

## Compliance Document for New Zealand Building Code Clause G15 Solid Waste

Prepared by the Department of Building and Housing

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ISBN 0-477-01606-5

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A person who complies with a Compliance Document will be treated as having complied with the provisions of the Building Code to which the Compliance Document relates. However, a Compliance Document 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 Compliance Documents and explains alternative methods of achieving compliance.

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

<b>G15: Document History</b>		
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Alterations</b>
First published	July 1992	
Amendment 1	September 1993	p. vi, References
Amendment 2	1 July 2001	p. 2, Document History, Status p. 4, Definitions
<b>Note:</b> Page numbers relate to the document at the time of Amendment and may not match page numbers in current document.		

### Document Status

The most recent version of this document, as detailed in the Document History, is approved by the Chief Executive of the Department of Building and Housing. It is effective from 1 July 2001 and supersedes all previous versions of this document.

People using this Compliance Document should check for amendments on a regular basis. The Department of Building and Housing may amend any part of any Compliance Document at any time. Up-to-date versions of Compliance Documents are available from [www.dbh.govt.nz](http://www.dbh.govt.nz)

# New Zealand Building Code

## Clause G15 Solid Waste

This Clause has been extracted from the New Zealand Building Code contained in the First Schedule of the Building Regulations 1992.

<b>FIRST SCHEDULE—continued</b>	
<b>Clause G15—SOLID WASTE</b>	
<b>Provisions</b>	<b>Limits on application</b>
<p><b>OBJECTIVE</b>  <b>G15.1</b> The objective of this provision is to safeguard people from injury or illness caused by infection or contamination from solid waste.</p> <p><b>FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENT</b>  <b>G15.2</b> <i>Buildings</i> shall be provided with space and facilities for the collection, and safe hygienic holding prior to disposal, of solid waste arising from the <i>intended use</i> of the <i>buildings</i>.</p> <p><b>PERFORMANCE</b>  <b>G15.3.1</b> Where provision is made within <i>buildings</i> for the collection and temporary holding of solid waste, the spaces provided shall be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Of sufficient size for the volume of waste and frequency of disposal,</li> <li>(b) Provided with reasonable access for the depositing and collection of the waste,</li> <li>(c) Capable of maintaining sanitary conditions having regard to the types of waste and storage containers, and</li> <li>(d) Capable of maintaining the appropriate temperature for the type of waste stored.</li> </ul> <p><b>G15.3.2</b> Where a rubbish chute is provided, it shall be located and constructed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Convey the solid waste to an appropriate storage container,</li> <li>(b) Avoid the likelihood of blockage or leakage,</li> <li>(c) Permit easy cleaning and maintenance,</li> </ul>	<p>Requirement G15.2 shall not apply to <i>Detached Dwellings, household units of Multi-unit Dwellings, Outbuildings or Ancilliary buildings</i> if there is independent access or private open space at ground level.</p>

FIRST SCHEDULE—*continued***Provisions**

- (d) Avoid the likelihood of foul air or gases accumulating or entering the *building*,
- (e) Avoid the likelihood of the spread of *fire* beyond the refuse chute,
- (f) Have openings that allow waste to be safely deposited in the chute, and
- (g) Restrict access by children, animals and vermin.

**G15.3.3** Where it is acceptable to the *network utility operator*, solid waste which has been suitably treated for disposal to a *sewer* may be discharged via a *foul water drain* complying with Clause G13 “Foul Water”.

**Limits on application**

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# References

Amend 1  
Sep 1993

For the purposes of New Zealand Building Code compliance, acceptable reference documents include only the quoted edition and specific amendments as listed below.

## Standards New Zealand

Amend 1  
Sep 1993

NZS 3114: 1987	Specification for concrete surface finishes <i>Amend: 1</i>
NZS 4304: 1990	Health care waste management

## Where quoted

AS1 3.0.2
AS1 3.1.1

# Definitions

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

**Adequate** *Adequate* to achieve the objectives of the *building code*.

**Building** has the meaning ascribed to it by the Building Act 1991.

**Drain** A pipe normally laid below ground level including fittings and equipment and intended to convey *foul water* or *surface water* to an *outfall*.

**Fixture** An article intended to remain permanently attached to and form part of a *building*.

**Foul water** The discharge from any *sanitary fixtures* or *sanitary appliances*.

**Habitable space** A space used for activities normally associated with domestic living, but excludes any bathroom, laundry, water-closet, pantry, walk-in wardrobe, corridor, hallway, lobby, clothes-drying room, or other space of a specialised nature occupied neither frequently nor for extended periods.

