

SECTION A GENERAL PROVISIONS

2006 Edition

PART A1 INTERPRETATION

A1.1 Definitions

A1.1 amended by BCA 2006

For additional definitions see NSW Appendix, Qld Appendix, Tas Appendix, Vic Appendix

In Volume One of the BCA unless the contrary intention appearsâ€”

Accessible means having features to permit use by people with disabilities.

â€œAccesswayâ€” amended by Amdt No. 3

Accessway means a continuous *accessible* path of travel to or within a building suitable for people with disabilities as defined in AS 1428.1.

â€œAged care buildingâ€” inserted by Amdt No. 11

Aged care building means a Class 9c building for residential accommodation of aged persons who, due to varying degrees of incapacity associated with the ageing process, are provided with *personal care services* and 24 hour staff assistance to evacuate the building during an emergency.

â€œAir-conditioningâ€” amended by BCA 2006

Air-conditioning, for the purposes of Section J, means a *service* that actively cools or heats a space within a building, in order to provide a suitable environment for the building occupants but does not include process needs such as temperature or humidity control as occurs in cold rooms and hot rooms.

Alpine area means landâ€”

- (a) likely to be subject to significant snowfalls;
- (b) in New South Wales, A.C.T. or Victoria more than 1200 m above the Australian Height Datum; and
- (c) in Tasmania more than 900 m above the Australian Height Datum.

Alteration, in relation to a building, includes an addition or extension to a building.

â€œAlternative Solutionâ€” inserted by Amdt No. 1

Alternative Solution means a *Building Solution* which complies with the *Performance Requirements* other than by reason of satisfying the *Deemed-to-Satisfy Provisions*.

â€œAnnual energy consumptionâ€” amended by BCA 2006

Annual energy consumption means the theoretical amount of energy used annually by the building's *services*, excluding kitchen exhaust and the like, and is calculated using a methodâ€”

- (a) that uses climatic data based on hourly recorded values representative of a typical year (Test Reference Year or Weather Year for Energy Calculations) for the proposed location; and
- (b) that is capable of assessing the contribution ofâ€”
 - (i) the building *fabric* including *glazing* and shading; and
 - (ii) air infiltration and ventilation; and
 - (iii) internal heat sources including people and appliances; and
 - (iv) different occupant usage patterns; and
 - (v) relevant built-environment and topographical features; and
 - (vi) the actual elements of the *air-conditioning* system such as fans, cooling and heating plant, including their efficiencies and part load operation characteristics; and
 - (vii) the zoning of an *air-conditioning* system; and
 - (viii) the artificial lighting of the proposed building; and
- (c) that is based on the space temperature range being maintained 98% of the time during which the equipment is operating.

Assembly building means a building where people may assemble forâ€”

- (a) civic, theatrical, social, political or religious purposes; or
- (b) educational purposes in a *school*, *early childhood centre*, preschool, or the like; or
- (c) entertainment, recreational or sporting purposes; or
- (d) transit purposes.

â€œAssessment Methodâ€” inserted by Amdt No. 1

Assessment Method means a method used for determining that a *Building Solution* complies with the

Performance Requirements.

Atrium means a space within a building that connects 2 or more *storeys*, andâ€”

- (a) is wholly or substantially enclosed at the top by a floor or roof (including a glazed roof structure); and
- (b) includes any adjacent part of the building not separated by an appropriate barrier to fire; but
- (c) does not include a stairwell, rampwell or the space within a *shaft*.

“Atrium well” amended by BCA 2006

Atrium well means a space in an *atrium* bounded by the perimeter of the openings in the floors or by the perimeter of the floors and the *external walls*.

“Automatic” amended by Amdt No. 7

Automatic means designed to operate when activated by a heat, smoke or fire sensing device.

Average recurrence interval, applied to rainfall, means the expected or average interval between exceedances of a given intensity.

“Average specific extinction area” inserted by Amdt No. 13

Average specific extinction area means the average specific extinction area for smoke as determined by AS/NZS 3837.

Backstage means a space associated with, and adjacent to, a *stage* in a Class 9b building for scenery, props, equipment, dressing rooms, or the like.

“Building Solution” inserted by Amdt No. 1

Building Solution means a solution which complies with the *Performance Requirements* and isâ€”

- (a) an *Alternative Solution*; or
- (b) a solution which complies with the *Deemed-to-Satisfy Provisions*; or
- (c) a combination of (a) and (b).

Carpark means a building that is used for the parking of motor vehicles but is neither a *private garage* nor used for the servicing of vehicles, other than washing, cleaning or polishing.

“Certificate of Accreditation” amended by Amdt No. 11

Certificate of Accreditation means a certificate issued by a State or Territory accreditation authority stating that the properties and performance of a building material or method of construction or design fulfil specific requirements of the BCA.

