

19th November 2014

Attention: Mr Matthew DePledge

BuilditEco Pty Ltd

Dear Matt,

RE: Compliance Criteria for Supaboard and Bushfire Prone Areas

I refer to your instructions to review the compliance requirements (National Construction Code – ‘NCC’) for the use of *Supaboard* (MgO) board with respect to its use in bushfire prone areas as an external wall cladding material.

In summary, I can provide the following observations:

1. The NCC (BCA Volume 2 Part 3.7.4) references Australian Standard AS3959 as the ‘Acceptable Construction Manual’ – i.e. it is the deemed-to-satisfy reference document.
2. There are State variations to this Part of the BCA and these relate to the following:
 - a. New South Wales: class 1 buildings to be constructed as per AS3959 except for BAL FZ areas. These must comply with specific conditions of the relevant development consent for construction.
 - b. Queensland: AS3959 applies throughout unless the classified vegetation is Group F rainforest (excluding wet sclerophyll forest types, mangrove communities and grasslands under 300mm high)
 - c. South Australia: refer to South Australian Development Plans for ‘designated bushfire prone areas’. Note that the requirements for external walls are similar to those prescribed in AS3959
 - d. Tasmania: there are specific requirements for vehicle access and water supplies; otherwise the requirements are as per AS3959
3. The general requirements for external walls prescribed under AS3959 for BAL 12.5 up to BAL FZ allow the use of ‘non-combustible’ material as an external wall.
4. The definition of ‘non-combustible’ under AS3959 is stated as ‘Not deemed combustible as determined by AS1530.1’
5. Previous test results (AS1530.1) for your *supaboard* (magnesium oxide board) have demonstrated that it achieves the status of non-combustible.

In conclusion, it is my opinion that the use of standard *supaboard* complies with the ‘non-combustible’ definition in AS3959 and therefore is suitable for use on external walls for all BAL zones.

It is my understanding that the board may be used with expressed joints and these joints will be filled with an appropriate fire rated mastic (conforming to AS1530.4).



If there is anything else you require please do not hesitate to contact Richard Attiwell on 08 9330 7476, or 0400 247 328, or contact via email at richarda@milestonebc.com.au

Yours sincerely,

Richard Attiwell
Director
MILESTONE CERTIFIERS