BUILDING PERFORMANCE

Consultation: Building Product Specifications

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) would like your feedback on the draft first edition of the Building Product Specifications, which can be viewed here:

https://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/30752-building-product-specifications-pdf

What is the Building Product Specifications?

The Building Product Specifications is a new legislative instrument that incorporates product standards by reference and sets out other specifications for the use of some building products.

It will be used in conjunction with acceptable solutions and verification methods, and enable currently cited product standards to be updated, and new standards to be added to these compliance pathways, more regularly.

Why is this being introduced?

In April 2025, the *Building (Overseas Building Products, Standards, and Certification Schemes) Amendment Act 2025* was passed, which amends the *Building Act 2004* to reduce barriers for using high-quality building products imported from overseas.

How can the Building Product Specifications be used?

Building Product Specifications cannot be used in isolation to demonstrate compliance with the Building Code. They can only be used to demonstrate compliance for a particular Building Code clause when referenced by an acceptable solution or verification method. Products that comply with the Building Product Specifications must be accepted by Building Consent Authorities when the relevant section of the BPS is cited by an acceptable solution or verification method. Products must be used as intended and within the scope of the relevant acceptable solution or verification method.

Examples of how the Building Product Specifications will be referenced in acceptable solutions and verification methods are provided on the following page.

What is included in the Building Product Specifications?

This first edition of the Building Product Specifications establishes the format and contains some product standards and specifications that have been moved from acceptable solutions and verification methods. Where MBIE has determined that newer versions of standards can be cited or identified alternative standards that are broadly equivalent or higher than current standards, these have been added to this new legislative instrument.

Designers, builders and others can choose to specify products that meet these new standards in building consent applications, but there are no new or increased mandatory requirements. Standards and specifications currently referenced by the acceptable solutions and verification methods will continue to be accepted, though they may now be set out in the Building Product Specifications.

What are we seeking feedback on?

MBIE is seeking feedback on:

- whether you agree that the additional standards in the Building Product Specifications are appropriate for use in New Zealand, and
- any further additional standards you would like us to consider for the next edition of the Building Product Specifications, which will be developed for consultation later this year.

Updating the acceptable solutions and verification methods

A number of acceptable solution and verification method documents will be updated when the Building Product Specifications comes into effect.

Some examples of how these documents will be updated to reference the Building Product Specifications are shown below.

B1 Structure – Acceptable Solution B1/AS1: Welded steel mesh (p.23)

NZS 4229 Grade 500E welded steel mesh *Current text at paragraph 2.1.3*	Where Grade 500E welded steel mesh is specified, it shall meet the requirements of Paragraph 14.0 in B1/VM1.
Welded steel mesh *Updated text to reference the Building Product Specifications*	Where Grade 500E welded steel mesh is specified, it shall meet the requirements of Subsection 2.2.2 of the Building Product Specifications.
Building Product Specifications excerpt (proposed)	2.2.2.2 Welded steel mesh used in slab on-ground floors as part of residential construction shall conform to one of the following standards: a) AS/NZ 4671:2019; or b) ASTM A706/A706M-24 and bars may be substituted for mesh subject to the following requirements: i) minimum yield strength of 550 MPa, and ii) minimum equivalent mesh weight of 2.27 kg/m^2.

C1-6 Protection from Fire – Acceptable Solution C/AS2: Fire stops (p.92)

Fire stops *Current text at paragraph 4.4.2*	Fire stops shall have an FRR of no less than that required for the fire separation within which they are installed, and shall be tested in accordance with Appendix C C5.1.
Fire stops *Updated text to reference the Building Product Specifications*	Fire stops shall have an FRR of no less than that required for the fire separation within which they are installed, and shall be tested in accordance with Paragraph 7.2.1.3 of the Building Product Specifications. *Note: Appendix C C5.1 will be deleted*
Building Product Specifications excerpt (proposed)	7.2.1.3 Fire stops shall be tested: a) in accordance with AS 4072.1:2005; and b) in circumstances representative of their use in service, paying due regard to the size of expected gaps to be fire stopped, and the nature of the fire separation within which they are to be used.

E2 External moisture – Acceptable Solution E2/AS1: Fibre cement sheet backing (p.118)

