

Misuse of BRANZ Appraisals

Building Consent Authorities and product specifiers need to be aware BRANZ Appraisals only relate to the specific product for the specific use defined by the Appraisal. BRANZ Appraisals for Juken Strandboard Flooring and/or The Laminex Group Strandfloor are being used by other organisations to verify the NZBC durability requirements of oriented strand board products from other manufacturers for uses other than flooring, specifically the webs of composite timber I-beams.

The Juken New Zealand and The Laminex Group Appraisals relate to specific products made with specific wood fibres, specific glue types and specific glue loadings that may or may not be the same as other products on the market. They also relate to flooring products only – a product that is used in a particular orientation. The webs of I-beams are used in a completely different orientation and will therefore have different loadings – loadings that were not assessed as part of the BRANZ flooring Appraisals.

It is, of course, for BCAs to determine on reasonable grounds whether or not a particular building solution meets the requirements of the Building Code. All that we want to note and encourage is that those decisions should be based on relevant and comparable information – and we would suggest that an Appraisal of a product that verifies Building Code compliance based on one particular use does not mean that the same product would be Building Code compliant if used in other ways, as is the case in this instance.

Timber treatment

Vigilance is required when checking or purchasing treated timber. We have been made aware that some timber previously treated to H3.1 (which had 'H3.1' and 'keep dry' markings on the timber) is being 'retreated' to H3.2 specification but retains the H3.1 markings.

Anyone accepting or proposing to use this 'retreated' timber must get verification of the treatment and its suitability for the situation it will be used in. BCAs will require some documentation to this effect or the timber may have to be removed if it is in a situation that requires a minimum treatment level of H3.2

Floor diaphragms – T&G edged sheeting

The manufacturer's specific fixing requirements must be followed for sheet flooring materials with a nylon tongue jointing system that are used as a floor diaphragm. Typically they require:

- nailing only to a specific pattern and fixing centres – screws are not suitable because of their lack of ductility

- joists at a maximum of 450 mm centres
- sheets installed at right angles to the joists
- sheet ends supported on a joist – because there is a tongue, sheet edge support is not required.

Always check the specific sheet manufacturer's technical requirements before starting to lay the flooring.

Timber-framed chimneys

There is increasing use of metal flues installed within timber-framed chimneys in new building work and where an existing brick chimney has been removed to roof level. A number of specific requirements need to be incorporated into their design and construction. For this type of construction, it is essential that:

- vents are installed (and suitably weatherproofed) at the top of the timber structure to allow heat from the metal flues to dissipate as the risk of fire is greater if heat can build up within the structure – typically, these vents are installed on and penetrate the vertical face of the chimney cladding
- manufacturers' clearances between the flue (and any inbuilt fireplace) and the timber framing are maintained.

Insulation

We are still seeing poorly installed wall and ceiling insulation with gaps and folds that significantly reduce the effectiveness of the insulation. There is no point in the client paying for higher R-value insulation if it is poorly installed and the benefits are lost. Gaps around the edge of the insulation can reduce the effective R-value by around 3% for every 1 mm of gap. This means if you have gaps of, say, 16 mm, the R-value of the installed insulation is approximately halved.

Glazing

We have had calls again about unmarked glass being supplied for areas where safety glass is required. In one case, the BCA inspector who identified the lack of markings was told that the supplier will put whatever marking they require on the glass. Clearly, this is not a reputable supplier. Using a supplier who is a member of the Glass Association of New Zealand (GANZ) is recommended.

Each panel of safety glass is required to be permanently marked – stick-on labels are not acceptable – with the following minimum requirements:

- The name, registered trademark or code of the manufacturer or supplier.

- The type of safety glass material (e.g. T for toughened, L for laminated).
- The standard to which the glazing material has been tested.
- If applicable, the classification relating to the impact behaviour (e.g. A for grade A safety glass and B for grade B safety glass).

All information relating to the use of safety glass where human impact is likely is given in NZS 4223 Part 3. For more information and if in doubt, contact a GANZ member.

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

Over the last few months a number of significant changes in the compliance documents for Building Code clauses B1 and E2. This seminar (more content detail is on the BRANZ website or in the seminar flyer) 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.

For online registration and more detail on the content go to www.branz.co.nz/seminar_details

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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	Claudlands
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	Kaitia	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