“Certificate of Conformity” amended by Amdt No. 11

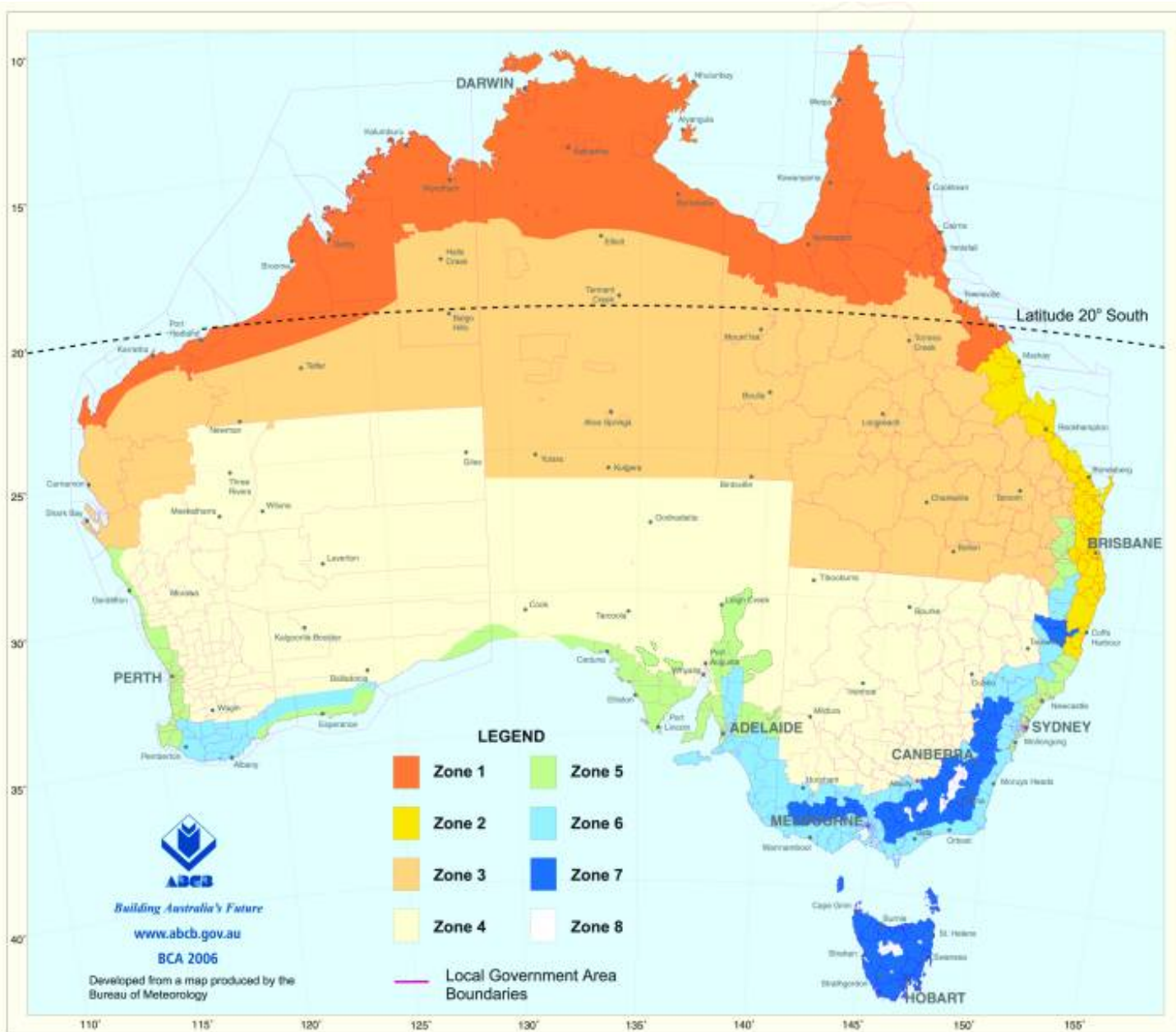
Certificate of Conformity means a certificate issued under the ABCB scheme for products and systems certification stating that the properties and performance of a building material or method of construction or design fulfil specific requirements of the BCA.

“Climate Zone” inserted by BCA 2005

Climate Zone means an area defined in [Figure A1.1](#) and in [Table A1.1](#) for specific locations, having energy efficiency provisions based on a range of similar climatic characteristics.

Figure A1.1





Notes:

1. This map can be viewed in enlargeable form on the Energy Efficiency page of the ABCB web site at www.abcb.gov.au or directly from the Core Projects/Energy Efficiency page on the ABCB web site.
2. A Zone 4 area in South Australia, other than a council area, at an altitude greater than 300 m above the Australian Height Datum is to be considered as Zone 5.

