



Building Newsflash

Proposed Amendments to the Fire Safety Standard

As a consequence of the Childers backpacker hostel fire in June 2000, the Fire Safety Standard was introduced for budget accommodation buildings built or approved before 1 January 1992. Owners of budget accommodation buildings must comply with the technical fire safety provisions in the Fire Safety Standard.

As a result of feedback from building owners, local councils and fire industry professionals, we have been working on some amendments to the Fire Safety Standard.

The proposed amendments will simplify interpretation of the standard and will provide clarification on:

- Emergency lighting;
- Exit signs;
- Early warning systems;
- Travel distance;
- Fire hydrants;
- Emergency escape; and
- Definitions in the standard.

A major amendment to the Standard includes a new definition of 'evacuation impairment' replacing 'disability'. More detail is also provided on the support required for the evacuation impaired.

The proposed amendments will assist the owners of budget accommodation buildings to meet their obligation in complying with the provisions of the Fire Safety Standard by the 30 June 2005 legislative deadline to complete structural modifications to buildings.

For a full list of the proposed amendments and a copy of the proposed new Fire Safety Standard go to www.lgp.qld.gov.au/firesafety

For further information call us on 1800 682 021.