**Network utility operator** means a person who:

- a) Undertakes the distribution or transmission by pipeline of natural or manufactured gas, petroleum, or geothermal energy; or
- b) Is an electricity operator or electrical distributor as defined by Section 2(1) of the Electricity Act 1992 for the purposes of any works as defined by that Act; or
- c) Undertakes the piped distribution of *potable* water for supply; or
- d) Is the operator of a sewerage system or a stormwater drainage system.

**Outfall** That part of the disposal system receiving *surface water* or *foul water* from the drainage system. For *foul water* the *outfall* may include a *sewer* or a septic tank. For *surface water*, the *outfall* may include a natural water course, kerb and channel, or soakage system.

**Plumbing system** Pipes, joints and fittings laid above ground and used for the conveyance of *foul water* to the *foul water drain*, and includes *vent pipes*.

**Sanitary appliance** An appliance which is intended to be used for *sanitation*, but which is not a *sanitary fixture*. Included are machines for washing dishes and clothes.

**Sanitary fixture** Any *fixture* which is intended to be used for *sanitation*.

**Sanitation** The term used to describe the activities of washing and/or excretion carried out in a manner or condition such that the effect on health is minimised, with regard to dirt and infection.

**Sewer** A *drain* that is under the control of, or maintained by, a *network utility operator*.

**Surface water** All naturally occurring water, other than sub-surface water, which results from rainfall on the site or water flowing onto the site, including that flowing from a *drain*, stream, river, lake or sea.

Amend 2  
Jul 2001

# Verification Method G15/VM1

No specific test methods have been adopted for verifying compliance with the Performance of NZBC G15.



# Acceptable Solution G15/AS1

## 1.0 Capacity of Containers and Storage Areas

**1.0.1** The method of solid waste disposal in *multi-unit* and *group dwellings* shall be by the provision of moveable containers having a capacity of at least 80 litres for each dwelling unit.

**1.0.2** Where containers are stored in a common area within a *building* or part of a *building*, a space of at least 0.5 m x 0.5 m by 1 m high shall be provided for each dwelling unit.

**1.0.3** If a common storage area such as a ground floor rubbish area is provided within the *building*, it shall be *adequately* ventilated to the open air in compliance with NZBC G4.

**COMMENT:**

1. Because rubbish is likely to be removed less frequently in multi-storey residential *buildings*, ventilated space for the storage of the container is desirable.
2. The container capacity is based on the volume of a typical rubbish bag and on the assumption that the wastes will be collected weekly.
3. For most *detached dwellings* this storage will be outside the *building*.

## 2.0 Carry Distance

**2.0.1** In *multi-unit* and *group dwellings*, the maximum carry distance between any occupancy and a common solid waste storage area or chute shall be 30 m.

**COMMENT:**

1. Common rubbish storage areas which are remote from accommodation units will encourage the accumulation of rubbish within each unit, and may become a health hazard.
2. There is no requirement for non-residential *buildings*.

## 3.0 Solid Waste Storage Areas

**3.0.1** An acceptable common storage area for solid waste (see Figure 1) shall:

- a) Have interior surfaces which are easily cleaned,
- b) Be totally enclosed and separated from *habitable spaces* and food preparation areas,
- c) Be protected from high temperatures which could hasten putrefication, and
- d) Be screened from *habitable spaces* to reduce visual impact.

**3.0.2** Concrete floors are acceptable if they have a U5 trowelled finish complying with NZS 3114 and are graded at 1 in 50 to a floor drain. Floor drains shall comply with NZBC G13.

**3.0.3** Walls in spaces where storage bins are likely to receive food wastes and are subject to spillage shall be constructed of concrete, galvanised sheet steel, vinyl or similar material.