Table A1.1 CLIMATE ZONES FOR THERMAL DESIGN - VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Location	Climate zone	Location	Climate zone	Location	Climate zone	Location	Climate zone
Australian Capital Territory		Canberra		7			
New South Wales							
Albury	4	Byron Bay	2	Lord Howe Island	2	Sydney West	6
Armidale	7	Cobar	4	Moree	4	Tamworth	4
Batemans Bay	6	Coffs Harbour	2	Newcastle	5	Thredbo	8
Bathurst	6	Dubbo	4	Nowra	6	Wagga Wagga	4
Bega	6	Goulburn	7	Orange	7	Williamstown	5

Bellingen Shire - Dorigo Plateau	7	Grafton	2	Perisher Smiggins	8	Wollongong	5
Bellingen Shire - Valley & seaboard	2	Griffith	4	Port Macquarie	5	Yass	6
Bourke	4	Ivanhoe	4	Sydney East	5		
Broken Hill	4	Lismore	2				
Northern Territory							
Alice Springs	3	Elliot	3	Renner Springs	3		
Darwin	1	Katherine	1	Tennant Creek	3		
Queensland							
Birdsville	3	Cunnamulla	3	Maryborough	2	Toowoomba	5
Brisbane	2	Longreach	3	Mount Isa	3	Torrens Creek	3
Bundaberg	2	Gladstone	2	Normanton	1	Townsville	1
Cairns	1	Labrador	2	Rockhampton	2	Warwick	5
Cooktown	1	Mackay	2	Roma	3	Weipa	1
South Australia							
Adelaide	5	Kingscote	6	Marree	4	Port Lincoln	5
Bordertown	6	Leigh Creek	4	Mount Gambier	6	Renmark	5
Ceduna	5	Lobethal	5	Murray Bridge	6	Tarcoola	4
Cook	4	Loxton	5	Oodnadatta	4	Victor Harbour	6
Elliston	5	Naracoorte	6	Port Augusta	4	Whyalla	4
Tasmania							
Burnie	7	Flinders Island	7	Launceston	7	Rossarden	7
Bicheno	7	Hobart	7	New Norfolk	7	Smithton	7
Deloraine	7	Huonville	7	Oatlands	7	St Marys	7
Devonport	7	King Island	7	Orford	7	Zeehan	7
Victoria							
Anglesea	6	Bright	7	Horsham	6	Swan Hill	4
Ararat	7	Colac	6	Melbourne	6	Traralgon	6
Bairnsdale	6	Dandenong	6	Mildura	4	Wangaratta	4
Ballarat	7	Echuca	4	Portland	6	Warrnambool	6
Benalla	6	Geelong	6	Sale	6	Wodonga	4
Bendigo	6	Hamilton	7	Shepparton	4		
Western Australia							
Albany	6	Cocos Island	1	Kalgoorlie-Boulder	4	Port Hedland	1
Balladonia	4	Derby	1	Karratha	1	Wagin	4
Broome	1	Esperance	5	Meekatharra	4	Wyndham	1
Bunbury	5	Exmouth	1	Northam	4		
Carnarvon	3	Geraldton	5	Pemberton	6		
Christmas Island	1	Halls Creek	3	Perth	5		

Combustible meansâ€”

(a) Applied to a material â€” *combustible* as determined by [AS 1530.1](#).

(b) Applied to construction or part of a building â€” constructed wholly or in part of *combustible* materials.

Common wall means a wall that is common to adjoining buildings.

â€œConditioned spaceâ€ amended by BCA 2006

Conditioned space means a space within a building where the environment is likely, by the intended use of the space, to be controlled by *air-conditioning*, but does not includeâ€

- (a) a non-*habitable room* in which a heater with a capacity of not more than 1.2 kW provides the *air-conditioning*; or
- (b) a space in a Class 7, 8 or 9b building where the input power to an *air-conditioning* system is not more than 15 W/m².

â€œConstruction activity actionsâ€ inserted by Amdt No. 11

Construction activity actions means actions due to stacking of building materials or the use of equipment, including cranes and trucks, during construction or actions which may be induced by floor to floor propping.

â€œCooling loadâ€ inserted by BCA 2005

Cooling load means the calculated amount of energy removed from the cooled spaces of the building annually, by artificial means, to maintain the desired temperatures in those spaces.

â€œCritical radiant fluxâ€ inserted by Amdt No. 13

Critical radiant flux means the critical heat flux at extinguishment as determined by [AS ISO 9239.1](#).

Curtain wall means a non-*loadbearing external wall* that is not a *panel wall*.

â€œDeemed-to-Satisfy Provisionsâ€ amended by Amdt No. 2

Deemed-to-Satisfy Provisions means provisions which are deemed to satisfy the *Performance Requirements*.

â€œDesignated bushfire prone areaâ€ amended by Amdt No. 6

(NSW, Designated bushfire prone area)

Designated bushfire prone area means land which has been designated under a power of legislation as being subject, or likely to be subject, to bushfires.

â€œDetention centreâ€ inserted by Amdt No. 3

Detention centre means a building in which persons are securely detained by means of the built structure including a prison, remand centre, juvenile *detention centre*, holding cells or psychiatric *detention centre*.

