

CONSTRUCTION FOR BUSHFIRE ATTACK LEVEL LOW (**BAL—LOW**)

This Standard does not provide construction requirements for buildings assessed in bushfire-prone areas in accordance with Section 2 as being BAL—LOW.

NOTE: There are a number of Standards that specify requirements for construction; however, where this Standard does not provide construction requirements for a particular element, the other Standards apply.

The Bushfire Attack Level BAL—LOW is based on insufficient risk to warrant specific bushfire construction requirements. It is predicated on low threat vegetation and non-vegetated areas (see Clause 2.2.3.2).

Section 5.6.5 Roof penetrations **BAL - 12.5** (Formally medium - level 1)

The following apply to roof penetrations:

- (a) Roof penetrations, including roof lights, roof ventilators, roof-mounted evaporative cooling units, aerials, vent pipes and supports for solar collectors, shall be adequately sealed at the roof to prevent gaps greater than 3 mm. The material used to seal the penetration shall be non-combustible.
- (b) Openings in vented roof lights, roof ventilators or vent pipes shall be fitted with ember guards made from a mesh or perforated sheet with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium.
- (c) All glass overhead glazing shall be Grade A laminated safety glass complying with AS 1288.
- (d) Glazed elements in roof lights and skylights may be of polymer, provided a Grade A safety glass diffuser, complying with AS 1288, is installed under the glazing. Where glazing is an insulating glazing unit (IGU), Grade A toughened safety glass, minimum 4 mm, shall be used in the outer pane of the IGU.
- (e) Flashing elements of tubular skylights may be of a fire-retardant material, provided the roof integrity is maintained by an under-flashing of a material having a flammability index no greater than 5.
- (f) Evaporative cooling units shall be fitted with butterfly closers at or near the ceiling level or, the unit shall be fitted with non-combustible covers with a mesh or perforated sheet with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium.
- (g) Vent pipes made from PVC are permitted.

Section 6.6.5 Roof penetrations **BAL -19** (Formerly High - level 2)

The following apply to roof penetrations:

- (a) Roof penetrations, including roof lights, roof ventilators, roof-mounted evaporative cooling units, aerials, vent pipes and supports for solar collectors shall be adequately sealed at the roof to prevent gaps greater than 3 mm. The material used to seal the penetration shall be non-combustible.
- (b) Openings in vented roof lights, roof ventilators or vent pipes shall be fitted with ember guards made from a mesh or perforated sheet with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium.
- (c) All overhead glazing shall be Grade A safety glass complying with AS 1288.
- (d) Glazed elements in roof lights and skylights may be of polymer, provided a Grade A safety glass diffuser, complying with AS 1288, is installed under the glazing. Where glazing is an insulating glazing unit (IGU), Grade A toughened safety glass of minimum 4 mm shall be used in the outer pane of the IGU.
- (e) Flashing elements of tubular skylights may be of a fire-retardant material, provided the roof integrity is maintained by an under-flashing of a material having a flammability index no greater than 5.
- (f) Evaporative cooling units shall be fitted with butterfly closers at or near the ceiling level, or the unit shall be fitted with non-combustible covers with a mesh or perforated sheet with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium

Section 7.6.5 Roof penetrations **BAL 29** (Formerly Very High - Level 3)

The following apply to roof penetrations:

- (a) Roof penetrations, including roof lights, roof ventilators, roof-mounted evaporative cooling units, aerials, vent pipes and supports for solar collectors, shall be adequately sealed at the roof to prevent gaps greater than 3 mm. The material used to flash the penetration shall be non-combustible.
- (b) Openings in vented roof lights, roof ventilators or vent pipes shall be fitted with ember guards made from a mesh or perforated sheet with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium.
- (c) All overhead glazing shall be Grade A safety glass complying with AS 1288.
- (d) Glazed elements in roof lights and skylights may be of polymer, provided a Grade A safety glass diffuser, complying with AS 1288, is installed under the glazing. Where glazing is an insulating glazing unit (IGU), Grade A toughened safety glass minimum 4 mm, shall be used in the outer pane of the IGU.
- (e) Where roof lights are installed in roofs having a pitch of less than 18 degrees to the horizontal, the glazing shall be protected with ember guards made from a mesh or perforated sheet with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium.
- (f) Evaporative cooling units shall be fitted with butterfly closers at or near the ceiling level, or the unit shall be fitted with non-combustible covers with a mesh or perforated sheet with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium.
- (g) External single pane glazed elements of roof lights and skylights, where the pitch of the glazed element is 18 degrees or less to the horizontal, shall be protected with ember guards made from a mesh or perforated sheet with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium.

Section 8.6.5 Roof penetrations **BAL40** (Formerly Severe – Level 4)

The following apply to roof penetrations:

- (a) Roof penetrations, including roof lights, roof ventilators, aerials, vent pipes and supports for solar collectors, shall be adequately sealed at the roof to prevent gaps greater than 3 mm. The material used to flash the penetration shall be non-combustible.
- (b) Glazed assemblies for roof lights and skylights shall have an FRL of –/30/–.
- (c) Where roof lights are installed in roofs having a pitch of less than 18 degrees to the horizontal, the glazing shall be protected with ember guards made from a mesh or perforated sheet with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel or bronze.

Section 9.6.3 Roof penetrations **BAL – FZ** (Formerly Extreme – level 5)

The following apply to roof penetrations:

- (a) Roof penetrations, including roof lights, roof ventilators, aerials, vent pipes and supports for solar collectors, shall be sealed with mineral fibre at the roof to prevent gaps. Where the gap between the roof covering and the roof penetration is greater than 3 mm, the material used to seal the penetration shall be non-combustible.

NOTE: As a general principle, the service penetration should not significantly compromise the performance of the element of construction it penetrates nor should it be a means to allow the passage of burning embers or heat transfer such that fire may spread to the interior of a structure.

- (b) Roof lights and roof ventilators shall be one of the following:

- (i) A system complying with AS 1530.8.2 when tested from the outside.

or

- (ii) A system with an FRL of 30/30/30 or –/30/30 when tested from the outside.

BUSHFIRE ATTACK LEVELS AND CORRESPONDING SECTIONS FOR SPECIFIC CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS

Bushfire Attack Level (BAL)

Classified vegetation within 100 m of the site and heat flux exposure thresholds*

Description of predicted bushfire attack and levels of exposure #

BAL—LOW See Clause 2.2.3.2

There is insufficient risk to warrant specific construction requirements

BAL—12.5

* $\leq 12.5 \text{ kW/m}^2$

Ember attack

Construction Section 3 and 5

BAL—19

* $>12.5 \text{ kW/m}^2 \leq 19 \text{ kW/m}^2$

Increasing levels of ember attack and burning debris ignited by windborne embers together with increasing heat flux

Construction Section 3 and 6

BAL—29

* $>19 \text{ kW/m}^2 \leq 29 \text{ kW/m}^2$

Increasing levels of ember attack and burning debris ignited by windborne embers together with increasing heat flux

Construction Section 3 and 7

BAL—40

* $>29 \text{ kW/m}^2 \leq 40 \text{ kW/m}^2$

Increasing levels of ember attack and burning debris ignited by windborne embers together with increasing heat flux with the increased likelihood of exposure to flames

Construction Section 3 and 8

BAL—FZ

* $>40 \text{ kW/m}^2$

Direct exposure to flames from fire front in addition to heat flux and ember attack

Construction Section 3 and 9