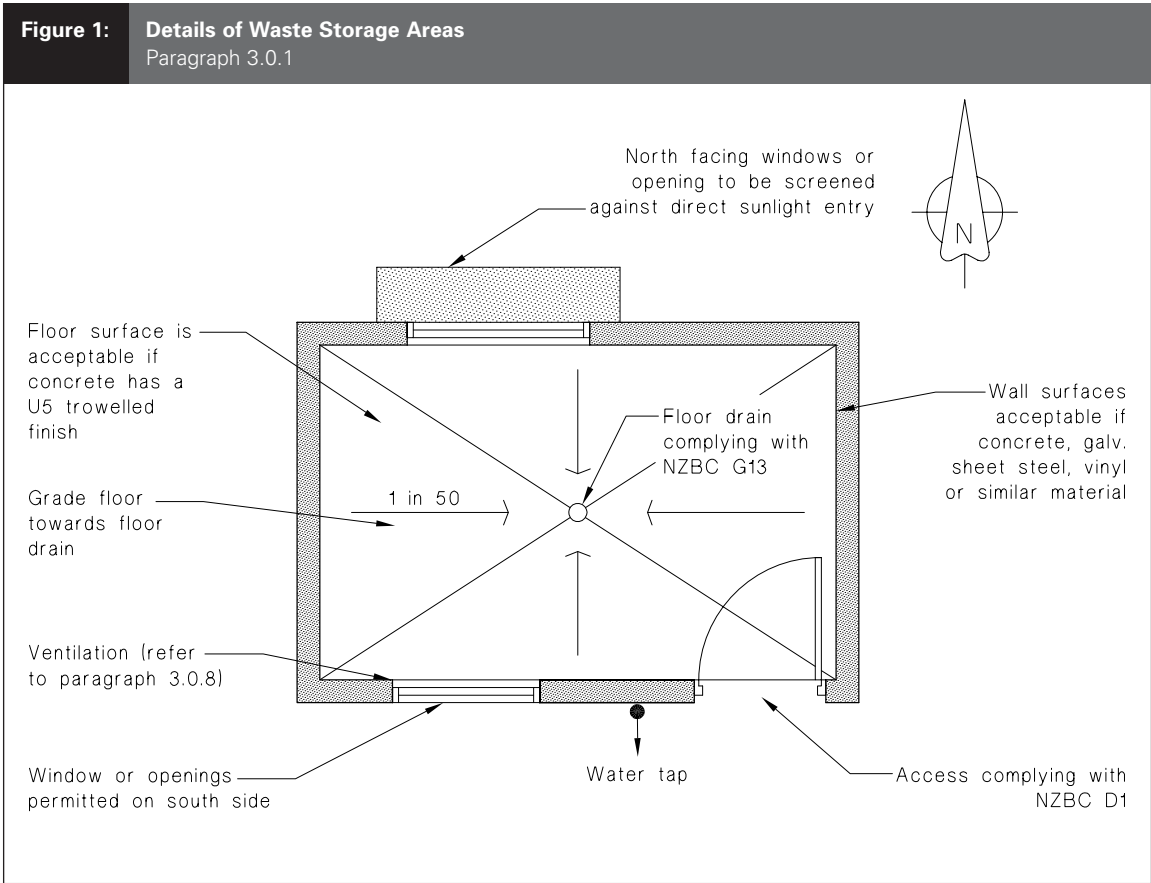
**3.0.4** Windows facing north in any food waste storage area shall be screened from direct sunlight in order to reduce the likelihood of putrefication.

**3.0.5** An alternative solution is for perishable wastes to be stored within a refrigerated store room.

**3.0.6 Opening windows** shall be screened to prevent entry by insects and other vermin.

**3.0.7 A water supply** tap, complying with NZBC G12, shall be provided for washing down common waste storage areas.

**3.0.8 Ventilation:** Storage areas located indoors shall be *adequately* ventilated to open air in compliance with NZBC G4.



**3.0.9 Mechanical ventilation:** Where mechanical ventilation is used, it shall:

- a) Provide no less than 6 air changes per hour,
- b) Maintain a negative pressure within the storage area relative to adjacent areas (if any), and
- c) Discharge foul air to a safe place to avoid the likelihood of exhaust air entering any building.

**3.0.10 Access** between the storage area and collection vehicle shall comply with NZBC D1.

**COMMENT:**

For ease of collection, the access route should be level and as short as possible.

**3.1 Alternative acceptable solution**

**3.1.1** NZS 4304 Section 6.2 is an alternative acceptable solution for storage areas, but may exceed the performance criteria of NZBC G15.

**4.0 Solid Waste Chutes**

**4.0.1** Where waste chutes with side-entry hoppers (see Figure 2) are used as an alternative to common storage areas, the chute shall:

