

**IB
17**

Changes to note on AS 1530.4:2014 reference in the NCC 2019



1 Purpose statement

The note pertaining to the reference of Australian Standard AS 1530.4:2014 in Volume One of the National Construction Code (NCC) has changed.

This document provides information and guidance on the relevant evidence of suitability required by the NCC 2019 and the indicated change in required evidence of suitability from 1 May 2022 as a result of the change to this note.

Important

This document does not address or provide information (nor is it intended to) on how the changes to the NCC may affect the compliance of materials, components or structures that are required to be tested to **other** parts of the AS 1530 series (i.e. AS 1530 parts 1, 2 and 3).

It only covers how the changes affect AS 1530.4.

2 Audience

This Information Bulletin is intended for:

- (i) FPA Australia members;
- (ii) Building regulators, certifiers and building surveyors; and
- (iii) Other stakeholders in the fire protection and construction industry who work with fire resisting materials, components and structures

3 Background

For many years prior to the publication of the NCC 2019, Volume One of the NCC contained a note on the application of AS 1530.4 as follows:

AS 1530.4 Note – Prior to NCC 2019

“[Note: Subject to the note to AS 4072.1, reports relating to tests carried out under earlier editions of AS 1530 Parts 1 to 4 remain valid. Reports relating to tests carried out after the date of an amendment to a Standard must relate to the amended Standard]”

(Note to AS 1530, Table 1, Specification A1.3, National Construction Code, Volume One, 2016 Amendment 1)

However, this note was changed in the NCC 2019 as follows:

AS 1530.4 Note – NCC 2019

“(2) For AS 1530 Parts 1 to 4:

- (a) Until 1 May 2022, subject to the note to AS 4072.1, reports relating to tests carried out under earlier editions of AS 1530 Parts 1 to 4 remain valid.*
- (b) Reports relating to tests carried out after the date of an amendment to a Standard must relate to the amended Standard.”*

(Note 2 to Table 1, Schedule 4, National Construction Code, Volume One, 2019)

The addition of “Until 1 May 2022” indicates that as of 1 May 2022 the use of some test and assessment reports to earlier editions of AS 1530.4 may no longer be valid evidence of suitability despite previously being issued by an Accredited Testing Laboratory (ATL) for use under earlier editions of the NCC. (For the definition of an ATL, see Schedule 3 of the NCC 2019).

4 Evidence of Suitability

The table in the Appendix of this Information Bulletin has been prepared by FPA Australia’s Technical Advisory Committee for Passive Fire Protection (TAC/18/19) to provide guidance on both the applicability of different editions of AS 1530.4 and the relevant evidence of suitability required by the NCC 2019 and indicated as required from 1 May 2022.

The table details three methods available to determine a Fire Resistance Level (FRL). These are in accordance with Clauses 2(b) and 2(c) of Schedule 5 “Fire-resistance of building elements” of the NCC 2019 (previously Clause 2(b) and 2(c) of Specification A2.3 of the NCC 2016 Amendment 1).

These methods have been labelled as Type 1 to Type 3 for quick reference.

The table also provides guidance on how the change to the note pertaining to the reference of AS 1530.4 could affect the validity of previous evidence of suitability from 1 May 2022.

The Table details (from left to right):

- The FRL determination methods (Types 1 to 3);
- The document type prepared by the Accredited Test Laboratory;
- The relevant version of the test standard;
- The relevant test dates; and
- Whether the resulting evidence of suitability would meet the requirements under the NCC 2019 and indicated requirements for the NCC 2022.

5 Summary

Through the Table, this Information Bulletin conveys how the changes to the note pertaining to the reference of AS 1530.4 in the NCC 2019 could affect what evidence of suitability is determined as valid from 1 May 2022 by the authority having jurisdiction.

6 Recommendations

FPA Australia recommends that:

1. Until adoption of the proposed NCC 2022, all stakeholders should always read and verify any evidence of suitability provided or obtained for fire resisting materials, components and structures they are proposing to specify, approve, install or certify to ensure that the evidence is valid for NCC 2019.
2. Manufacturers and suppliers of fire resisting materials, components and structures should investigate and determine if the products they manufacture, distribute or sell:
 - (a) have evidence of suitability that is valid under the indicated requirements from 1 May 2022; or
 - (b) need to be re-tested or confirmed in an assessment report to ensure they will have valid evidence of suitability under the indicated requirements from 1 May 2022.

7 References

- *AS 1530.4:2014, Methods for fire tests on building materials, components and structures—Fire-resistance tests for elements of construction*, Standards Australia Limited, 2014.
- National Construction Code, Volume One, Building Code of Australia, Class 2 to Class 9 Buildings, 2019, *The National Construction Code Series 2019*, Commonwealth of Australia and the States and Territories, published by the Australian Building Codes Board, 2019.