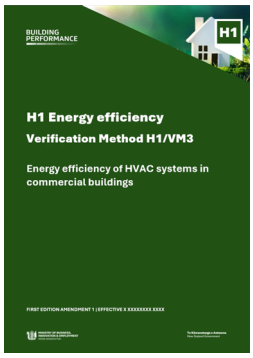
Fibre cement sheet backing *Current text at paragraph 9.3.6.2*	Fibre cement shall: a) Comply with AS/NZS 2908: Part 2, b) Be a minimum of 4.5 mm thick, c) Span no more than 600 mm centres between cavity battens, and d) Be fixed as specified in Clause 4.2.4.5.2 of NZS 4251, except that nails shall: i) be 2.8 mm in diameter, and ii) penetrate framing by 35 mm minimum.
Rigid plaster backings *Updated text to reference the Building Product Specifications*	Fibre cement sheet backing used in stucco cladding systems shall: a) comply with Subsection 3.2.1 of the Building Product Specifications; and b) be a minimum of 4.5 mm thick; and c) span no more than 600 mm centres between cavity battens; and d) be fixed as specified in Clause 4.2.4.5.2 of NZS 4251.1, except that nails shall: i) be 2.8 mm in diameter, and ii) penetrate framing by 35 mm minimum.
Building Product Specifications excerpt (proposed)	3.2.1.2 Fibre-cement products shall conform to one of the following standards: a) AS/NZS 2908.2:2000 and the fibre-cement product shall: i) meet the requirements for Type A sheets, and ii) meet the frost resistance requirements of the freeze-thaw test. b) ISO 8336:2017 and the fibre-cement product shall: i) meet the requirements for Category A sheets with Class 2, 3, 4, or 5 modulus of rupture, for flat fibre-cement weatherboards and fibre-cement sheets used as wall cladding, or ii) meet the requirements for Category B sheets with Class 2, 3, 4, or 5 modulus of rupture, for fibre-cement flat sheets used as rigid backing for stucco plaster cladding. c) BS EN 12467:2012+A2:2018 and the fibre-cement product shall: i) not be boards of Portland or equivalent cement reinforced with fibrous wood particles, and ii) not contain asbestos, and iii) meet the requirements for Category A sheets with Class 2, 3, 4 or 5 modulus of rupture, for flat fibre-cement weatherboards and fibre-cement sheets used as wall cladding, or iv) meet the requirements for Category B sheets with Class 2, 3, 4 or 5 modulus of rupture, for fibre-cement flat sheets used as rigid backing for stucco plaster cladding.

H1 Energy Efficiency – Acceptable Solution H1/AS1: Determining the thermal resistance of building elements (p.13)

Determining the thermal resistance of building elements *Current text at paragraph 2.1.4.2*	The *thermal resistance (R-values)* of insulation materials may be verified by using AS/NZS 4859.1.
Determining the thermal resistance of building elements *Updated text to reference the Building Product Specifications*	The *thermal resistance (R-values)* of insulation materials shall be determined by using the methods in Section 3.5.1 of the Building Product Specifications for the given types of insulation.
Building Product Specifications excerpt (proposed)	3.5.1.2 The thermal resistance (R-value) of insulation materials shall be determined using AS/NZS 4859.1:2018 and the thermal resistance for individual material specimens shall be determined using one or more of the methods in Paragraph 3.5.1.3. 3.5.1.3 The thermal resistance for individual material specimens shall be determined using one or more of the following standards for specific insulation types: a) for loose fill insulation, ASTM C687-24; or b) for vacuum panels, ASTM C1667-15; or c) for any other insulation types excluding loose fill and vacuum panels: i) ASTM C177-19e1, or ii) ASTM C518-21,or iii) ASTM C1363-24, or iv) ISO 8301:1991, or v) ISO 8302:1991, or vi) ISO 8990:1994, or vii) BS EN 12667:2001, or viii) BS EN 12939:2001. 3.5.1.4 When the standards in Paragraph 3.5.1.3 do not provide the thermal resistance in units of m2·K/W: a) multiply the imperial R-value in Rft^2hr/BTU by 0.1761 to convert to $m^2·K/W$; or b) divide 1 by the U-value in $W/(m^2.K)$ to convert to $m^2·K/W$.

Modernising the format of acceptable solutions and verification methods

As acceptable solutions and verification methods are updated to refer to the Building Product Specifications, MBIE will also update these documents to modernise the format and improve consistency across the compliance pathways. Many users of these documents will be familiar with this format, which was first introduced in 2021.



When will the Building Product Specifications come into effect?

Following consultation, MBIE will review submissions and use this feedback to finalise the first edition of the Building Product Specifications. This will be issued by the end of July 2025.

Note: A transition period is not required as the current requirements are not changing.

When will the second edition of the Building Product Specifications be consulted on?

Following publication of the first edition of the Building Product Specifications, MBIE will begin work to identify potential overseas standards and specifications that could be included in the next edition. This will include reviewing suggestions received through consultation on this edition.

Any potential standards and specifications will be assessed to determine whether they require equivalent or better product performance than current requirements before they can be proposed for inclusion in the next edition.

Further information on the second edition, including consultation opportunities, will be provided by MBIE after the first edition is issued.

How to provide feedback

To make a submission on the draft Building Product Specifications, including to provide suggestions of standards for future editions, please:

- use the following online submission form: here: https://www.research.net/r/building-product-specifications-2025, or
- complete the feedback form available here https://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/30753-submission-form-for-building-product-specifications-feedback-doc and send it to MBIE.

Please provide your feedback by **5pm, Monday 23 June 2025.**

Queries

If you have any questions in relation to the Building Product Specifications, including this consultation, please contact Building System Performance at MBIE: building@mbie.govt.nz.