Fire performance of external wall cladding systems

Significant high-rise fire events globally have increased our understanding of how fire spreads externally and within modern facade construction. This has prompted MBIE to review the current methods used to demonstrate compliance of external wall cladding systems with building regulations’ fire safety objectives. In particular, how New Zealand requirements should be interpreted and whether international alternative fire test and evaluation methods are suitable for use here.

This guide discusses how external wall cladding systems can be tested to determine their fire performance. This information will help industry to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the New Zealand Building Code, consider the overall risks associated with the building’s use, the risk profile of its occupants, the building height and other fire safety systems in the building.

Published on 19 February 2019

Of interest to Fire engineers, Territorial Authority, Manufacturers, Building consent accreditation body, Architects

This information is published by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment’s Chief Executive. It is a general guide only and, if used, does not relieve any person of the obligation to consider any matter to which the information relates according to the circumstances of the particular case. Expert advice may be required in specific circumstances. Where this information relates to assisting people:

- with compliance with the Building Act, it is published under section 175 of the Building Act
- with a Weathertight Services claim, it is published under section 12 of the Weathertight Homes Resolution Services Act 2006.