

C Protection from fire

There are six Building Code clauses related to protecting people in and around buildings, limiting fire spread and helping firefighting and rescue.

Supporting them are two Verification Methods and seven Acceptable Solutions, based on the occupant activity in all or part of a building.

Each clause has an objective (see C1), and there may be specific products and determinations under each clause. However, most guidance applies to all of the clauses and most requirements cross over a number of other Building Code clauses, including structure and access.

[Change of use and alterations \(https://www.building.govt.nz/managing-buildings/change-of-use-and-alterations/\)](https://www.building.govt.nz/managing-buildings/change-of-use-and-alterations/) of a building can trigger the need for upgrades to the fire safety systems.
(<https://www.building.govt.nz/managing-buildings/change-of-use-and-alterations/>)

[Specified systems and compliance schedules \(https://www.building.govt.nz/managing-buildings/managing-your-bwof/specified-systems-and-compliance-schedules/\)](https://www.building.govt.nz/managing-buildings/managing-your-bwof/specified-systems-and-compliance-schedules/) has information for building owners about their responsibility to maintain active and passive systems according to their compliance schedule.

[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.

[Protection from fire \(https://www.mbie.govt.nz/building-and-energy/building/investigations-and-reviews-for-safer-buildings/protection-from-fire/\)](https://www.mbie.govt.nz/building-and-energy/building/investigations-and-reviews-for-safer-buildings/protection-from-fire/) on the MBIE website has further information on the overview and status of MBIE's fire engineering project priorities.

In this section



C1 Objectives of Clauses C2 to C6

(<https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/c-protection-from-fire/c-clauses-c1-c6/>)

Safety objectives for people, other property and firefighting applied to clauses C2 to C6 of the Building Code.

(<https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/c-protection-from-fire/c-clauses-c1-c6/>)



C2 Prevention of fire occurring

(<https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/c-protection-from-fire/c2-prevention-of-fire-occurring/>)

Safe design and installation of fixed appliances using controlled combustion and other fixed equipment.

(<https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/c-protection-from-fire/c2-prevention-of-fire-occurring/>)



C3 Fire affecting areas beyond the source

(<https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/c-protection-from-fire/c3-fire-affecting-areas-beyond-the-source/>)

Fire affecting areas beyond the source: vertical or horizontal fire spread, Material Group Numbers, surface finishes.

[\(https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/c-protection-from-fire/c3-fire-affecting-areas-beyond-the-source/\)](https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/c-protection-from-fire/c3-fire-affecting-areas-beyond-the-source/)



C4 Movement to a place of safety

[\(https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/c-protection-from-fire/c4-movement-to-a-place-of-safety/\)](https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/c-protection-from-fire/c4-movement-to-a-place-of-safety/)

Fire warnings, visibility of escape routes (smoke obscuration), automatic fire sprinkler systems, means of escape.

[\(https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/c-protection-from-fire/c4-movement-to-a-place-of-safety/\)](https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/c-protection-from-fire/c4-movement-to-a-place-of-safety/)



C5 Access and safety for firefighting operations

[\(https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/c-protection-from-fire/c5-access-and-safety-for-firefighting-operations/\)](https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/c-protection-from-fire/c5-access-and-safety-for-firefighting-operations/)

Access and safety for firefighting operations: access, hazards information and unobstructed paths.

[\(https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/c-protection-from-fire/c5-access-and-safety-for-firefighting-operations/\)](https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/c-protection-from-fire/c5-access-and-safety-for-firefighting-operations/)



C6 Structural stability

[\(https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/c-protection-from-fire/c6-structural-stability/\)](https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/c-protection-from-fire/c6-structural-stability/)

Structural stability during fire: buildings remain stable during fire (likelihood of failure or collapse).

[\(https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/c-protection-from-fire/c6-structural-stability/\)](https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/c-protection-from-fire/c6-structural-stability/)