

Get to know B1/AS3 Second edition

INFORMATION ON THE NEW EDITION OF THE ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION

On 28 July 2025, MBIE published Acceptable Solution B1/AS3 Second Edition.

If you have used B1/AS3 in the past, you may see some changes in the new version.



New layout

Since 2021, MBIE has been publishing new editions of the acceptable solutions and verification methods in an updated document format. The new format has a consistent layout and structure and should be easier to use in an electronic format. Consequently, headings and paragraph numbers in B1/AS3 have changed to fit in the new layout.



Building Product Specifications

The acceptable solution now includes references to the Building Product Specifications. Further information on the Building Product Specifications and what purposes it is used for are provided in the acceptable solution.



Minor amendments that do not affect the level of performance

Other minor amendments have been made to the acceptable solution that do not affect the level of performance require but may assist in the interpretation and use of the document. This includes corrections for typos, grammar, formatting, cross-references, and punctuation. The document has also been revised to reflect current practices for drafting the text and written into sentence and paragraph format.

We have provided the table on the follow pages to outline the differences between the First edition and Second edition including:

- A side-by-side index of the headings and paragraph numbers that have changed, and
- Comments on specific headings and paragraphs where the text has changed.

This table has been provided for information only. The wording and numbering in the acceptable solution itself takes precedence.

The previous edition of B1/AS3 can still be used to demonstrate compliance with the Building Code until 31 July 2026.

Information on the second edition

B1/AS3 First edition	B1/AS3 Second edition	Comments on B1/AS3 Second edition
Document title: Small Chimneys	Document title: Small Chimneys	
	Part 1. General	New heading to align with drafting of other AS/VMs.
	1.1 Introduction	New heading to align with drafting of other AS/VMs.
	1.1.1 Scope of this document	New heading to align with drafting of other AS/VMs.
Scope	1.1.1.1	Paragraph revised to move discussion on Protection from Fire requirements to the out of scope.
	1.1.2 Items outside the scope of this document	New heading to align with drafting of other AS/VMs.
	1.1.2.1	Limitations on scope for spread of fire from the scope of the document. Revised to state C/AS1, C/AS2, and C/VM1 as they all contain compliance options.
2.2.4	1.1.2.2	Paragraph relocated to Subsection 1.1.2 as it relates to out of scope requirements for Protection from Fire. Reference to hearth slabs and compliance with AS/NZS 2918 removed as this is already contained within the provisions in C/AS1, C/AS2, and C/VM1.
	1.1.3 Compliance pathway	New heading to align with drafting of other AS/VMs.
	1.1.3.1	New paragraph describing the relevant clause of the Building Code covered by the document.
	1.1.3.2	New paragraph to remind users that alternatives may also be used for compliance.
	1.2 Using this acceptable solution	New heading to align with drafting of other AS/VMs.
	1.2.1 Good ground	New heading
	1.2.1.1	Copied from the definition of good ground to reinforce the requirements for determining good ground.
	1.2.2 Building Product Specifications	New subsection on the Building Product Specifications

Information on the second edition

B1/AS3 First edition	B1/AS3 Second edition	Comments on B1/AS3 Second edition
	1.2.2.1	New paragraph on the scope of the Building Product Specifications
	1.2.2.2	New paragraph on the compliance pathway using the Building Product Specifications
1.0 Chimney Construction	Part 2. Chimney construction	
1.1 General	2.1 Overview	Heading revised for consistency in drafting of other acceptable solutions and verification methods.
1.1.1 Type	2.1.1 Type	
1.1.1 [Paragraph text]	2.1.1.1	Formatted into a list.
	2.1.1.2	New paragraph stating the requirements set out in each subsection.
1.1.2 Height	2.1.2 Height	
1.1.2 [Paragraph text]	2.1.2.1	
1.1.3 Size	2.1.3 Size	
1.1.3 [Paragraph text]	2.1.3.1	Formatted into a list with chimney stack dimensions for all types combined into single subparagraph (b).
1.1.4 Chimney liners	2.1.4 Chimney liners	
1.1.4 [Paragraph text]	2.1.4.1	Formatted into a list.
1.2 Chimney wall thickness	2.1.5 Chimney wall thickness	
1.2.1	2.1.5.1	Formatted into a list.
1.3 Foundations	2.3 Foundations	
	2.3.1 Wall and slab foundations	New heading
1.3.1	2.3.1.1	Formatted into a list.
Figure 1	Figure 2.3.1.1	
1.3.2	2.3.1.2	Formatted into a list
1.3.3	2.3.1.3	Formatted into a list
Figure 2	Figure 2.3.1.3A	
Figure 3	Figure 2.3.1.3B	
	2.4 Reinforcement of specific elements	New heading
1.4	2.4.1 Hearths	
1.4.1	2.4.1.1	Formatted into a list.
1.5 Chimney breasts	2.4.2 Chimney breasts	
1.5 [Paragraph text]	2.4.2.1	

