



Building newsflash number 445

Regulatory impact statement for proposed BCA amendments to reduce slips, trips and falls

Purpose

To advise that the Australian Building Code Board's (ABCB) consultation regulatory impact statement (RIS) for reducing the risk of slips, trips and falls in buildings is now available for public comment.

Background

In 2006 the ABCB commissioned research by the Monash University Accident Research Centre about the relationship between slips, trips and falls and the design and construction of buildings.

The report made a number of recommendations and the ABCB is now proposing amendments to BCA Section D of Volume 1 and Part 3.9 of Volume 2 to address a number of issues raised by the report.

Building Code of Australia (BCA) RIS to reduce the risk of slips, trips and falls in buildings

The ABCB's consultation RIS has been published to inform stakeholders of the proposed BCA amendments. The proposal includes:

- requirements to have a handrail installed on at least one side of all private stairways
- reducing the spread between the maximum and minimum going (horizontal) and riser (vertical) dimensions for both public and private stairways
- requirements to have an 865 millimetre high barrier for opening windows where the distance from the floor level to the ground below is greater than one metre
- requirements to have a non-climbable balustrade where the distance from the floor to the ground below is greater than one metre; and
- requirements to limit single steps to not more than 180 millimetres high, including at door thresholds.

The RIS can be viewed on the ABCB's website at www.abcb.gov.au. All comments are to be forwarded to the ABCB at consultationRIS@abcb.gov.au and will be accepted until close of business on Friday 5 November 2010.



Contact for further information

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