



Building Product Information – Good Practice Conformity Guide

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Good Practice Product Conformity

- The purpose of this presentation is to launch the **Building Products Information – Good Practice Conformity Guide**
- Produced by NBPC, which is an affiliation of industry bodies across the building supply chain
- The mission of the NPBC is to help advance implementation of the National Building Product Assurance Framework and in doing so improve product safety and quality

The Framework

- As part of the BCR Implementation Framework, Building Ministers agreed to consider;
 - “a holistic package of measures to provide a reliable conformity assessment framework, including product conformance information, particularly where those products are used in complex buildings.”
- The resulting National Building Product Assurance Framework comprises:
 - Element 1: Strengthened NCC evidence of suitability requirements
 - **Element 2: Information obligations for manufacturers and suppliers**
 - Element 3: Product traceability and identification
 - Element 4: Improved surveillance, research and information sharing
 - Element 5: Strengthened compliance and enforcement
- BMM direction June 2024, building product safety and quality

Why the Guide

- The Guide is in response to Element 2 of the Framework and promotes information symmetry along the building products supply chain
- We can't just rely on governments to regulate and police. Lasting change also demands leadership from within industry itself
- The Guide is an industry-led initiative to lift standards and transparency across the sector
- Industry must take responsibility for raising the bar on product information, performance claims, product use and accountability
- But its also about helping all those in the building supply chain succeed

NCC A5G3 Evidence of Suitability

- State and territory laws call up the National Construction Code for technical regulation
- The Guide's focus is on A5G3 evidence for Volumes One and Two. This provision sets out the means for establishing evidence to demonstrate materials and products are fit for purpose
- This can be in the form of any one or a combination of the following, which the ABCB Product Assurance Handbook points to the form being risk-based:
 - CodeMark Australia Certificate
 - Certificate of Accreditation
 - Certificate issued by a certification body
 - Report issued by an Accredited Test Laboratory
 - Certificate or report from a professional engineer or other appropriately qualified person
 - Other form of documentary evidence, such as but not limited to Product Technical Statements

The Guide

- The Guide provides practical tools and prompts that can be directly applied within businesses engaged along the product supply chain.
- It identifies key behaviours that establish what should be practiced to provide credible, verifiable product information—helping everyone in the supply chain make more informed, confident decisions.
- By following good practice behaviours businesses can:
 - Build trust and reputation with clients and regulators
 - Reduce risk and liability exposure
 - Improve productivity and market competitiveness
 - Support a level playing field, where doing the right thing is rewarded
 - Contribute to an estimated \$2.4 billion in annual economic benefits
 - Deliver products that are part of a more sustainable built environment
- Starts with a set of straightforward, practical questions that serve as prompts to help users understand not only their own responsibilities, but also the information and reporting needs of others across the building product supply chain.



Key Product Conformity Questions

1. Product types and scope of use
2. Regulatory objectives and requirements
3. Type of product conformity assessment
4. Assessment rigour
5. Verifiable evidence
6. Conformity traceability

Good Practice Behaviours

1. Standard operating procedure for documented sign-off process creating consistent product information in line with NBPC's Traceability & Digitalisation Guide data template
2. Formal version control process for all product information
3. Not use misleading or ambiguous wording, phrasing or imagery and embrace accurate representation of product information, performance and sustainability claims
4. Provide valid and verifiable documentation claims for testing, inspection and certification
5. Provide specific documentation when making any product performance or sustainability claims which are outside of certification, classification or industry standard tests
6. Webpage access to the descriptive, physical and sustainability characteristics of the building product in line with the NBPC's Traceability & Digitalisation Guide data template

Good Practice Behaviours (Cont'd)

7. Ensure all product information changes are reflected in revised product information that can be traced to the product and publicly available
8. Publish clear product information on design limitations, handling, installation, operation, maintenance and disposal of the building product, in combination with any installer accreditation, installation training obligations and safety and/or environmental regulations
9. Transparently State what is covered, excluded, and required to comply with when making any claims of guarantees and/or warranties
10. Ensure technical helpline contact details (telephone and/or email) are visible and accessible on a webpage for Australian users
11. Ensure anyone conveying product information is qualified or competent to the level of knowledge required and ability to communicate effectively for their role
12. Provide all the information required in actions 1 to 11 inclusive and not miss an action or parts thereof

Supporting Materials

- The launch of the Guide is supplemented by a series of supporting documents that nuance and summarise some of its content for key actors in the supply chain:
 1. TIC for Building Product Conformance, intended as a self-help guide to understanding the testing, inspection and certification infrastructure
 2. Good Practice Checklist for Manufacturers and Suppliers
 3. Key Product Conformity Questions for Specifiers and Installers to Ask
 4. Key Product Conformity Questions for Building Surveyors/Certifiers to Ask
- All materials are available free on the NBPC website: **nbpcalition.net**

Wrapping Up

- The NBPC will, as per its Charter, continue to advocate to governments and regulators to act on other elements of the Framework relevant to them
- This includes a Proposal for Change to the NCC, submitted by the NBPC to strengthen the A5G3 Evidence of Suitability provisions
- The Guide complements other work of the NBPC, one of which the Chair, Dy Johnson, will be providing an update on later today
- Keen for this work to be accompanied by education and training
- Need both demand and supply side of industry to get behind and support