



Building Newsflash

2005 AMENDMENTS TO THE BCA

Purpose

To provide details of the commencement date for the next edition of the Building Code of Australia (BCA) and highlight major changes.

Background

Amendments to the BCA, prepared by Australian Building Codes Board, commence on 1 May each year. The next edition of the BCA (BCA 2005) has been published and is now available.

At the time of printing BCA 2005, a decision had not been made as to whether it would commence in Queensland on 1 May 2005. Therefore, under the "History of Amendments" heading in the BCA, it is indicated that the commencement date of BCA 2005 for Queensland "is to be advised".

The Queensland Government has since approved the adoption of BCA 2005 and it will commence on 1 May 2005.

Legislation

BCA Volume 1

Amendments to BCA Volume One include:

- A new Part J, which details energy efficiency provisions for class 2 to 4 buildings.
- In D1.12, clarifying that escalators, moving walkways and the like cannot be used to connect storeys in hospitals and aged care buildings because of the high risk to occupants in these buildings in the event of a fire.
- In D1.16, new provisions to address lift industry concerns regarding access to lift pits and emergency egress from plant rooms and lift machine rooms.
- In D2.16 (h), new provisions for the design and construction of wire balustrades.
- In D2.22, enabling re-entry from a fire stair into a storey, where the storey is more than 25m above the ground.
- In E1.5 and Table E1.5, clarifying when a sprinkler system is required to be installed in a whole building or part of a building.
- In E3.2, requiring lifts able to fit a stretcher to be provided, only if the lift serves storeys more than 12m above the ground.
- In E3.7, clarifying that fire service controls only need to be provided in a lift if the lift serves storeys above an effective height of 12m.

BCA Volume 2

Amendments to BCA Volume Two include:

- In 1.3.2, clarifying that the area of Class 1b building is the area of all floors measured over the enclosing walls.
- In 3.9.2.3, new provisions for the design and construction of wire balustrades.
- In Part 3.8.1, details of acceptable construction practice for protecting wet areas. The details are consistent with the Australian Standard on wet areas, AS3740.

Details and commentary of all changes to both volumes can be found in the List of Amendments section of the BCA.

The Australian Building Codes Board, in conjunction with the Australian Institute of Building Surveyors, will be holding training sessions on the energy efficiency requirements in April 2005. Further details of the training program will be published soon.

Contact Officer

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