(NSW, Early childhood centre)

(Tas, Early childhood centre)

(Vic, Early childhood centre)

Early childhood centre means a preschool, kindergarten or child-minding centre.

Effective height means the height to the floor of the topmost *storey* (excluding the topmost *storey* if it contains only heating, ventilating, lift or other equipment, water tanks or similar service units) from the floor of the lowest *storey* providing direct egress to a road or *open space*.

â€œEnvelopeâ€ inserted by BCA 2005

Envelope, for the purposes of [Section J](#), means the parts of a buildingâ€™s *fabric* that separate a *conditioned space* or *habitable room* fromâ€

- (a) the exterior of the building; or
- (b) a non-*conditioned space* includingâ€
 - (i) the floor of a rooftop plant room, lift-machine room or the like; and
 - (ii) the floor above a *carpark* or warehouse; and
 - (iii) the *common wall* with a *carpark*, warehouse or the like, other than a non-*conditioned space* through which conditioned air is being exhausted or relieved such as an internal corridor, cleanerâ€™s room, chemical storage room or exhaust riser.

â€œEquivalentâ€ inserted by Amdt No. 1

Equivalent means equivalent to the level of health, safety and amenity provided by the *Deemed-to-Satisfy Provisions*.

Evacuation route means the continuous path of travel (including *exits*, *public corridors* and the like) from any part of a building, including within a *sole-occupancy unit* in a Class 2 or 3 building or Class 4 part, to a *safe place*.

Evacuation time means the time calculated from when the emergency starts for the occupants of the building to evacuate to a *safe place*.

"Exit" amended by BCA 2006

Exit meansâ€

- (a) Any, or any combination of the following if they provide egress to a road or *open space*”
- (i) An internal or external stairway.
 - (ii) A ramp.
 - (iii) A *fire-isolated passageway*.
 - (iv) A doorway opening to a road or *open space*.
- (b) A *horizontal exit* or a *fire-isolated passageway* leading to a *horizontal exit*.

“Expert Judgement” inserted by Amdt No. 1

Expert Judgement means the judgement of an expert who has the qualifications and experience to determine whether a *Building Solution* complies with the *Performance Requirements*.

External wall means an outer wall of a building which is not a *common wall*.

“Fabric” inserted by BCA 2005

Fabric means the basic building structural elements and components of a building including the roof, ceilings, walls and floors.

“Fire brigade” amended by Amdt No. 7

Fire brigade means a statutory authority constituted under an Act of Parliament having as one of its functions, the protection of life and property from fire and other emergencies.

Fire compartment means”

- (a) the total space of a building; or
- (b) when referred to in”
 - (i) the *Objective, Functional Statement* or *Performance Requirements*” any part of a building separated from the remainder by barriers to fire such as walls and/or floors having an appropriate resistance to the spread of fire with any openings adequately protected; or
 - (ii) the *Deemed-to-Satisfy Provisions*” any part of a building separated from the remainder by walls and/or floors each having an FRL not less than that *required* for a *fire wall* for that type of construction and where all openings in the separating construction are protected in accordance with the *Deemed-to-Satisfy Provisions* of the relevant Part.

Fire hazard means the danger in terms of potential harm and degree of exposure arising from the start and spread of fire and the smoke and gases that are thereby generated.

“Fire hazard properties” inserted by Amdt No. 13

Fire hazard properties means the *average specific extinction area, critical radiant flux, Flammability Index, Smoke-Developed Index, smoke growth rate index, smoke development rate* or *Spread-of-Flame Index* of a material or assembly that indicate how they behave under specific fire test conditions.

Fire intensity means the rate release of calorific energy in watts, determined either theoretically or empirically, as applicable.

Fire-isolated passageway means a corridor, hallway or the like, of *fire-resisting construction*, which provides egress to or from a *fire-isolated stairway* or *fire-isolated ramp* or to a road or *open space*.

Fire-isolated ramp means a ramp within a *fire-resisting* enclosure which provides egress from a *storey*.

Fire-isolated stairway means a stairway within a *fire-resisting shaft* and includes the floor and roof or top enclosing structure.

Fire load means the sum of the net calorific values of the *combustible* contents which can reasonably be expected to burn within a *fire compartment*, including furnishings, built-in and removable materials, and building elements. The calorific values must be determined at the ambient moisture content or humidity. (The unit of measurement is MJ.)

“Fire-protective covering” amended by Amdt No. 8

Fire-protective covering means”

- (a) 13 mm fire-protective grade plasterboard; or
- (b) 12 mm cellulose cement flat sheeting complying with [AS/NZS 2908.2](#) or ISO 8336; or
- (c) 12 mm fibrous plaster reinforced with 13 mm x 13 mm x 0.7 mm galvanised steel wire mesh located not more than 6 mm from the exposed face; or
- (d) other material not less fire-protective than 13 mm fire-protective grade plasterboard, fixed in accordance with the normal trade practice for a *fire-protective covering*.

