

## Building Code of Australia requirements for interior walls and ceilings

The Building Code of Australia (BCA) requires that all (flammable) interior cladding materials (walls and ceilings) used in Class 2 to 9 Buildings must be rated for their Fire Hazard Group Number. **Table 3** below (from the **NCC 2015 BCA – Volume 1 – Page 136, Specification C1.10-4**) sets out the Fire Hazard Group Numbers required for different Building Classes and for the different areas within those buildings. The interior of lift cars must also be fire rated – the requirements for these are set out in Section 6 of the NCC 2015 BCA – Volume 1 – Page 137 (see extract below). It is the architect's or designer's job to the BCA to specify the required Fire Hazard Group Number, and suppliers should provide certificates/test reports for their products, stating the Fire Hazard Group Numbers of their products. Note: Group 1 is the most fire resistant, Group 3 the least.

**Table 3 WALL AND CEILING LINING MATERIALS (Material Groups permitted)**

Class of building	Fire-isolated exits and fire control rooms	Public corridors		Specific areas		Other areas
	Wall/ceiling	Wall	Ceiling	Wall	Ceiling	Wall/ceiling
<b>Class 2 or 3</b>						
Excluding accommodation for the aged, people with disabilities, and children						
Unsprinklered	1	1, 2	1, 2	1, 2, 3	1, 2, 3	1, 2, 3
Sprinklered	1	1, 2, 3	1, 2, 3	1, 2, 3	1, 2, 3	1, 2, 3
<b>Class 3 or 9a</b>						
Accommodation for the aged, people with a disability, children and <i>health-care buildings</i>						
Unsprinklered	1	1	1	1, 2	1, 2	1, 2, 3
Sprinklered	1	1, 2	1, 2	1, 2, 3	1, 2, 3	1, 2, 3
<b>Class 5, 6, 7, 8 or 9b <i>schools</i></b>						
Unsprinklered	1	1, 2	1, 2	1, 2, 3	1, 2	1, 2, 3
Sprinklered	1	1, 2, 3	1, 2, 3	1, 2, 3	1, 2, 3	1, 2, 3
<b>Class 9b other than <i>schools</i></b>						
Unsprinklered	1	1	1	1, 2	1, 2	1, 2, 3
Sprinklered	1	1, 2	1, 2	1, 2, 3	1, 2, 3	1, 2, 3
<b>Class 9c</b>						
Sprinklered	1	1, 2	1, 2	1, 2, 3	1, 2, 3	1, 2, 3
<b>For the purpose of this Table—</b>						
1. "Sprinklered" means a building fitted with a sprinkler system complying with <b>Specification E1.5</b> .						
2. "Specific areas" means within—						
(a) for Class 2 and 3 buildings, a <i>sole-occupancy unit</i> ; and						

### 6. Lift cars

Materials used as—

- (a) floor linings and floor coverings must have a *critical radiant flux* not less than 2.2; and
- (b) wall and ceiling linings must be a Group 1 material or a Group 2 material in accordance with **Clause 4(b)**.

### Notes & Exemptions

- Furniture, cabinetry and joinery are exempt from fire-rating requirements unless they are part of a wall
- Non-flammable material such as plasterboard and brick are not covered by this section of the BCA
- The BCA exempts certain items such as timber handrails, skirtings, cupboards, shelving or similar
- The BCA exempts adhesives, paint, clear-finishes and lacquer (other than nitrocellulose lacquer – which is banned from use on interior walls, ceilings and lift interiors)
- Class 1 Buildings (single dwelling residential) are not required to have fire rated walls and ceilings
- Specification C1.10 and Fire Hazard Group Numbers are applicable for interior walls and ceilings only.

## **BRIGGS Fire Certificates**

Testing in independent laboratories has determined the following Fire Hazard Group Numbers for Briggs' FLAMEBLOCK™ FRMDF and Briggs' BLACK MRMDF - raw and with various veneer and veneer laminate surfaces. Note that FLAMEBLOCK™ FRMDF maintains its fire retardant properties after cutting, machining and sanding, and does not require any special edge treatment in order to maintain these properties. Veneers of density less than 500kg/m<sup>3</sup> (including Tulipwood, Poplar, Oregon, Western Red Cedar, Australian Red Cedar and Pacific Walnut) have not been fire rated on FLAMEBLOCK™.

### **Fire Hazard Group 1** – please ask us for your required certificate

- Raw FLAMEBLOCK 12mm and thicker
- Raw FLAMEBLOCK LIGHT 15mm and thicker
- FLAMEBLOCK LIGHT 12mm+ with Hoop Pine
- FLAMEBLOCK 12mm with Radiata Pine
- FLAMEBLOCK 12mm with TrueGrain Anthracite

### **Fire Hazard Group 2** – please ask us for your required certificate

FLAMEBLOCK+FLAMEBLOCK LIGHT 12mm+ with:

- Natural timber veneers greater than 500kg/m<sup>3</sup> density
- TrueGrain reconstituted veneers
- Woodstock/Tabu dyed veneers (except Tulipwood)
- Innato prefinished veneer laminates
- Oberflex prefinished veneer laminates

### **Fire Hazard Group 3** – please ask us for your required certificate

Standard MDF, Moisture Resistant MDF, Briggs BLACK MRMDF – Raw, Veneered and with Oberflex® & Innato™ veneer laminates

## **Other certificates**

Briggs FLAMEBLOCK™ FRMDF is low (E1) formaldehyde level and PEFC certified for sustainability (Chain of Custody # SGS-PEFC/COC-0113, Logo Licence No: PEFC/21-31-03)

Fire certificates/Fire ratings only relate to the product(s)/species/substrate/thicknesses as stated on the certificates. This advice above is given to the best of our knowledge and interpretation of the Building Code of Australia but note that Briggs Veneers are not expert or qualified fire consultants or building certifiers. To confirm all matters relating to fire ratings, products and certificates, please consult a registered building certifier or fire consultant.

# BRIGGS VENEERS

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