Excerpts used under licence CC BY-ND 4.0.

- National Construction Code, Volume One, Building Code of Australia, Class 2 to Class 9 Buildings, 2016, *The National Construction Code Series 2016*, Commonwealth of Australia and the States and Territories, published by the Australian Building Codes Board, 2016.

Excerpts used under licence CC BY-NC-ND 4.0.

Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in this correspondence reflect those of FPA Australia however are subject to change based on receipt of further information regarding the subject matter. You should interpret the technical opinion or information provided carefully and consider the context of how this opinion / information will be used in conjunction with the requirements of regulation (state and/or federal); relevant standards, codes or specifications; certification; accreditation; manufacturer's documentation and advice; and any other relevant requirements, instructions or guidelines. FPA Australia does not accept any responsibility or liability for the accuracy of the opinion / information provided, nor do they accept either directly or indirectly any liabilities, losses and damages arising from the use and application of this opinion / information.

© Copyright 2019 Fire Protection Association Australia.

Material distributed by FPA Australia is subject to copyright. Any information within this publication may not be reproduced in printed or electronic form without permission from FPA Australia.

For more information, please see www.fpa.com.au or contact FPA Australia on 1300 731 922.

Appendix

The table below provides guidance on whether or not existing evidence of suitability is valid under the NCC 2019 and will remain valid under the indicated requirements from 1 May 2022.

Table 1 – Guidance on the impact of the change to Note 2 to Table 1 of Schedule 4 of the NCC 2019

Description of FRL Determination Method	Description of Document Prepared by Accredited Testing Laboratory	Version of standard for test report	Determining Validity as Evidence of Suitability by Note 2 of Schedule 5 of the NCC 2019	
			From 1 May 2019 to 30 April 2022	From 1 May 2022
Type 1 Prototype submitted to the Standard Fire Test Clause 2(b) of Schedule 5 – NCC 2019 (previously Clause 2(b) of Specification A2.3 – NCC 2016)	A test report that confirms the FRL achieved by the prototype when tested to the 'Test Standard' prepared by an Accredited Testing Laboratory.	AS 1530.4-2005 or earlier edition tested prior to 1 May 2016	May be used to meet Schedule 5 Clause 2 (b)	Not Valid
		AS 1530.4-2005 or earlier edition tested from 1 May 2016	Not Valid	Not Valid
		AS 1530.4:2014 tested from 1 May 2016	May be used to meet Schedule 5 Clause 2 (b)	May be used to meet Schedule 5 Clause 2 (b)
Description of FRL Determination Method	Description of Document Prepared by Accredited Testing Laboratory	Version of standard for assessment report	From 1 May 2019 to 30 April 2022	From 1 May 2022
Type 2 Prototype submitted to an Equivalent or More Severe Test Clause 2(b) of Schedule 5 – NCC 2019 (previously Clause 2(b) of Specification A2.3 – NCC 2016)	An assessment report prepared by an Accredited Testing Laboratory, that confirms that the FRL is capable of being achieved in accordance with a particular edition of AS1530.4 The report must refer to a fire resistance test undertaken to a test standard that is equivalent to or more severe than AS 1530.4.	AS 1530.4-2005 or earlier edition	May be used to meet Schedule 5 Clause 2 (b)	Not Valid
		AS 1530.4:2014	May be used to meet Schedule 5 Clause 2 (b)	May be used to meet Schedule 5 Clause 2 (b)
Type 3 Variation (Differs in only a Minor Degree) from either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A tested prototype submitted to the Standard Fire Test (Type 1); or • A tested prototype submitted to an Equivalent or More Severe Test (Type 2) Clause 2(c) of Schedule 5 – NCC 2019 (previously Clause 2(c) of Specification A2.3 – NCC 2016)	An assessment report prepared by an Accredited Testing Laboratory, that confirms that the FRL is capable of being achieved in accordance with a particular edition of AS1530.4 for the referenced tests and certifies that the building element is capable of achieving the FRL despite the minor departures from the tested prototype; and describes the materials, construction and conditions of restraint which are necessary to achieve the FRL.	AS 1530.4-2005 or earlier edition	May be used to meet Schedule 5 Clause 2 (c)	Not Valid
		AS 1530.4:2014	May be used to meet Schedule 5 Clause 2 (c)	May be used to meet Schedule 5 Clause 2 (c)

Note: The requirements under the 'From 1 May 2022' column are subject to change. They are based on the existing requirements under Note 2 to Table 1 of Schedule 4 of the NCC 2019, Volume One. However, when the NCC 2022 is published it may or may not change these requirements.