ALF 3.1 no longer available
BRANZ has withdrawn the ALF 3.1 online thermal calculation tool from our website because the tool was based on outdated calculations for the building performance index (BPI) and for the schedule and calculation methods for NZS 4218.
All thermal design calculations must now be done using ALF 3.2 (www.branz.co.nz/alf) to calculate the BPI for building consent purposes.

Window details E2/AS1 direct-fixed cladding – *Builder's Mate* 50
Page 3 of Builder's Mate 50 showed a sill tray detail for direct-fixed claddings from the recently amended E2/AS1. This allows flat sill trays, provided:

- the window is supported by frame support blocks sitting on the flashing and packers under the timber reveal
- the sill tray has an end dam or turn-up and an upstand along the back edge.

The Builder's Mate 50 article also said that openings need to be bigger but did not say why. Amendment 5 to E2/AS1 changed the jamb detail for aluminium windows installed into a direct-fixed cladding system to incorporate two 45 x 20 mm vertical packers that are fixed to the face of the doubling or trimming stud. The one on the inside is fitted tightly between the lintel and the sill trimmer to provide support to the lining material. The second on the outside is stopped 20–25 mm short of the sill trimmer to:

- allow the flashing to be fitted to the full width of the sill trimmer without the need to notch studs as has been done previously
- provide support to the edge of the cladding – trim the cladding to the packer rather than to the trimming stud so that sufficient window flange cover is achieved.

On site, it is advised that:

- the additional battens to the jambs are installed before cladding is installed – this avoids the risk of the cladding being trimmed to the stud, which is short of the actual window opening
- openings are measured for window and door manufacture after the battens are installed to allow windows of the correct size to be manufactured.

Flooring in wet areas
Particleboard flooring and MDF flooring overlays installed in wet areas must be protected from the moisture by an impervious and easily cleaned surface in areas exposed to water splash (E3/AS1 3.1.1).
Where vinyl is used as that impervious finish, it is required to be a sheet material with sealed joints – that is, heat or solvent welded.
It is reasonably common for H3 CCA-treated plywood, with its higher resistance to moisture damage, to be used as the flooring or flooring overlay in bathrooms and laundries (and is probably a good idea in kitchens as well) to improve the flooring's resistance to moisture – floor finishes are still required to meet the impervious and easily cleaned requirements of E3/AS1. H3 CCA-treated plywood will deteriorate with prolonged exposure to moisture.
Where vinyl sheet or tiles are installed with unsealed butt joints, any opening of those joints exposes a substrate behind to moisture. For particleboard and MDF, this significantly increases the risk of swelling and damage.

Deck fixings
Where decking timber or the joists that decking is attached to are treated with either CuAz (copper azole, preservative code 58) or ACQ (alkaline copper quarternary, preservative code 90), NZS 3604:2011 requires that the fixings be a minimum of 304 stainless steel. Hot-dip galvanised fixings may still be used to achieve a durability of not less than 15 years with CCA-treated H3.2 decking or joists (copper chrome arsenate, preservative code 01 or 02) provided the nails have a coating weight of 320 grams per square metre. If this coating weight cannot be achieved, using stainless steel fixings is recommended.

Window labelling
To ensure windows will perform in the wind zone they are located in, E2/AS1 references NZS 4211:2008 *Specification for the performance of windows*.
Windows that have been tested and have met the requirements of the standard should be identified with a clearly visible label that states:

- the manufacturer's name or brand name
- the standard number (NZS 4211:2008)
- the wind rating that the window has been tested to (and therefore meets)
- the air infiltration level.

We have been made aware that a number of windows are being supplied without any labelling, and this is likely to hold up the issuance of a Code Compliance Certificate, as there is no proof of performance.

Cleaning kwila
Where extractive stains occur on kwila decking, we have been told that they can be removed using milk. If milk is used, all traces of it must be washed from the deck after the stain is removed.

DBH notification of minor amendments
Minor amendments relating to the updating of the referenced standards within the following documents have been announced by the DBH:

- *Building Code Handbook*
- *Compliance Schedule Handbook* (SS3, SS7, SS12/1, SS14/2, SS15/2, SS15/4)
- C/AS1 *Fire safety*
- D1/AS1 *Access routes*
- E1/AS1 *Surface water*
- E3/AS1 *Internal moisture*
- F6/AS1 *Visibility in escape routes*
- F7/AS1 *Warning systems*
- G1/AS1 *Personal hygiene*
- G2/AS1 *Laundering*
- G4/AS1 *Ventilation*
- G5/AS1 *Indoor environment*
- G10/AS1 *Piped services*
- G12/AS1 *Water supplies*
- G12/AS2 *Solar water heating*
- G13/AS1 *Sanitary plumbing*
- G13/AS2 *Drainage*
- G14/VM1 *Industrial liquid waste*
- H1/VM1 *Energy efficiency*
- H1/AS1 *Energy efficiency*

Details of the amendments are listed in the front of each publication on the document history page.

BRANZ Seminars – Stay on top of your game – the B1/AS1 and E2/AS2 changes

Seminars filling fast
Over the last few months, there has been a number of significant changes in the compliance documents for Building Code clauses B1 and E2. This seminar will:

- describe the changes in B1/AS1 and B1/VM1
- introduce the NASH structural design standard for B1 light steel frame
- describe the significant modifications to E2/AS1 and E2/VM1 and why the update was necessary
- introduce the new E2/AS3 for masonry construction
- cover the transitional arrangements that apply to the changes.

You can find more details on the BRANZ website.

Date	Location	Venue
31 October	Invercargill	The Kelvin Hotel
1 November	Queenstown	Heritage Hotel
2 November	Cromwell	Golden Gate Lodge
3 November	Oamaru	Kingsgate Hotel Brydone
4 November	Dunedin	Municipal Chambers
7 November	Hamilton	Claudelands
8 November	New Plymouth	The Devon Hotel
9 November	Wanganui	Kingsgate Hotel
10 November	Palmerston North	The Travelodge
11 November	Masterton	Gateway Motor Inn
14 November	Kaitaia	The Northerner
15 November	Whangarei	Forum North
16 November	Albany	North Harbour Stadium
17 November	Auckland Central	Sky City Convention Centre
18 November	Auckland Mangere	Villa Maria
21 November	Nelson	The Rutherford Hotel
22 November	Blenheim	Marlborough Convention Centre
23 November	Kapiti	The Lindale Centre
24 November	Wellington	Intercontinental Wellington
25 November	Upper Hutt	Silverstream Retreat
28 November	Christchurch	Chateau on the Park
29 November	Christchurch	Chateau on the Park
30 November	Timaru	The Function Centre
1 December	Hokitika	Beachfront Hotel
2 December	Westport	Westport Motor Hotel
5 December	Taupo	Millennium Hotel and Resort Manuels
6 December	Rotorua	Rydges Hotel
7 December	Tauranga	The Sebel Trinity Wharf
8 December	Gisborne	The Emerald Hotel
9 December	Napier	War Memorial Conference Centre

Register now at www.branz.co.nz/seminar_details.

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