

Building and Plumbing Newsflash 553

Repeal of Queensland Development Code parts

Purpose

To advise that the following will take effect from 1 May 2016:

- the repeal of three parts of the Queensland Development Code (QDC), being:
 - Mandatory Part (MP) 2.4—Construction in bushfire prone areas
 - MP 5.1—Workplaces
 - MP 5.8—Workplaces involving spray painting; and
- the 2016 version of the National Construction Code (NCC).

Background

Repeal of QDC parts

MP 2.4

MP 2.4 commenced on 1 May 2015 and varies the provisions of Volume Two of the NCC to allow the use of the National Association of Steel Framed Housing (NASH) Standard 2014 for steel framed construction in bushfire areas in Queensland.

MP 2.4 was introduced as an interim measure until the existing Queensland variation under the NCC for requirements in bushfire prone areas could be amended to include a reference to the NASH Standard.

As the variation has been updated as part of the NCC 2016, MP 2.4 will no longer be required from 1 May 2016.

MP 5.1 and MP 5.8

MP 5.1 and MP 5.8 have been in place since 23 August 2002. The QDC parts aim to ensure that workplaces are designed and constructed to provide suitable standards of health and safety for employees and to safeguard people from illness or injury from spray painting using hazardous substances, respectively.

Following industry consultation, it was identified that the legislative requirements of MP 5.1 and MP 5.8 have since been integrated into Queensland's work health and safety laws. The QDC parts will therefore be repealed to reduce unnecessary duplication and any potential confusion about which requirements apply.

NCC 2016

The 2016 version of the NCC takes effect on 1 May 2016. The NCC now be accessed for free online by registering at the Australian Building Codes Board's website:

www.abcb.gov.au/User/Register.

Key changes

Key changes under the NCC 2016 include changes to the requirements for smoke alarms in class 10a buildings, new provisions for timber mid-rise buildings, as well as providing clarification about stair goings and rises and the definition of effective height.

More information about the NCC 2016 amendments can be found at the [Australian Building Codes Board website](#).

Queensland variations

The NCC 2016 will include a number of amendments to Queensland-specific variations:

- The current variation to Volume 1 relating to requirements for the provision of anchorage points in commercial buildings to allow external maintenance to be carried out safely will be removed. Since its introduction, the variation has been superseded by more relevant provisions in Queensland's work health and safety laws.
- The current variation to Volume 2 for termite risk management that requires two durable notices to be placed in two different prominent locations in new houses will be amended. Only one notice will be required, to be permanently fixed in a prominent location.
- The current variation to Volume 2 relating to slip resistance of stairs, which retains the requirements from the 2013 version of the NCC, will be removed.

Three-year amendment cycle

On 30 May 2014, the Building Ministers' Forum agreed to move to a three year amendment cycle of the NCC. The NCC 2016 is the last edition under the annual amendment cycle, with the next scheduled edition to be published on 1 May 2019. However, industry will still have the opportunity to propose and comment on changes to the NCC. Key dates in the amendment cycle include:

- 1 September 2017—Deadline for submitting Proposals for Change for inclusion in NCC 2019
- February 2018—Public comment period on NCC 2019 commences
- 13 April 2018—Public comment period concludes
- 1 February 2019—Preview of NCC 2019 available
- 1 May 2019—Commencement of NCC 2019.

Contact for further information

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