

Building and Plumbing Newsflash 500

Amendments to the QDC for sustainable buildings, child care centres, and commissioning and maintenance of fire safety installations

Purpose

To advise that amendments to the Queensland Development Code Mandatory Parts 4.1 – Sustainable buildings (QDC 4.1), 5.4 – Child care centres (QDC 5.4) and 6.1 – Commissioning and maintenance of fire safety installations (QDC 6.1) commence on 6 August 2012.

Changes to:

- **QDC 4.1 – Sustainable buildings**

Since 1 September 2009, QDC 4.1 has required new or replacement air conditioners installed in Class 1 buildings (houses, townhouses, boarding houses, etc) and Class 2 buildings (multi-unit residential buildings) under the National Construction Code (NCC) to meet a minimum tested average energy efficiency ratio of 2.9. This requirement was extended to all buildings from 1 September 2010.

The national Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) program sets requirements for the minimum energy efficiency of electrical appliances in Australia. Air conditioners manufactured in or imported into Australia since October 2011 are required under MEPS to meet a higher energy efficiency standard than the provisions in QDC 4.1. As the MEPS now set a higher standard than the QDC provisions for the energy efficiency of air conditioners, these have been removed from QDC 4.1.

- **QDC 5.4 – Child care centres**

On 1 January 2012 Queensland adopted new national laws for education and care services. The new laws give effect to a National Quality Framework (the framework) which provides a uniform national approach to the regulation and quality assessment of education and care services. The framework also provides for standardised building requirements in the [Education and Care Services National Regulations](#) and the 2012 NCC.

Because the QDC requirements prevail over those in the NCC to the extent of any inconsistency, QDC 5.4 has been amended, removing all requirements for early childhood education and care services. This allows the new NCC requirements to take effect for new centre-based education and care services.

A small number of limited hours and other childcare centres are not covered by the framework. These centres will continue to be licensed under the *Child Care Act 2002* (Qld) and remain subject to QDC 5.4. To reflect what is covered by QDC 5.4 the part has been renamed from 'Early childhood education and care services' to 'Child care centres'.

More information about how the changes introduced through the NCC and National Regulations affect child care centres can be found on the Department of Education, Training and Employment website: <http://deta.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood/office/national/framework/regulations/building-requirements.html>

- **QDC 6.1 – Commissioning and maintenance of fire safety installations**

Minor corrections have been made to clarify that the relevant procedure applies to all applicable flow measuring devices and that it is to be used in conjunction with relevant Australian Standard. Changes include:

- removing the reference to a particular testing device
- adding a reference to the applicable Australian Standard
- updating references to 'BCA' with 'NCC'
- formatting edits for consistency with other parts of the Code.

Contact for further information

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