Information on the second edition

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Table 1	Table 2.4.2.1	
1.6 Reinforcing	2.4.3 Foundation walls, chimney bases, and chimney stacks	Heading revised to be more specific about the contents of the associated paragraphs.
1.6.1	2.4.3.1	
1.6.2	2.4.3.2	Requirements from 1.8.3 g) combined with 1.6.2 b) into 2.4.3.2(b).
Figure 4	Figure 2.4.3.1A	Figure notes revised to include cross-references.
Figure 5	Figure 2.4.3.1B	Figure notes revised to include cross-references.
1.7 Chimney restraint	2.5 Chimney restraints	
	2.5.1 Restraint methods and packers	New heading
1.7.1	2.5.1.1	Revised to set out the three methods of restraint covered in the remainder of the section.
1.7.2	2.5.1.3	Reference to C/AS1 replaced with C/AS1 and C/AS2.
1.7.3 Floor and roof brackets	2.5.2 Floor and roof brackets method	Heading amended
1.7.3 [Paragraph text]	2.5.2.1	First portion of the sentence re-written.
1.7.4 [First Sentence]	2.5.2.2	Formatted into a list.
1.7.4 [Second sentence]	2.5.2.3	
1.7.5 Alternative fixing using roof tie and closely spaced wall ties	<Heading removed>	Paragraph text incorporated into Sections 2.5.3 and 2.5.4
1.7.5 [First sentence]	2.5.3.1	Duplicated for brick chimneys as well as pumice chimneys in 2.5.4.1.
1.7.5 [Second sentence]	2.5.3.3(a)	Rewritten into list format
1.7.5 [Third sentence]	2.5.3.3(b)	Rewritten into list format
1.7.6 Brick chimneys	2.5.3 Roof tie and closely spaced wall ties method for brick chimneys	Heading revised as this section sets out the alternative method for fixing brick chimneys previously contained in sections 1.7.5 to 1.7.12.
1.7.6 [First part of sentence]	2.5.3.2	
1.7.6 [second part of sentence and list]	2.5.3.4(a)	Formatted into a list alongside reinforcing.
1.7.7 [First part]	2.5.3.6(c)	Formatted into a list
1.7.7 [Exception]	2.5.3.6(b)	Formatted into a list
1.7.8	2.5.3.6(a)	Formatted into a list

Information on the second edition

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1.7.9	2.5.1.2	Relocated as it applicable for components used in any restraint method. Revised to reference the Building Product Specifications.
1.7.10	2.5.3.4(a)(iv)	Formatted into a list
1.7.11 a)	2.5.3.4(b)	Formatted into a list
1.7.11 b)	2.5.3.4(c)	Formatted into a list
1.7.12	2.5.3.5	Rewritten to remove reference to 'alternatives'
1.7.13 Precast pumice concrete chimneys	2.5.4 Roof tie and closely spaced wall ties method for precast pumice concrete chimneys	Heading revised to set out the options for fixing precast pumice concrete chimneys previously contained in sections 1.7.5 and 1.7.13 to 1.7.16.
	2.5.4.1	New paragraph duplicated for brick chimneys in 2.5.3.1 as well as pumice chimneys.
1.7.13 [First part of sentence]	2.5.4.2	
1.7.13 [Second part of sentence]	2.5.4.4	Formatted into a list
1.7.13 [Third part of sentence]	2.5.4.5	
	2.5.4.3	Duplicated from 2.4.3.3
1.7.14	2.5.4.7(a)	Formatted into a list
1.7.15	2.5.4.7(b)	Formatted into a list
Figure 6	Figure 2.5.2.1	
Figure 7	Figure 2.5.3.6	
1.7.16	2.5.4.6	Formatted into a list
1.8 Materials and construction	2.2 Materials	Heading revised. Relocated to be earlier in the part similar to structure and sequence in other AS/VMs.
1.8.1 Brickwork	2.2.1 Brickwork	
1.8.1 [Paragraph text]	2.2.1.1	
1.8.2 Concrete	2.2.2 Concrete	
1.8.2 [Paragraph text]	2.2.2.1	
1.8.3 Precast pumice concrete	2.2.3 Pumice concrete units used in precast chimneys	Heading revised to fit revised text
1.8.3 a) and b)	2.2.3.1	Rewritten into paragraph format to set out aggregate requirements.