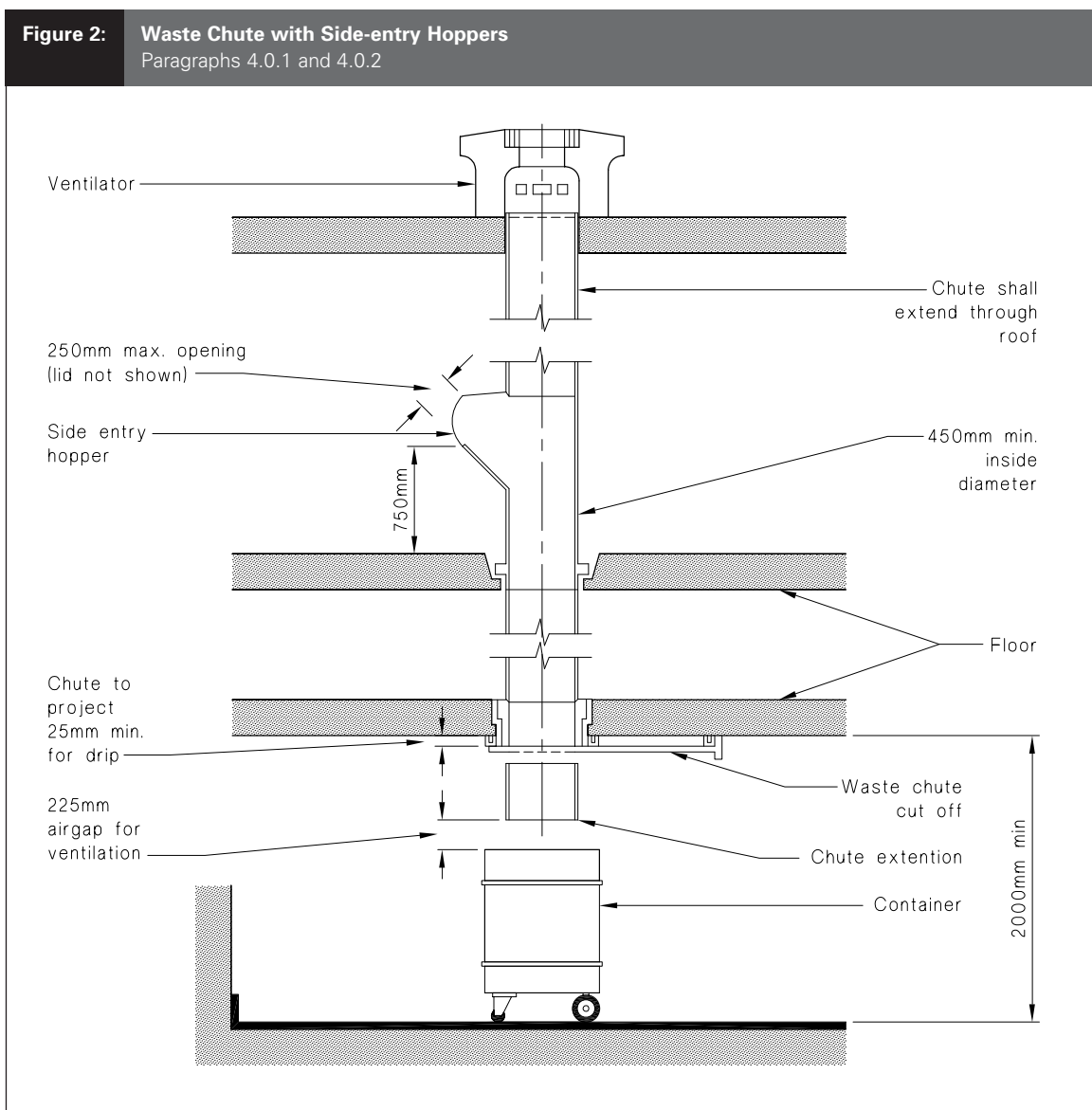
- a) Have a minimum internal diameter of 450 mm,
- b) Be self-cleaning, vertical and have smooth joints,
- c) Be vented at the top above the roof line, and at the bottom above the container, and
- d) Terminate centrally over a suitable container located in a room complying with Paragraphs 3.0.1 to 3.0.9.

**COMMENT:**

The chute cut-off should be kept open except when changing containers, to ensure the chute is clear at all times.

**4.0.2** Side-entry hoppers (see Figure 2) shall:

- a) Have a maximum opening diameter of 250 mm,
- b) Have self-closing, tight-fitting doors to prevent odours escaping,
- c) Have an easily cleaned wall surface surrounding the opening for 300 mm (this may be galvanised steel, ceramic tiles or similar material),
- d) Be located outside any dwelling or enclosed stair access, and away from any *habitable space* or food preparation area, and
- e) Have *adequate* ventilation, preferably by being located in the open air (e.g. on an outside balcony). Where hoppers are inside *buildings*, they shall be located in separate ventilated compartments complying with NZBC G4.



**COMMENT:**

1. Hoppers are not intended for weekly rubbish bags, but are for daily use in smaller quantities.
2. Hoppers should not be situated near bedrooms because of noise and odours. To prevent maintenance problems, it is recommended that no more than 6 household units be serviced by each hopper entry.
3. Hoppers are best located to take advantage of natural daylight. *Adequate* artificial light should also be available.

**4.0.3** *Buildings* incorporating waste chutes, shall be provided with a water supply tap on every second floor, adjacent to the chute, to facilitate cleaning.

# Index G15/VM1 & AS1

All references to Verification Methods and Acceptable Solutions are preceded by **VM** or **AS** respectively.

**Solid Waste**

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