Fire-resistance level (FRL) means the grading periods in minutes determined in accordance with [Specification A2.3](#), for the following criteria”

- (a) *structural adequacy*; and
 - (b) *integrity*; and
 - (c) *insulation*,
- and expressed in that order.

Note:

A dash means that there is no requirement for that criterion. For example, 90/â€“/â€“ means there is no requirement for an FRL for integrity and insulation, and â€“/â€“/â€“ means there is no requirement for an FRL.

â€œFire-resistingâ€ amended by Amdt No. 3

Fire-resisting, applied to a building element, means having an FRL appropriate for that element.

Fire-resisting construction means one of the Types of construction referred to in [Part C1](#).

Fire safety system means one or any combination of the methods used in a building toâ€”

- (a) warn people of an emergency; or
- (b) provide for safe evacuation; or
- (c) restrict the spread of fire; or
- (d) extinguish a fire,

and includes both active and passive systems.

Fire-source feature meansâ€”

- (a) the far boundary of a road adjoining the allotment; or
- (b) a side or rear boundary of the allotment; or
- (c) an *external wall* of another building on the allotment which is not a Class 10 building.

Fire wall means a wall with an appropriate resistance to the spread of fire that divides a *storey* or building into *fire compartments*.

â€œFlashoverâ€ inserted by BCA 2004

Flashover, in relation to *fire hazard properties*, means a heat release rate of 1 MW.

Flammability Index means the index number as determined by [AS 1530.2](#).

â€œFlightâ€ inserted by Amdt No. 8

Flight means that part of a stairway that has a continuous series of risers, including risers of winders, not interrupted by a landing or floor.

â€œFloor areaâ€ amended by Amdt No. 4

Floor area meansâ€”

- (a) in relation to a building â€” the total area of all *storeys*; and
- (b) in relation to a *storey* â€” the area of all floors of that *storey* measured over the enclosing walls, and includesâ€”
 - (i) the area of a *mezzanine* within the *storey*, measured within the finished surfaces of any *external walls*; and
 - (ii) the area occupied by any *internal walls* or partitions, any cupboard, or other built-in furniture, fixture or fitting; and
 - (iii) if there is no enclosing wall, an area which has a use thatâ€”
 - (A) contributes to the *fire load*; or
 - (B) impacts on the safety, health or amenity of the occupants in relation to the provisions of the BCA; and
- (c) in relation to a room â€” the area of the room measured within the finished surfaces of the walls, and includes the area occupied by any cupboard or other built-in furniture, fixture or fitting; and
- (d) in relation to a *fire compartment* â€” the total area of all floors within the *fire compartment* measured within the finished surfaces of the bounding construction, and if there is no bounding construction, includes an area which has a use which contributes to the *fire load*; and
- (e) in relation to an *atrium* â€” the total area of all floors within the *atrium* measured within the finished surfaces of the bounding construction and if no bounding construction, within the *external walls*.

â€œFunctional Statementâ€ inserted by Amdt No. 1

Functional Statement means a statement which describes how a building achieves the *Objective*.

â€œGlazingâ€ inserted by BCA 2005

Glazing, for the purposes of [Section J](#), means a transparent or translucent element and its supporting frame located in the external *fabric* of the building, and includes a *window* other than a *roof light*.

â€œGroup numberâ€ inserted by Amdt No. 13

Group number means the number of one of 4 groups of materials used in the regulation of *fire hazard properties* and applied to materials used as a finish, surface, lining, or attachment to a wall or ceiling.

Habitable room means a room used for normal domestic activities, andâ€”

- (a) includes a bedroom, living room, lounge room, music room, television room, kitchen, dining room, sewing room, study, playroom, family room and sunroom; but
- (b) excludes a bathroom, laundry, water closet, pantry, walk-in wardrobe, corridor, hallway, lobby, photographic darkroom, clothes-drying room, and other spaces of a specialised nature occupied neither frequently nor for extended periods.

â€œHealth-care buildingâ€ amended by Amdt No. 13

Health-care building means a building whose occupants or patients undergoing medical treatment generally need physical assistance to evacuate the building during an emergency and includesâ€”

- (a) a public or private hospital; or
- (b) a nursing home or similar facility for sick or disabled persons needing full-time care; or
- (c) a clinic, day surgery or procedure unit where the effects of the predominant treatment administered involve patients becoming non-ambulatory and requiring supervised medical care on the premises for some time after the treatment.

â€œHeating loadâ€ inserted by BCA 2005

Heating load means the calculated amount of energy delivered to the heated spaces of the building annually, by artificial means, to maintain the desired temperatures in those spaces.

Horizontal exit means a *required* doorway between 2 parts of a building separated from each other by a *fire wall*.

Illuminance means the luminous flux falling onto a unit area of surface.

