber as defined in NZS 3602 in higher-risk situations. Research has shown that H1.2 boric treatment can provide an equivalent level of protection to H3.1 LOSP treatment, but it is still important that timber remains dry in service. Untreated Douglas fir can be used, but only for houses of a defined low-risk design. (The definition of a low-risk design is covered in clause 3.2.2.2 of Amendment 7 to B2/AS1.)

H3.2 treated timber must still be used for cantilevered deck joists and framing as a prudent safety precaution, as cantilevered decks depend more critically on the strength of the timber to prevent collapse. H3.1 treated timber is still required for cavity battens.

Amendment 7 contains Tables 1A and 2A which replace the corresponding Tables 1 and 2 in NZS 3602. Tables 1A and 2A are to be read in conjunction with NZS 3602 sections 108 to 111 inclusive, with the amendments in Paragraph 3.2.2.3 of Amendment 7. Other references to radiata pine and Douglas fir solid timber in NZS 3602, including Table 1 categories 'A', & 'B'; Table 2 category 'A'; and Table 3 are unaltered.

However, there is a transition period to allow industry to adjust to the change. Until 30 June 2011, Amendment 6 to B2/AS1 may also be used to show compliance, but Amendment 7 must be used from 1 July.

The current BRANZ seminar making its way around the country explains the changes as well as the changes in NZS 3604:2011 *Timber-framed buildings*.

NZS 3604:2011 *Timber framed buildings*
The completely new edition of NZS 3604 is now available. While many current projects will be designed in accordance with the 1999 version of the standard, new work should be designed following the 2011 version. As the 2011 version is a completely new document, you will need to purchase a new one. There are changes on all pages so it is not possible to purchase replacement pages. It's also not possible to use information from both the old and new versions – it's either one or the other – and only the 2011 version can be used once it becomes cited in the compliance documents, which is likely to be in July.

A special purchase price for the standard is available when registering for the BRANZ 3604 seminar currently being presented.

What is a 'modern' building?
The New Zealand Society for Earthquake Engineering says that, to be considered a 'modern' building in terms of earthquake performance, it must be constructed after the New Zealand Building Act 1991 and consequential Building Regulations 1992, including the Loadings Code of Practice NZS 4203:1992.

LBP CPD points
For those of you who are licensed building practitioners, the DBH website lists annual requirements for continuing professional development (CPD), how you can accumulate points plus the evidence and records that you need to keep – see www.dbh.govt.nz/lbp-skills-maintenance. On www.dbh.govt.nz/lbp-approved-activities-by-registrar there is a list of activities approved as suitable by the registrar, and the CPD points applicable to each activity.

Selecting and detailing flashings
To ensure flashings will perform as expected, factors that need to be considered include:

- material compatibility
- wind exposure and minimum covers
- upstand dimensions and wall cladding cover
- thermal movement
- junctions with adjacent building elements
- stop ends to raked apron and head flashings.

Key E2/AS1 references for designers include:

- Sections 4.0, 5.0 and 6.0.
- Tables 21 and 22 for material compatibility in run-off and direct contact situations.

- Table 7 for flashing dimensions for buildings within the scope of E2/AS1.
- Table 20 for flashing material options.
- Figures 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 plus flashing details included in the individual roof and wall cladding sections.

Installing factory-painted steel cladding and flashings

- **Do** protect material on site from wetting to prevent storage stain as a result of water getting between the sheets.
- **Do not** cut material using angle grinders, circular metal saws or friction cut-off wheels – hot swarf (fine metal particles from cutting or drilling) can land in the paint and melt into it, which will promote corrosion.
- **Do** use sharp drill bits to reduce the heat of the swarf when drilling.
- **Always** remove all traces of swarf and nibbler cutting debris from the roof and gutters at the completion of each day's work.
- **Do not** use acid amine cure sealants – where used, sealants must be neutral cure and specifically designed for use with factory-coated steel.
- **Avoid** the use of site-applied touch-up paint as it will fade to a completely different colour to the roof.
- **Do** replace damaged sheets of flashing lengths.
- **Do not** over-tighten screw fixings or leave them too loose.

Cutting and notching top plates

Where it is necessary to cut or notch a top plate to allow a pipe, waste or vent to pass through, it is generally necessary to strengthen the timber. NZS 3604, in both the 1999 and 2011 versions, outlines the strengthening requirements in clause 8.7.5. There are also proprietary systems available that can be fixed to the top plate to provide the required strengthening.

NZS 3604:2011 and Timber Treatment Seminar

Dates, venues and online registration for this important seminar are available on the BRANZ website. Discounted copies of NZS 3604 can be ordered with your seminar registration.

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

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