



FACT SHEET

AS 2118.1 – Fire sprinkler standard update

The Building Code of Australia (BCA) currently references AS 2118.1 – 1999 as the design standard for required sprinkler systems. In 2006 Standards Australia published a new edition of the sprinkler standard. The Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) did not support the adoption of the new standard on the basis that a complying design would exceed the requirements of the BCA.

Discussions have been held between the ABCB and Standards Australia and agreement has been reached to develop a new standard to accommodate the relevant Performance Requirements of the BCA.

The new standard must comply with the ABCB Protocol for the development of BCA referenced documents. It will be developed to only meet the specific goals of the BCA. It will not address issues such as asset protection, which are recognised as being beyond the scope of the BCA. However, it is acknowledged that a degree of asset protection may result as a consequence of meeting the specific goals of the BCA.

It is proposed that following a Regulatory Impact Statement and public comment processes, the document be finalised by September 2008 in order for the new standard to be considered for referencing in BCA 2009.

The 1999 edition of AS 2118.1 is referenced in the BCA 2007 as the deemed-to-satisfy solution. The 2006 edition is the most recently published edition of AS 2118.1 which may be used by a designer in developing an alternative solution. The acceptance of that alternative solution and subsequent approval as part of a building permit is the responsibility of the relevant building surveyor.