

What you need to know about

Building Product Accreditation

What is building product accreditation?

Building product accreditation provides for the certification of building products that comply with the *Building Regulations 2006* or the *Building Code of Australia (BCA)*.

Who can apply to have a product accredited?

Anyone who has an innovative product, construction method, design, component or system connected with building work can apply for a certificate of accreditation.

A certificate of building product accreditation is proof that a product meets the performance requirements of the Regulations or BCA.

Need more information?

For more information, please contact the Accreditation Officer at the Building Commission.

Telephone +61 3 9285 6400 Facsimile +61 3 9285 6410
Level 27, 2 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, Victoria, 3000

publicrelations@buildingcommission.com.au
www.buildingcommission.com.au

Printed July 2006



What can accreditation offer?

A certificate of building product accreditation is proof that a product meets the performance requirements of the *Building Regulations 2006* (the Regulations) or the *Building Code of Australia* (BCA).

Once a product is accredited, there is no need to prove its suitability each time building work requires a building permit. It is mandatory for a building surveyor to accept the product, method, design, component or system if the use complies with the accreditation.

How does the accreditation system work?

The product designer applies to the Building Regulations Advisory Committee (BRAC). The BRAC will then assess the application including whether or not a building product appraisal is required. If the BRAC is satisfied that the product meets the performance requirements of the Regulations or BCA and is suitable for accreditation, then a Certificate of Accreditation is issued.

Victorian Accreditation or National Certification?

The Victorian accreditation system operates alongside the national product certification system, Codemark, managed by the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB).

For products to be used only in Victoria or when the initial marketing strategy is limited to Victoria, then State accreditation may be appropriate. If the product is to be used in a number of States, then national certification may be more suitable. Both systems must be accepted in Victoria.

Details of the national certification system can be obtained from:

Australian Building Codes Board
GPO Box 9839
Canberra ACT 2601
Phone 1300 134 631
Website: www.abcb.gov.au

How does the Victorian Accreditation System operate?

The BRAC will consider applications for the accreditation of any building product, including a particular construction method, design component or system connected with building work.

As the prime intent of accreditation is to encourage innovative products and ideas, the Victorian accreditation process does **not** apply to building products that comply with the deemed-to-satisfy provisions of the BCA.

The BRAC meets on a monthly basis and decides on an accreditation application after assessing all relevant test reports, appraisals or opinions submitted with the application.

How is an application for accreditation made?

Applicants should consult with the Accreditation Officer of the BRAC to evaluate a product's suitability for accreditation. Consultation at an early stage of the process will identify which accreditation system is most suitable and if accreditation is deemed to be appropriate.

Once the initial consultation has taken place and both parties are in agreement that Victorian accreditation is suitable, a written application with supporting documentation should be made to the BRAC.

What supporting documentation is required?

The supporting documentation submitted needs to identify the building product material, the method of construction and design of the components for the work. Evidence that the product is fit for the purpose for which it is intended is also required.

Supporting data should be of similar standard to that produced in the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) or Building Research Association of New Zealand (BRANZ) appraisal reports.

Installation guidelines which may be relevant to the product should also be provided. Multiple copies of supporting documents may be required.

What happens once the application is submitted?

The applicant will be notified when the application is to be considered by the BRAC.

After the BRAC has considered the initial information there may be requests for further test reports, appraisals or opinions to be supplied. In these circumstances, the applicant will be advised of what further information is required.

All of the above reports, appraisals or opinions are required to be arranged and paid for by the applicant.

Is the application treated as confidential?

All information contained in any application is treated by the BRAC as strictly confidential.

What does it cost and for how long is a product accredited?

The current fee per application through the building product accreditation system is \$1,500. This is paid to the Building Administration Fund, established under the *Building Act 1993*. Accreditation may be for any period, though a certificate is generally issued for three years.

Is there a listing of accredited products?

New products accredited by BRAC are published in the Building Commission's quarterly magazine. There is also a listing of accredited products available from the Building Commission website (www.buildingcommission.com.au).