



ADVISORY NOTICE BUILDING

29/04

Advisory Notices are issued to assist in the interpretation of the Development Act 1993

December 2004



TECHNICAL:

Assessing Compliance – fire stopping for plumbing and ventilation services

This Advisory Notice discusses the responsibilities of building surveyors in assessing compliance of plumbing and ventilation services penetrating elements of a building.

BACKGROUND

C3.15 of the Building Code of Australia deals with requirements for services penetrating building elements and references AS 4072.1.

Clause 3.2 of AS4072.1 provides that where a particular penetration ceiling system is intended for use in both horizontal and vertical elements of construction, each orientation shall be tested.

Clause 4.6.2 relevantly provides:

“Floor waste applications. In addition to the requirements of clause 3.2, a penetration ceiling system shall not be used to protect a plastic floor waste system unless it has been tested in that configuration.”

Clause 4.6.4 provides:

“Supplementary testing shall be performed where fittings such as bends or branches are to be mounted within a fire stopping system, since the additional thickness of pipe material could affect the fire resistance of the system.”

DISCUSSION

As a result of the additional requirements specified in clause 4.6 of AS4072.1, it is not sufficient for a building surveyor to be satisfied that a particular penetrating element complies with AS4072.1. Rather, the building surveyor should also be satisfied that the penetrating element has been tested *for the particular application for which the product is to be used.*

If such information is not contained in the certificates of test provided to the building surveyor, the surveyor should require that appropriate test reports (which contain details of the application that has been tested) be produced. Such reports should identify the particular application which has been tested.

In the absence of the production of all relevant and available information that would satisfy a building surveyor that the particular application has been tested and approved, surveyors should be wary of assertions that a product complies with “AS4072.1” without seeking further application specific information.

Building surveyors are reminded that fire collars are not to be installed for protection of PVC Pipes in mechanical ventilation services and that fire dampers installed for such purpose are to comply with AS/NZS1668-1.

Further information

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