

Safer Buildings for Queensland

Use of façade cladding in the future

What has been done nationally to address the use of cladding?

On 12 March 2018, amendments to the National Construction Code were introduced to strengthen provisions relating to fire safety and the use of cladding in external walls on high-rise buildings.

New high-rise buildings may now have to comply with a range of additional and improved requirements including having sprinkler systems on the balconies.

More information is available at www.abcb.gov.au.



Queensland Building and Construction Commission enhanced legislation

Also, in 2017, new legislation was introduced to address the issue of non-conforming building products, including cladding. Duties were established on building products supply chain participants, from building product designers through to installers. The responsible Minister can now issue a warning statement or recall for a NCBP. The QBCC was given expanded powers to investigate and rectify NCBPs.

These enhanced powers include allowing the QBCC to enter a building to gather samples of building products for further testing, declaring a building or building site unsafe and if required, directing that unsafe buildings or buildings sites are rectified.

Banning the use of combustible cladding

On 22 September 2017 the Queensland Government introduced a ban on the use of any polyethylene (PE) core cladding on government constructions.

On 6 October 2017, the Building Ministers' Forum (a ministerial-level body consisting of Commonwealth, State and Territory Ministers responsible for building and plumbing policy) agreed that each jurisdiction would prevent the use of combustible cladding depending on the building's class and number of storeys.

For more information visit www.industry.gov.au/BMF.

Improving industry awareness through Continuing Professional Development

Fire engineers and building certifiers are required to complete continuing professional development (CPD) programs in order to maintain their licence or registration. CPD programs aim to ensure these building professionals maintain their competence through education and training while also enhancing skills and knowledge by providing education and training on emerging issues in the industry.

The CPD course was developed in conjunction with the University of Queensland, University of Maryland and University of Edinburgh. It provides building professionals with specific knowledge to assess the fire safety of buildings and understand the potential implications of using combustible cladding.

“The safety of all Queenslanders is vital. From my experience I am assured the approach being taken to safeguard the cladding in use across Queensland could easily be easily and successfully adopted more broadly by other jurisdictions.”

*Professor Jose Torero, University of Maryland (USA),
Expert Witness to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry*
