



Building Commission

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Imported Structural Plywood Products

The Building Commission has been alerted to the possibility that some imported structural plywood products do not meet the requirements of the Building Code of Australia (BCA).

Requirements

The BCA Volume 2 references 'AS/NZS 2269: Plywood – Structural' for wall cladding and this standard is also referenced by other Australian Standards that are called up in both volumes of the BCA. For example, structural plywood used for flooring, bracing and roof cladding is required to be manufactured in accordance with AS/NZS 2269 for the purposes of achieving compliance with 'AS 1684 - Residential timber-framed construction'.

Concerns

Concern has been raised with respect to non-conforming imported structural plywood products that are entering the Australian market. The products are misrepresenting the timber grade that they achieve.

While the product may state that it is of a particular grade of structural timber (such as F14), the product when tested against the relevant Australian Standards has achieved an overall applicable grade that is significantly less (such as F8).

To prevent inferior products entering the market, importers and local suppliers should have each batch of structural plywood independently tested by an organisation registered with the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) to ensure compliance with the standard.

The end users of the structural plywood (such as builders and consumers) should insist on receiving the certificates of testing for the relevant batches of structural plywood purchased. A copy of such certificates should be forwarded to the certifying building surveyor to ensure compliance with the BCA.

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