

BUILDING PERFORMANCE



Re-consultation document for citing the Waterproof Membrane Association Code of Practice for Wet Area Membranes as E3/AS2

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MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

[New Zealand Government](https://www.govt.nz/)



Seeking feedback on the Building Code update

In this consultation, we seek your feedback on the new Acceptable Solution E3/AS2.

Standards referenced in these proposals are available for inspection free of charge from MBIE, 15 Stout Street, Wellington (please ring 0800 242 243 to arrange an appointment). New Zealand Standards are available to purchase from Standards New Zealand, 15 Stout Street, Wellington or online at www.standards.govt.nz.

The Waterproofing Membrane Association Inc. (WMAI) code of practice for Internal Wet-area Membrane Systems (IWAM) is available for free and found [here](#).

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E3 Internal Moisture

PROPOSAL MBIE proposes to issue a new Acceptable Solution E3/AS2.

Internal wet area membranes: Issue a new Acceptable Solution (E3/AS2) for using internal wet area membranes in situations such as tiled bathroom floors and showers

QUESTIONS

- Q1. Do you support the Acceptable Solutions and Verification Methods for NZBC clause E3 to be amended as proposed?
- Q2. What impacts (economic, efficiency etc) on your business do you expect from the proposed amendments to the Acceptable Solutions and Verification Methods for NZBC clause E3?

ITEM 2 - E3/AS2: Issue an Acceptable Solution for internal wet area membranes and tiled showers (E3/AS2)

The proposal is to cite the Waterproofing Membrane Association Inc (WMAI) Code of Practice for Internal Wet-area Membrane Systems (IWAM) as an Acceptable Solution for relevant parts of NZBC clauses E3.3.2-3.3.6.

The proposed changes:

- › Provide designers and BCAs with clear and robust information on the use of internal wet area membranes
- › Provide clarity on test methods for wet area membranes (AS/NZS 4858)

PROPOSED TEXT

E3 References

Waterproofing Membrane Association NZ Inc.
Code of Practice for Internal Wet-area Membrane Systems

E/AS2

Acceptable Solution E3/AS2

Internal Wet-area Membranes

Building work involving internal wet-area membranes that are installed in accordance with sections 1 – 4 of the Waterproofing Membrane Association Incorporated (WMAI) Code of Practice for Wet Area Membranes (IWAM) will comply with, and may exceed the requirements of, New Zealand Building Code (NZBC) clauses E3.3.2 – E3.3.6 when installed as described below:

- › E3.3.2: The building work involving internal wet-area membranes includes a floor waste where shown by the IWAM Code of Practice, in spaces containing sanitary fixtures or sanitary appliances.
- › E3.3.3: The building work involving internal wet-area membranes is installed in conjunction with an over-surface finish that is easy to clean, to form the floor surfaces of a space containing sanitary fixtures or sanitary appliances
- › E3.3.4: The building work involving internal wet-area membranes is installed in conjunction with an over-surface finish that is easy to clean, to form the wall surfaces adjacent to sanitary fixtures or sanitary appliances
- › E3.3.5: The building work involving internal wet-area membranes is installed in conjunction with an over-surface finish that is easy to clean, to form the surfaces of building elements that are likely to be splashed or become contaminated in the course of the intended use of the building
- › E3.3.6: The building work involving internal wet-area membranes is installed to form the surfaces of building elements that are likely to be splashed

Within the IWAM Code of Practice, text that is WMAI commentary is non-mandatory and does not form part of this Acceptable Solution. Such text is shown in italics on a grey background within the IWAM Code of Practice.

Supporting Information

The WMAI code of practice for wet area membranes is available from building.govt.nz

Effective use

The IWAM is applicable to internal wet-area waterproof membrane systems, including their substrates, for bathrooms, kitchens and laundries within buildings. Facilities such as industrial processing areas (for instance a cowshed or an industrial food making facility), or the surrounds and changing facilities of internal swimming pools or spas, are outside its scope.

Avoiding problems

Wet-area waterproof membrane systems that will be installed in conjunction with specialist systems such as underfloor heating and sound insulation systems are outside the scope of this Acceptable Solution.

Over-surface finishing work, such as tiling, is outside the scope of this Acceptable Solution. Where an over-surface must be easy to clean to enable compliance with NZBC clauses such as E3.3.2 – E3.3.5, compliance of that finish must demonstrated by other means.

Other requirements of clause E3

E3/AS2 is a means of demonstrating that building work involving internal wet-area membranes will comply with, and may exceed the requirements of, parts of the New Zealand Building Code (NZBC) clauses E3.3.2 – E3.3.6 when installed as described in this Acceptable Solution.

Building designers will also need to identify how the building work addresses NZBC clause E3.3.1, which requires an adequate combination of thermal resistance, ventilation, and space temperature to certain spaces where moisture may be generated or may accumulate.

Building Code Clause E3 Internal Moisture

MBIE proposes to amend Acceptable Solution E3/AS1 and issue a new Acceptable Solution E3/AS2.

2. Internal wet area membranes: Issue a new Acceptable Solution (E3/AS2) for using internal wet area membranes in situations such as tiled bathroom floors and showers

Question 1: Do you support the proposed new Acceptable Solution for NZBC clause E3?

- I support it
- I support it but would suggest the following changes
- I object to some aspects of it but would suggest the following changes
- I object to it

Please tell us what changes you suggest.

Question 2: What impacts (economic, efficiency etc.) on your business do you expect from the proposed new Acceptable Solution for NZBC clause E3?

- Significant
- Moderate
- Minor
- No impact

Please tell us about the impacts on your business.

