



# Building Newsflash

## **Proposed amendments to the Queensland Development Code (QDC), *Mandatory Parts (MP) 2.1 – Fire Safety in Budget Accommodation Buildings and MP 2.2 – Fire Safety in Residential Care Buildings.***

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this Newsflash is to advise of proposed amendments to the *QDC MP 2.1 Fire Safety in Budget Accommodation Buildings* and *MP 2.2 Fire Safety in Residential Care Buildings*.

### **Background**

#### ***MP 2.1 Fire Safety in Budget Accommodation Buildings***

On 30 November 2007, MP 2.1 was amended to specify that automatic self closing door mechanisms are suitable for use as an acceptable solution in supported budget accommodation buildings (see Newsflash 297).

Building Codes Queensland (BCQ) has undertaken a further review of the compliance options for supported budget accommodation buildings. The review investigated the potential to remove the requirement for self closing door mechanisms in small one storey buildings which have compensating fire safety measures in place such as life safety sprinkler and smoke detection systems, minimum support ratios and requirements for evacuation drills.

#### ***MP 2.2 Fire Safety in Residential Care Buildings***

Following the introduction of MP 2.2, stakeholders have requested clarification on whether new single dwellings are covered by the standard.

The definition of a *residential care building* was not intended to apply to small domestic buildings and the Government fire safety strategy put in place following the Childers fire tragedy did not apply to buildings with less than six residents. The definition is proposed to be amended to clarify this issue. In addition, it is proposed to amend the standard to align the small building minimum support ratio requirements with the MP 2.1 amendments mentioned above.

### **Legislation**

*Building Act 1975*

*Building Regulation 2006*

*Queensland Development Code*

## Proposed QDC amendments

### **MP 2.1 - Schedule 3 Part (B)**

Proposed amendments to Schedule 3 Part (B), will allow smaller (one storey) supported budget accommodation buildings which have a sprinkler system and a building wide interconnected smoke detection system, to maintain support ratios of 1:10. The minimum support ratio will apply either in the building or across 500m<sup>2</sup> smoke compartments. Owners of smaller supported budget accommodation buildings will now have the option of removing self closing door mechanisms. Responsible persons may be counted as providing evacuation support across more than one smoke compartment.

### **MP 2.1 - Minimum support ratio**

To complement the proposed amendment to Schedule 3 Part (B), the definition of minimum support ratio will be amended to state responsible persons may be counted in the minimum support ratio in each smoke compartment.

### **MP 2.2 – Residential Care Building definition**

The definition of *residential care building* will specifically exclude buildings that accommodate five or less residents.

### **MP 2.2 – Acceptable Solutions A2**

To align with the proposed changes to MP 2.1 for minimum support ratio requirements in small buildings, MP 2.2 will be amended to allow small buildings to maintain a minimum support ratio of at least 1:10 across smoke compartments generally, and the more stringent requirements for small buildings will be removed.

The proposed amendments are scheduled for introduction by the end of March 2008. Draft copies of the QDC MP 2.1 and 2.2 are available on the Building Codes website at: [Proposed amendments to MP 2.1 & 2.2.](#)

## Contact for further information

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