

1.2 MATERIALS AND ASSEMBLIES REQUIRED TO SATISFY PRESCRIBED FIRE HAZARD PROPERTIES

BCA: C1.10, C1.10a
Spec A2.4
References: AS 1530.3
AS 9239.1
AS ISO 9705
AS NZS 3837

PURPOSE

To indicate the suitability or otherwise, of building materials, assemblies, linings and surface finishes to have the ability to resist the spread of flame and generation of smoke.

REQUIREMENTS

General fire hazard properties provide a means of assessing building materials and components, using standard tests as outlined in AS 1530.3, for their performance according to:-

- a) Their tendencies to ignite.
- b) Their tendencies to propagate flame.
- c) The heat they release once ignition has occurred, and
- d) Their tendencies to release smoke.

Fire hazard properties for floors, ceilings and walls provide a means of assessing materials and components for their performance according to:-

- For floors; critical radiant heat flux provided by testing the material in accordance with AS 9239.1.
- For walls and ceilings; a group number determined by physical testing of the material in accordance with AS ISO 9705; or prediction in accordance with clause 3 of Specification A2.4 tested in accordance with AS/NZS 3837.

Using the above criteria, selection of suitable material can be made to fulfil a proposed class of building. Testing and selection of materials takes place prior to construction and finishing of new building work.

Building owners must ensure that any new material introduced to their premises conforms to the requirements of the *Building Code of Australia*.

MAINTENANCE CHECKS

It is recommended that the relevant building surveyor require an annual inspection of the building. This is to ensure that materials that do not conform to the fire hazard indices have been introduced or occur in the premises. The owner may delegate this function to another person or body where necessary or appropriate.

The manufacturer or supplier of these materials should be able to advise whether their product conforms.

MAINTENANCE RECORDS

To ensure compliance with the *Building Regulations 2006*, owners of buildings must record the details of their yearly inspections.

Details that must be recorded include:-

- a) Identification of the premises; and
- b) Site address; and
- c) Name of the building owner; and
- d) Date the inspection was carried out; and
- e) Any non-conforming materials identified; and
- f) Steps taken to remove or replace the non-conforming material; and
- g) Name and signature of the person carrying out the inspection.

A log sheet to record this information is included in Appendix C of this manual.