â€œIllumination power densityâ€ inserted by BCA 2006

Illumination power density means the total of the power that will be consumed by the lights in a space, including any lamps, ballasts, current regulators and control devices other than those that are plugged into general purpose outlets, divided by the *floor area* of the space.

Insulation, in relation to an FRL, means the ability to maintain a temperature on the surface not exposed to the furnace below the limits specified in [AS 1530.4](#).

Integrity, in relation to an FRL, means the ability to resist the passage of flames and hot gases specified in [AS 1530.4](#).

Internal wall excludes a *common wall* or a party wall.

â€œLamp power densityâ€ inserted by BCA 2005

Lamp power density means the total of the maximum power rating of the lamps in a space, other than those that are plugged into general purpose socket outlets, divided by the *floor area* of the space.

â€œLatent heat gainâ€ inserted by BCA 2005

Latent heat gain means the heat gained by the vapourising of liquid without change of temperature.

â€œLight source efficacyâ€ inserted by BCA 2005

Light source efficacy means the luminous flux of a lamp or the total radiant flux in the visible spectrum weighted by the spectral response of the eye, divided by the electric power that will be consumed by the lamp but excluding ballast and control gear power losses.

Lightweight construction means construction which incorporates or comprisesâ€”

- (a) sheet or board material, plaster, render, sprayed application, or other material similarly susceptible to damage by impact, pressure or abrasion; or
- (b) concrete and concrete products containing pumice, perlite, vermiculite, or other soft material similarly susceptible to damage by impact, pressure or abrasion; or
- (c) masonry having a thickness less than 70 mm.

Loadbearing means intended to resist vertical forces additional to those due to its own weight.

Mezzanine means an intermediate floor within a room.

â€œMotor input powerâ€ inserted by BCA 2006

Motor input power means the amount of power that is delivered to a motor from the power supply.

â€œMotor shaft powerâ€ inserted by BCA 2006

Motor shaft power means the amount of power that a motor is capable of delivering at its output shaft,

which equates to the *motor input power* adjusted by the losses in the motor.

Non-combustible meansâ€”

- (a) Applied to a material â€” not deemed *combustible* as determined by [AS 1530.1](#) â€” Combustibility Tests for Materials.
- (b) Applied to construction or part of a building â€” constructed wholly of materials that are not deemed *combustible*.

â€œObjectiveâ€ inserted by Amdt No. 1

Objective means a statement contained in the BCA which is considered to reflect community expectations.

Open-deck carpark means a carpark in which all parts of the parking *storeys* are cross-ventilated by permanent unobstructed openings in not fewer than 2 opposite or approximately opposite sides, andâ€”

- (a) each side that provides ventilation is not less than 1/6 of the area of any other side; and
- (b) the openings are not less than 1/2 of the wall area of the side concerned.

Open space means a space on the allotment, or a roof or similar part of a building adequately protected from fire, open to the sky and connected directly with a public road.

Open spectator stand means a tiered stand substantially open at the front.

â€œOther propertyâ€ amended by Amdt No. 1

Other property means all or any of the followingâ€”

- (a) any building on the same or an adjoining allotment; and
- (b) any adjoining allotment; and
- (c) a road.

Outdoor air means air outside the building.

â€œOutdoor air economy cycleâ€ amended by BCA 2006

Outdoor air economy cycle is a mode of operation of an *air-conditioning* system that, when the outside air thermodynamic properties are favourable, increases the quantity of outside air used to condition the space.

Outfall means that part of the disposal system receiving *surface water* from the drainage system and may include a natural water course, kerb and channel, or soakage system.

Panel wall means a *non-loadbearing external wall*, in frame or similar construction, that is wholly supported at each *storey*.

Patient care area means a part of a *health-care building* normally used for the treatment, care, accommodation, recreation, dining and holding of patients including a *ward area* and *treatment area*.

â€œPerformance Requirementâ€ inserted by Amdt No. 1

Performance Requirement means a requirement which states the level of performance which a *Building Solution* must meet.

â€œPersonal care servicesâ€ inserted by Amdt No. 11

Personal care services means any of the following:

- (a) The provision of nursing care.
- (b) Assistance or supervision inâ€”
 - (i) bathing, showering or personal hygiene; or
 - (ii) toileting or continence management; or
 - (iii) dressing or undressing; or
 - (iv) consuming food.
- (c) The provision of direct physical assistance to a person with mobility problems.
- (d) The management of medication.
- (e) The provision of substantial rehabilitative or development assistance.

â€œPipingâ€ inserted by BCA 2005

Piping, for the purposes of [Section J](#), means an assembly of pipes, with or without valves or other fittings, connected together for the conveyance of liquids.

â€œPrimary building elementâ€ amended by BCA 2004

Primary building element means a member of a building designed specifically to take part of the loads specified in [B1.2](#) or [B1.3](#) and includes roof, ceiling, floor, stairway or ramp and wall framing members including bracing members designed for the specific purpose of acting as a brace to those members.

