Dear Customer

Please find enclosed Amendment 3, effective 14 February 2014, to the Acceptable Solution and Verification Method for Clause F8 Signs of the New Zealand Building Code. The previous amendment (Amendment 2, Second Edition) was in April 2012.

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Acceptable Solutions and Verification Methods

For New Zealand Building Code Clause

F8 Signs

Second Edition
Status of Verification Methods and Acceptable Solutions

Verification Methods and Acceptable Solutions are prepared by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment in accordance with section 22 of the Building Act 2004. Verification Methods and Acceptable Solutions are for use in establishing compliance with the New Zealand Building Code.

A person who complies with a Verification Method or Acceptable Solution will be treated as having complied with the provisions of the Building Code to which the Verification Method or Acceptable Solution relates. However, using a Verification Method or Acceptable Solution is only one method of complying with the Building Code. There may be alternative ways to comply.

Users should make themselves familiar with the preface to the New Zealand Building Code Handbook, which describes the status of Verification Methods and Acceptable Solutions and explains alternative methods of achieving compliance.

Defined words (italicised in the text) and classified uses are explained in Clauses A1 and A2 of the Building Code and in the Definitions at the start of this document.

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Verification Methods and Acceptable Solutions are available from www.dbh.govt.nz

New Zealand Government

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Document Status

The most recent version of this document (Amendment 3), as detailed in the Document History, is approved by the Chief Executive of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. It is effective from 14 February 2014 and supersedes all previous versions of this document.

The previous version of this document (Amendment 2) will cease to have effect on 14 August 2014.

People using this document should check for amendments on a regular basis. The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment may amend any part of any Verification Method or Acceptable Solution at any time. Up-to-date versions of Verification Methods and Acceptable Solutions are available from www.dbh.govt.nz

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Note: Page numbers relate to the document at the time of Amendment and may not match page numbers in current document.
References

For the purposes of New Zealand Building Code compliance, the Standards and documents referred in this Acceptable Solution (primary reference documents), which in turn may also refer to other Standards or documents, and so on (lower order reference documents) must be the editions, along with their specific amendments, listed below. Where the primary reference documents refer to other Standards or other documents, (secondary reference documents), then the version in effect at the date this Acceptable Solution was published must be used.

Standards Australia

AS 2293: 2005 Emergency escape lighting and exit signs for buildings
  Part 1: System design, installation and operation
  Part 3: Emergency escape luminaires and exit signs
  Amend: 1
AS/NZS 2293: 1995 Emergency escape lighting and exit signs for buildings
  Part 2: Inspection and maintenance

British Standards Institution

BS 5252: 1976 Framework for colour co-ordination for building purposes
  Amend: 1

International Organization for Standardization

ISO 3864: 2002 Safety colours and safety signs
  Part 1: Design principles for safety signs in workplaces and public areas
ISO 7000: 2004 Graphic symbols for use on equipment
ISO 7010: 2003 Graphical symbols – safety colours and safety signs – Safety signs used in workplaces and public areas

German Institute for Standardisation

DIN 5381: 1985 Identification colours
DIN 6164: 1980 DIN colour chart
  Part 2: Specification of colour samples

Chemical Industry Council Incorporated

HSNO Code of Practice 2-1 09-04 Signage for premises storing hazardous substances and dangerous goods

Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind

Accessible Signage Guidelines: 2010

Where quoted

AS1 4.5.5
AS1 2.4, 4.5.3 a) i), 4.5.5, Appendix A
AS1 4.5.5
AS1 Table 2
AS1 2.4
AS1 2.4, 3.2.4
AS1 Table 2
AS1 Table 2
AS1 2.4, 7.1
AS1 2.3
Definitions

This is an abbreviated list of definitions for words or terms particularly relevant to this Verification Method and Acceptable Solution. The definitions for any other italicised words may be found in the New Zealand Building Code Handbook.

Access route A continuous route that permits people and goods to move between the apron or construction edge of the building to spaces within a building, and between spaces within a building.

Accessible Having features to permit reasonable use by people with disabilities.

Accessible route An access route usable by people with disabilities. It shall be a continuous route that can be negotiated unaided by a wheelchair user. The route shall extend from street boundary or car parking area to those spaces within the building required to be accessible to enable people with disabilities to carry out normal activities and processes within the building.

