PRODUCT CONFORMANCE

Richard Choy - CEO
NATSPEC // Construction Information
Founded in 1975, with the objective to improve the construction quality and productivity of the built environment through leadership of information.
Catalyst for action
Key Issues

1. What product properties are required?

2. How should you communicate the product quality and construction quality?

3. How can you enforce your documentation?
Key Issues

1. What are your obligations and what product properties are required?

Lacrosse Determination
Parties found to be in breach by failing to exercise due care and skill
Compliance knowledge

National Construction Code

State legislation of code, with variations

NSW  QLD  ACT  NT  SA  TAS  VIC  WA

Local Councils planning requirements
Knowledge above the NCC

- Fabric to be milled in Switzerland
- Architects failed to specify moth-proofed woolen fabric for Parliament House
- No one vetted the specification before tender
- Architects bore rectification costs of $400,000
Conformity assessment:
Demonstration that specified requirements relating to a product, process, system, person or body are fulfilled.
eg. Conforming to Australian Standard AS2589 Clause 4.2.2

Compliance:
The action of obeying an order, rule or request.
eg. Complying with the National Construction Code

Products conform. People (Individuals or Parties) comply.
Conformity to what?

Materials and products are to conform to the **Australian Standards** and reference documents as **documented in the construction specification**.
Testing

- Australian testing should be conducted by a laboratory accredited by NATA (National Association of Testing Authorities) for that test.

- At the international level, Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) Mutual Recognition Arrangement and ILAC (international organisation for accreditation bodies) Mutual Recognition Arrangement.
Conformity Assessment Bodies

- Conformance certificated should be issued by a Conformance Assessment Body recognised by JAS-ANZ (the Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand).

- At the international level, JAS-ANZ is a signatory to the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the Pacific Accreditation Forum (PAC).
Key Issues

2. How should you communicate the product quality and construction quality?

✓ Good documentation.

1. Special Conditions
2. Contract Conditions
3. Specifications
4. Drawings
5. Other documents
Dollar cost of variations

Getting it right the first time

- 60-90% of all variations are due to poor project documentation
- Variations due to poor documentation are adding 10-15% or more to project costs
- Loss of $2 billion to Queensland construction budget
- Loss of $12 billion annually Australia wide
Construction Documentation

- prepare specifications in accordance with the drawings and the Client’s requirements describing the quality of materials, finishes and quality of work necessary to be submitted for statutory approval
- Prepare further drawings, specifications and schedules to enable the construction of the project
You should document both performance solutions and deemed-to-satisfy solutions.
Where an identifiable printed and published document is incorporated by reference to it. These may be Australian Standards or other industry references.

Lock and latch classification

Rating systems: To AS 4145.1 Section 3. Performance requirements: To AS 4145.2 Section 3.
Specifications need to be up-to-date
Importance of Certification

- 12,000m² high-load building
- Material did not conform
- Time delay in procuring correct material but no variation payable
Allow for appropriate Substitutions

0171 General Requirements

Substitution
Identified proprietary items: Identification of a proprietary item does not necessarily imply exclusive preference for the identified item, but indicates the necessary properties of the item.

Alternatives: If alternatives to the documented products, methods or systems are proposed, submit sufficient information to permit evaluation of the proposed alternatives. [By the Project Administrator.]

Reasons for substitution include:
• Product unavailable
• A better solution identified
False certificates exist

Organisations, including the Australian Window Association, have seen false versions of their certificates. You need to verify the certificates authenticity.
National Construction Products Register

- A centralised depository freely accessible to all.
- Readily available verified information.
- Increased level of assurance.
- Reduce incidence of non-conforming products.
- Reduce incidence of fraudulent activity.
- Increased awareness and understanding of the importance of conformity by designers, specifiers, contractors and manufacturers.
- Utilise existing systems where possible.
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The following standard is identified in the evidence of conformity:

AS/NZS 1530.3 : 1999

Methods for fire tests on building materials, components and structures-Part 3: Simultaneous determination of ignitability, flame propagation, heat release and smoke release

Standard Status - Current

National Construction Code (NCC) Citation: NCC Vol 1; NCC Vol 2

Evidence Identifier
379069-00.1

Evidence Issue Date
04 November 2015

Evidence Expiry Date
N/A

Type of Evidence; Notes and Limitations

Test report. The results only apply to the specimen mounted, as described in this report

Authentication Status of Evidence

Authenticated by CAB
Professionals:
- Know what is required.
- Document what you require.
- Enforce what you have documented.

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