Private garage meansâ€”

- (a) any garage associated with a Class 1 building; or
- (b) any single *storey* of a building of another Class capable of accommodating not more than 3 vehicles, if there is only one such *storey* in the building; or
- (c) any separate single *storey* garage associated with another building where such garage is capable of accommodating not more than 3 vehicles.

Professional engineer means a person who isâ€”

- (a) if legislation is applicable â€” a registered *professional engineer* in the relevant discipline who has appropriate experience and competence in the relevant field; or
- (b) if legislation is not applicableâ€”
 - (i) a Corporate Member of the Institution of Engineers, Australia; or
 - (ii) eligible to become a Corporate Member of the Institution of Engineers, Australia, and has appropriate experience and competence in the relevant field.

Public corridor means an enclosed corridor, hallway or the like whichâ€”

- (a) serves as a means of egress from 2 or more *sole-occupancy units* to a *required exit* from the *storey* concerned; or
- (b) is *required* to be provided as a means of egress from any part of a *storey* to a *required exit*.

â€”R-Valueâ€” inserted by BCA 2005

R-Value means the thermal resistance ($m^2.K/W$) of a component calculated by dividing its thickness by its thermal conductivity.

â€”Reference buildingâ€” inserted by BCA 2005

Reference building means a hypothetical building that is used to calculate the maximum allowable annual energy load, or maximum allowable *annual energy consumption* for the proposed building.

â€”Reflective insulationâ€” inserted by BCA 2005

Reflective insulation means a building membrane with a reflective surface such as a reflective foil laminate, reflective barrier, foil batt or the like capable of reducing radiant heat flow.

â€”Registered Testing Authorityâ€” amended by Amdt No. 13

Registered Testing Authority meansâ€”

- (a) the National Building Technology Centre (NBTC); or
- (b) the CSIRO Division of Building, Construction and Engineering (CSIROâ€”DBC&E); or
- (c) the CSIRO Division of Manufacturing and Infrastructure Technology (CSIROâ€”MIT); or
- (d) an authority registered by the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) to test in the relevant field; or
- (e) an organisation outside Australia recognised by NATA through a mutual recognition agreement.

Required means *required* to satisfy a *Performance Requirement* or a *Deemed-to-Satisfy Provision* of the BCA as appropriate.

Residential aged care building means a building whose residents, due to their incapacity associated with the ageing process, are provided with physical assistance in conducting their daily activities and to evacuate the building during an emergency.

â€”Resident use areaâ€” inserted by Amdt No. 11

Resident use area means part of a Class 9c *aged care building* normally used by residents, andâ€”

- (a) includes *sole-occupancy units*, lounges, dining areas, activity rooms and the like; but
- (b) excludes offices, storage areas, commercial kitchens, commercial laundries and other spaces not for the use of residents.

â€”Resistance to the incipient spread of fireâ€” amended by Amdt No. 3

Resistance to the incipient spread of fire, in relation to a ceiling membrane, means the ability of the membrane to insulate the space between the ceiling and roof, or ceiling and floor above, so as to limit the temperature rise of materials in this space to a level which will not permit the rapid and general spread of fire throughout the space.

Rise in storeys means the greatest number of *storeys* calculated in accordance with C1.2.

â€”Roof lightâ€” inserted by BCA 2005

Roof light, for the purposes of Section J, means a skylight, *window* or the like installed in a roofâ€”

- (a) to permit natural light to enter the room below; and
- (b) at an angle between 0 and 70 degrees measured from the horizontal plane.

Safe place meansâ€”

- (a) a place of safety within a buildingâ€”
 - (i) which is not under threat from a fire; and
 - (ii) from which people must be able to safely disperse after escaping the effects of an emergency to a road or *open space*; or
- (b) a road or *open space*.

â€œSafety measureâ€ inserted by BCA 2004

Safety measure means any measure (including an item of equipment, form of construction or safety strategy) *required* to ensure the safety of persons using the building.

â€œSanitary compartmentâ€ amended by Amdt No. 5

Sanitary compartment means a room or space containing a closet pan or urinal.

Sarking-type material means a material such as a reflective foil or other flexible membrane of a type normally used for a purpose such as water proofing, vapour proofing or thermal reflectance.

School includes a primary or secondary *school*, college, university or similar educational establishment.

â€œSelf-closingâ€ amended by Amdt No. 3

Self-closing, applied to a door, means equipped with a device which returns the door to the fully closed position immediately after each opening.

â€œSensible heat gainâ€ inserted by BCA 2005

Sensible heat gain means the heat gained which causes a change in temperature.

â€œServiceâ€ amended by BCA 2006

Service, for the purposes of [Part I2](#) and [Section J](#), means a mechanical or electrical system that uses energy to provide *air-conditioning*, mechanical ventilation, hot water supply, artificial lighting, vertical transport and the like within a building, but which does not includeâ€”

- (a) systems used solely for emergency purposes; and
- (b) cooking facilities; and
- (c) portable appliances.