Active conductor Any conductor in which the electrical potential differs from that of a neutral conductor or earth.

Building has the meaning ascribed to it by sections 8 and 9 of the Building Act 2004.

Clearly visible for the purposes of Clause F8 and in relation to a sign means the nearest such sign is visible and readable at the maximum distance from which it needs to be viewed, to a person who either does not have a visual impairment, or uses corrective lenses.

Doorset A complete assembly comprising a door leaf or leaves including any glazed or solid panels adjacent to or over the leaves within the door frame including hardware or other inbuilt features; and a door frame, if any, with its fixing to the wall and, for a sliding door or tilting door, all guides and their respective fixings to the lintel, wall or sill.

Escape route A continuous unobstructed route from any occupied space in a building to a final exit to enable occupants to reach a safe place, and shall comprise one or more of the following: open paths, smoke lobbies and safe paths.

Comment:
Doors are not obstructions in an escape route provided they comply with C/AS1 and D1/AS1.

Exitway All parts of an escape route protected by fire or smoke separations, or by distance when exposed to open air, and terminating at a final exit.

Final exit The point at which an escape route terminates by giving direct access to a safe place.

Comment:
Final exits are commonly the external doors from a ground floor, but this applies only if such doors open directly onto a safe place. If a safe place can be reached only by passing down an alley, or across a bridge, then the final exit is not reached until the end of such an alley or bridge. Final exits, therefore, should be seen strictly as a point of arrival, rather than as any particular element of a building. They are determined entirely by the definition of safe place.

Fire door A doorset, single or multi-leaf, having a specific fire resistance rating, and in certain situations a smoke control capability, and forming part of a fire separation. The door, in the event of fire, if not already closed, will close automatically and be self latching.

Hold-open device A device which holds a smoke control door or fire door open during normal use, but is released by deactivating the device by an automatic fire detection system, allowing the door to close automatically under the action of a self-closing device.

Illuminance The luminous flux falling on to a unit area of surface (lumen/m²).

Luminance The luminous intensity of a surface in a given direction per unit projected area (candela/m²).

Occupant load The greatest number of people likely to occupy a particular space within a building. It is determined by:

a) dividing the total floor area by the m² per person (occupant density) for the activity being undertaken, or
b) for sleeping areas, counting the number of sleeping (or care) spaces, or
c) for fixed seating areas, counting the number of seats.

**Open path** That part of an escape route (including dead ends) within a firecell where occupants may be exposed to fire or smoke while making their escape.

**People with disabilities** People whose ability to use buildings is affected by mental, physical, hearing or sight impairment.

**Person with a disability** Means a person who has an impairment or a combination of impairments that limits the extent to which the person can engage in activities, pursuits and processes of everyday life, including, without limitation, any of the following:

a) a physical, sensory, neurological, or intellectual impairment:
b) a mental illness.

**Safe path** That part of an exitway which is protected from the effects of fire by fire separations, external walls, or by distance when exposed to open air.

**Safe place** A place, outside of and in the vicinity of a single building unit, from which people may safely disperse after escaping the effects of a fire. It may be a place such as a street, open space, public space or an adjacent building unit.

**Smoke control door** A doorset that complies with Appendix C, C6.1.2 of C/AS6.

**Smoke lobby** That portion of an escape route within a firecell that precedes a safe path or an escape route through an adjoining building which is protected from the effects of smoke by smoke separations.

**Smoke separation** Any building element able to prevent the passage of smoke between two spaces. Smoke separations shall:

a) Be a smoke barrier complying with BS EN 12101 Part 1, or
b) Consist of rigid building elements capable of resisting without collapse:
i) a pressure of 0.1 kPa applied from either side, and
ii) self weight plus the intended vertically applied live loads, and
c) Form an imperforate barrier to the spread of smoke, and
d) Be of non-combustible construction, or achieve a FRR of 10/10/-, except that non-fire resisting glazing may be used if it is toughened or laminated safety glass.

**Walls and floors**, whether constructed of sheet linings fixed to studs or joists, or of concrete, glazing, metal or fired clay, need only be inspected by someone experienced in building construction to judge whether the construction is tight enough to inhibit the passage of smoke.

**Smoke control doors** or other closures in smoke separations to meet the provisions of item d).

**Stairway** A series of steps or stairs with or without landings, including all necessary handrails and giving access between two different levels.