

1 May 2019

National Construction Code 2019 starts today

The 2019 edition of the National Construction Code (NCC) takes effect today – 1 May.

NCC 2019 is the first (full) edition of the NCC since moving to a three year cycle and contains a significant number of changes that will affect all types of buildings.

The key changes for housing include the introduction of condensation management provision, changes to the energy efficiency provisions, enhanced building product documentation requirements, revised cladding provisions, new provisions for cantilevered separating walls and a high volume of amendments to Australian Standards, just to name a few.

Members will need to familiarise themselves with these changes as quickly as possible as they are each likely to require changes in most house designs and/or materials used for applications yet to be approved.

For multi-residential buildings, apartments and units (Class 2 buildings) the major changes include mandatory sprinkler protection for Class 2 buildings (and Class 3 buildings) four storeys and above.

There are also substantial increases to energy efficiency standards for commercial buildings which will affect the common areas of apartment buildings and any mixed use apartment buildings (e.g. apartments with ground floor cafés and shops).

The changes will apply to new buildings approved from 1 May 2019. Each state and territory has transitional arrangements which may allow the 2016 edition to be used for a longer period. In Western Australia the provisions will take effect from 1 May 2020.

The energy efficiency changes for houses, apartments and commercial buildings are subject to a 12-month transition period, meaning they take effect from 1 May 2020.

HIA has only just been notified that the provisions will take effect in the ACT from 1 September 2019 and we are seeking further information on this revised date and whether it applies to all parts of the NCC.

Changes to the existing states and territories variations have also been made so it is important that you also check for these before finalising a new building design.

Find out more

HIA has developed a range of member resources and ran a series of seminars to assist members in understanding and applying the changes. More resources are also currently being developed.

You can get access to these resources by clicking [here](#).

You can download the new editions of the NCC from the ABCB website www.abcb.gov.au or if you want a hardcopy you can get this from the HIA website [here](#).

If you would further information on the changes contact HIA Building Services Team on 1300 650 620.

**MEMBER ALERT**