



OVERVIEW AND STATUS OF MBIE FIRE ENGINEERING PROJECT PRIORITIES

1. **External Wall Cladding System** – Sector feedback indicated a need for clarification on what constitutes a cladding ‘system’ for the purpose of testing external vertical fire spread and assessing performance. As a temporary solution MBIE developed a document “Fire performance of external wall cladding systems”. The document includes additional test standards and definitions along with a simplified risk assessment approach. The risk assessment considers the building height, occupancy type, and provision of sprinkler protection to determine which components of a ‘system’ require specific fire testing. Further work is underway to incorporate aspects of this guidance into MBIE’s Acceptable Solution/Verification Method documents.
2. **New C/AS2 (amalgamation of C/AS2–C/AS7)** – The new C/AS2 document came into force 27 June 2019. There is a four-month transition period during which the previous C/AS2-C/AS7 documents may still be used. This transition period ends on 31 October 2019.
3. **Verification Method C/VM2** – The 2017 consultation on this Verification Method identified 23 tasks to address to improve the current C/VM2. Items include a modification to the scope of the document and more safeguards for tall buildings. A steering and technical working group has been established. A proposal of revisions to C/VM2 is expected to be available for consultation in 2020.
4. **Building requirements to facilitate firefighting and rescue operations** – MBIE, in collaboration with Fire and Emergency New Zealand, is reviewing the current requirements in the New Zealand Building Code compliance documents that facilitate firefighter and rescue operations.