Service station means a garage which is not a *private garage* and is for the servicing of vehicles, other than only washing, cleaning or polishing.

Shaft means the walls and other parts of a building boundingâ€”

- (a) a well, other than an *atrium well*; or
- (b) a vertical chute, duct or similar passage, but not a chimney or flue.

Site means the part of the allotment of land on which a building stands or is to be erected.

Sitework means work on or around a *site*, including earthworks, preparatory to or associated with the construction, *alteration*, demolition or removal of a building.

Smoke-and-heat vent means a vent, located in or near the roof for smoke and hot gases to escape if there is a fire in the building.

â€œSmoke-Developed Indexâ€ amended by Amdt No. 6

Smoke-Developed Index means the index number for smoke as determined by [AS/NZS 1530.3](#).

â€œSmoke development rateâ€ inserted by Amdt No. 13

Smoke development rate means the development rate for smoke as determined by testing flooring materials in accordance with [AS ISO 9239.1](#).

â€œSmoke growth rate indexâ€ inserted by Amdt No. 13

Smoke growth rate index (SMOGR_{RC}) means the index number for smoke used in the regulation of *fire hazard properties* and applied to materials used as a finish, surface, lining or attachment to a wall or ceiling.

â€œSolar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC)â€ amended by BCA 2006

Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC) means the fraction of incident irradiance on *glazing* that adds heat to a buildingâ€™s space.

â€œSole-occupancy unitâ€ amended by Amdt No. 11

Sole-occupancy unit means a room or other part of a building for occupation by one or joint owner, lessee, tenant, or other occupier to the exclusion of any other owner, lessee, tenant, or other occupier and includesâ€”

- (a) a dwelling; or
- (b) a room or suite of rooms in a Class 3 building which includes sleeping facilities; or
- (c) a room or suite of associated rooms in a Class 5, 6, 7, 8 or 9 building; or
- (d) a room or suite of associated rooms in a Class 9c *aged care building*, which includes sleeping facilities and any area for the exclusive use of a resident.

â€œSpread-of-Flame Indexâ€ amended by Amdt No. 6

Spread-of-Flame Index means the index number for spread of flame as determined by [AS/NZS 1530.3](#).

NSW (Stage)

Stage means a floor or platform in a Class 9b building on which performances are presented before an audience.

Standard Fire Test means the Fire-resistance Tests of Elements of Building Construction as described in [AS 1530.4](#).

Storey means a space within a building which is situated between one floor level and the floor level next above, or if there is no floor above, the ceiling or roof above, but notâ€”

- (a) a space that contains onlyâ€”
 - (i) a lift *shaft*, stairway or meter room; or
 - (ii) a bathroom, shower room, laundry, water closet, or other *sanitary compartment*; or
 - (iii) accommodation intended for not more than 3 vehicles; or
 - (iv) a combination of the above; or
- (b) a *mezzanine*.

Structural adequacy, in relation to an FRL, means the ability to maintain stability and adequate *loadbearing* capacity as determined by [AS 1530.4](#).

â€œStructural memberâ€ deleted by Amdt No. 3

* * * * *

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

Swimming pool means any excavation or structure containing water and used primarily for swimming, wading, paddling, or the like, including a bathing or wading pool, or spa.

â€œThermal calculation methodâ€ inserted by BCA 2005

Thermal calculation method means a calculation method that identifiesâ€”

- (a) a *heating load*; or
- (b) a *cooling load*; or
- (c) a *heating load* and a *cooling load* (annual energy load), based on the sum of hourly loads or an equivalent approach.

â€œTotal R-Valueâ€ amended by BCA 2006

Total R-Value means the sum of the *R-Values* of the individual component layers in a composite element including any building material, insulating material, airspace and associated surface resistances.

â€œTotal U-Valueâ€ amended by BCA 2006

Total U-Value means the thermal transmittance ($W/m^2.K$) of the composite element allowing for the effect of any airspaces and associated surface resistances.

Treatment area means an area within a *patient care area* such as an operating theatre and rooms used for recovery, minor procedures, resuscitation, intensive care and coronary care from which a patient may not be readily moved.

â€œVentilation openingâ€ amended by BCA 2005

Ventilation opening, for the purposes of [Section J](#), means an opening in the *external wall*, floor or roof of a building designed to allow air movement into or out of the building by natural means including a permanent opening, an openable part of a *window*, a door or other device which can be held open.

â€œVerification Methodâ€ inserted by Amdt No. 1

Verification Method means a test, inspection, calculation or other method that determines whether a *Building Solution* complies with the relevant *Performance Requirements*.

Ward area means that part of a *patient care area* for resident patients and may contain areas for accommodation, sleeping, associated living and nursing facilities.

Window includes a roof light, glass panel, glass block or brick, glass louvre, glazed sash, glazed door, or other device which transmits natural light directly from outside a building to the room concerned when in the closed position.