

F4 Safety from falling

Safe design of all barriers inside and outside the building.

F4 confirms buildings are constructed to reduce the likelihood of accidental fall. It requires barriers where people could fall 1 metre or more. The provisions include barriers for roofs with permanent access. It sets the characteristics required of barriers, for example, being continuous for the full extent of hazard, and having appropriate rigidity, strength and height.

From 1 January 2017, the Building (Pools) Amendment Act 2016 deleted clauses F4.3.3, F4.3.4(f), and F4.3.5 relating to swimming pool barriers.

[Restricting access to residential pools \(https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/f-safety-of-users/pool-safety/\)](https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/f-safety-of-users/pool-safety/) has further information for pool owners and territorial authorities.

[Record of amendments \(https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/how-the-building-code-works/different-ways-to-comply/acceptable-solutions-and-verification-methods/record-of-amendments/\)](https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/how-the-building-code-works/different-ways-to-comply/acceptable-solutions-and-verification-methods/record-of-amendments/) is a record of changes to the Acceptable Solutions, Verification Methods and handbooks.

Updates

MBIE to consult twice yearly on changes to the Building Code System

10 AUGUST 2018

MBIE will now consult twice yearly to ensure Acceptable Solutions and Verification Methods are up to date.

[\(https://www.building.govt.nz/about-building-performance/news-and-updates/all-news-and-updates/bc-update-237/\)](https://www.building.govt.nz/about-building-performance/news-and-updates/all-news-and-updates/bc-update-237/)

Consultation on amending Acceptable Solutions and Verification Methods 2018

8 AUGUST 2018

We want your feedback by 21 September on proposals to amend Acceptable Solutions and Verification Methods.

[\(https://www.building.govt.nz/about-building-performance/news-and-updates/all-news-and-updates/bc-update-236/\)](https://www.building.govt.nz/about-building-performance/news-and-updates/all-news-and-updates/bc-update-236/)

View all related news and updates https://www.building.govt.nz/search/?bcc%5B%5D=f4-safety-from-falling&area=news-and-updates&show=all&action_doSearch=Search&sort=recent#results

Acceptable Solutions and Verification Methods

Current version

These are issued by MBIE to provide one way of complying with the Building Code and must be accepted by BCAs as demonstrating compliance with the related clauses of the Building Code. Using them is not mandatory.

3rd edition, amendment 2

[PDF 653 KB]

Effective from 1 January 2017

(<https://www.building.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/building-code-compliance/f-safety-of-users/f4-safety-from-falling/asvm/f4-safety-from-falling-3rd-edition-amendment2.pdf>)

3rd edition, amendment 2 replacement pages

[PDF 728 KB]

(<https://www.building.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/f4-safety-from-falling-3rd-edition-amendment2-rp.pdf>)

Acceptable Solutions and Verification Methods

(<https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/how-the-building-code-works/different-ways-to-comply/acceptable-solutions-and-verification-methods/>) (AS and VMs) were called compliance documents. Some still have the “compliance document” title but the AS or VMs they contain are valid and unaffected by the name change.

Version history (<https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/f-safety-of-users/f4-safety-from-falling/acceptable-solutions-and-verification-methods/>)

Guidance

These documents are provided for assistance. They are not intended as a means of establishing compliance with the Building Act or Building Code, and they do not have the same status accorded to Acceptable Solutions and Verification Methods under the Act.



Residential pool provisions of the Building Act 2004: Guidance for territorial authorities

<http://mbie5.cwp.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/f-safety-of-users/f4-safety-from-falling/>

Previous versions

3rd edition, amendment 1

[PDF 397 KB]

(<https://www.building.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/building-code-compliance/f-safety-of-users/f4-safety-from-falling/asvm/f4-safety-from-falling-3rd-edition-amendment-1.pdf>)

3rd edition, unamended

[PDF 556 KB]

(<https://www.building.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/building-code-compliance/f-safety-of-users/f4-safety-from-falling/asvm/f4-safety-from-falling-third-edition-unamended.pdf>)



Guidance on barrier design for Building Code clause B1

1 MARCH 2012

This guidance aims to help territorial authorities to enforce the barrier requirement for residential pools.

(<https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/f-safety-of-users/pool-safety/residential-pool-provisions-of-the-building-act-2004-guidance-for-territorial-authorities/>)

Barrier design loading requirements and recommendations for designers, manufacturers and installers of barriers.

(<https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/b-stability/b1-structure/guidance-on-barrier-design/>)

View all related guidance (https://www.building.govt.nz/search/?bcc%5B%5D=f4-safety-from-falling&area=guidance&show=all&action_doSearch=Search&sort=recent#results)

Related Determinations

Determinations are made by MBIE on matters of doubt or dispute to do with building work. Rulings are legally binding in relation to each case. Circumstances in one case may differ to others

2019/066: The refusal to issue a code compliance certificate in respect of two sides of an above-ground pool acting as the pool barrier

<p>This determination considers the authority's purported refusal to issue a code compliance certificate for two sides of an above-ground pool acting as the pool barrier, which were not constructed in accordance with the building consent. The determination discusses the compliance of the pool walls as a pool barrier with Clause F4 Safety from falling as the relevant Building Code clause at the time the building consent was issued.</p>

(<https://www.building.govt.nz/resolving-problems/resolution-options/determinations/determinations-issued/determination-2019-066/>)

2019/063: Regarding the compliance of a paved path and retaining wall without a safety from falling barrier with Clause F4 Safety from falling

<p>This determination considers the compliance of a paved path and retaining wall without a safety from falling barrier with Building Code Clause F4 Safety from falling. The determination discusses the measurement of the height of fall.</p>

(<https://www.building.govt.nz/resolving-problems/resolution-options/determinations/determinations-issued/determination-2019-063/>)

View 175 Determinations related to Safety from falling (https://www.building.govt.nz/resolving-problems/resolution-options/determinations/determinations-issued/?bcc%5B%5D=f4-safety-from-falling&action_doSearch=Search#results)

Related building products

All products, systems and construction methods that have achieved CodeMark status will be listed here with their most up to date certificate.

View 3 certified building products associated with Safety from falling (https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/product-assurance-and-multiproof/codemark/product-certificate-register/?&bcc%5B%5D=f4-safety-from-falling&action_doSearch=Search#results)