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1.8.3 c) and d)	2.2.3.2	Rewritten into paragraph format to set out pumice concrete unit requirements. Amended to replace reference to NZS 3112.2 with a reference the Building Product Specifications.
1.8.3 e), f), and g)	2.2.3.3	Rewritten into paragraph format to set out requirements when units are laid onsite.
1.8.3 g) [Second sentence]	2.4.3.2	Grouting requirements for bars anchored in the gather moved from 1.8.3 g) to 2.4.3.2 (formerly 1.6.2 b))
1.8.4 Concrete masonry	2.2.4 Concrete masonry	
1.8.4 [Paragraph text]	2.2.4.1	
1.8.5 Reinforcing steel	2.2.5 Reinforcing steel	
1.8.5 [Paragraph text]	2.2.5.1	Amended to replace reference to AS/NZS 4671 with a reference the Building Product Specifications.
1.8.6 Hot dip galvanising	2.2.6 Hot dip galvanising	
1.8.6 [Paragraph text]	2.2.6.1	Amended to replace reference to AS/NZS 4680 with a reference the Building Product Specifications.
1.9 Systems to resist horizontal earthquake loadings	2.6 Systems to resist horizontal earthquake loadings	
	2.6.1 Buildings where earthquake bracing is required	New heading
1.9.1	2.6.1.1	Sentence rewritten.
1.9.1 a)	2.6.1.1 a)	
1.9.1 b)	2.6.1.1 c)	Re-written into a list and re-ordered for consistent flow of the requirements.
1.9.1 b) i)	2.6.1.2 a)	Dragon tie requirements rewritten into paragraph format.
1.9.1 b) ii)	2.6.1.2 b)	
1.9.1 b) iii)	2.6.1.2 c)	
1.9.1 c)	2.6.1.1 b)	
	2.6.2 Bracing requirements to resist horizontal earthquake loadings	
1.9.2 [First sentence and third sentence]	2.6.2.1	Text from 1.9.2 split into two paragraphs and combined with text from 1.9.4.
1.9.2 [Second sentence]	2.6.2.2	Combined with 1.9.2

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1.9.3	2.6.2.5	Formatted into a list
1.9.4	2.6.2.2	Combined with 1.9.2
1.9.5	2.6.2.3	
1.9.6	2.6.2.4	Formatted into a list.
Table 2	Table 2.6.2.5	Existing note relocated to become a requirement in Paragraph 2.6.2.5. Base dimensions column removed as these are set out in 2.3.1. Values for large precast pumice chimneys revised to remove inconsistency with other parts of the document.
2.0 Solid fuel burning domestic appliances	Part 3. Solid fuel appliances	Heading revised to align with C/AS1.
	3.1 Domestic appliances	New heading
2.1 Chimneys	3.1.1 Chimneys	
2.1.1	3.1.1.1	Formatted into a list.
2.2 Hearth slab	3.1.2 Hearth slab	
2.2.1	3.1.2.1	List re-ordered
2.2.2	3.1.2.2	Formatted into a list.
2.2.3	3.1.2.3	Formatted into a list.
2.2.4 Spread of fire	<Heading removed>	
2.2.4 [Paragraph text]	1.1.3.1	Relocated to introduction as part of the items outside the scope of the document.
Referenced	Appendix A. References	
Reference entries for: NZS 3112.2 AS/NZS 4671 AS/NZS 4680 AS 1397:2001	<Removed from document>	References removed as a consequence of citing the Building Product Specifications.
Definitions	Appendix B. Definitions	
	Definition entry for “fire”	Added to the document as the defined term is used in the document.
	Definition entries for: Combustible Limited combustible Non-combustible	Revised to align with C/AS1 and C/AS2 as a consequence of citing the Building Product Specifications.

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