

Codes & Standards

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**Forest & Wood
Products Australia**
Knowledge for a sustainable Australia



Program Objectives

To increase the use of wood-based products through the efficient and effective development and/or maintenance of key standards, codes and handbooks that are developed through a consensus-based process.



Timber Standards

The Timber Industry has a vast array of Australian Timber Standards:

- Currently over 230 timber standards, standard's supplements, amendments, handbooks and handbook supplements.
- A huge catalogue of publications for the industry to service.
- Industry has finite financial and human resources.

A vertical ruler with a yellow pencil and a red pencil, used for measuring wood. The ruler is marked in millimeters and centimeters. The yellow pencil is at the top, and the red pencil is at the bottom. The ruler is placed against a piece of wood.

Building Standards

There are also over 20 building standards that directly impact on the use of timber and timber products in the built environment; these include:

- AS 3660 (*series*) Termite management
- AS 4055 Winds loads on housing
- AS 1170 (*series*) Loading standards
- AS 3959 Construction of buildings in bushfire-prone areas
- AS 2870 Residential slabs and footings



Key Outcomes Achieved

- Standards Australia – Committee Restructure;
- Prioritisation of Standards development work via FWPA's Standards Reference Group;
- Draft preparation of key identified Industry Standards;
- Change to the National Construction Code – Building Code of Australia;
- Commenced review of durability design and assurance;
- Preparation of new WoodSolutions Technical Design Guides.

Key Outcomes Achieved *Cont...*

AS 1748.1 & 2: Timber – Stress-graded for structural purposes

- Development of a grading standard independent of the grading system (e.g. Machine, visual, acoustic)
- User Guide and training materials developed to support the use of the Standards.
- Materials developed in conjunction with major structural timber producers and distributed to same.
- Industry training also provided.



Key Outcomes Achieved *Cont...*

New Proposed Truss Design Standard

- The need arose following the recommendations from the SA Coroner's Report into the fatal Riverside Golf Club roof collapse in April 2002.
- To support the use of timber products.
- Draft completed and submitted to Standards Australia.
- Standards co-funded by FWPA, MiTek, Multinail, Pryda, FTMAA and Standards Australia.



Standards Australia

– Committee Restructure

- Given the limited human and financial capacity within industry, there was a need to review the structure and operation of the (eight) timber committees;
- The restructuring of the timber committees should use the ISO structure as a guiding “template”; and
- The new structure should streamline project work and focus effort on key industry standards.



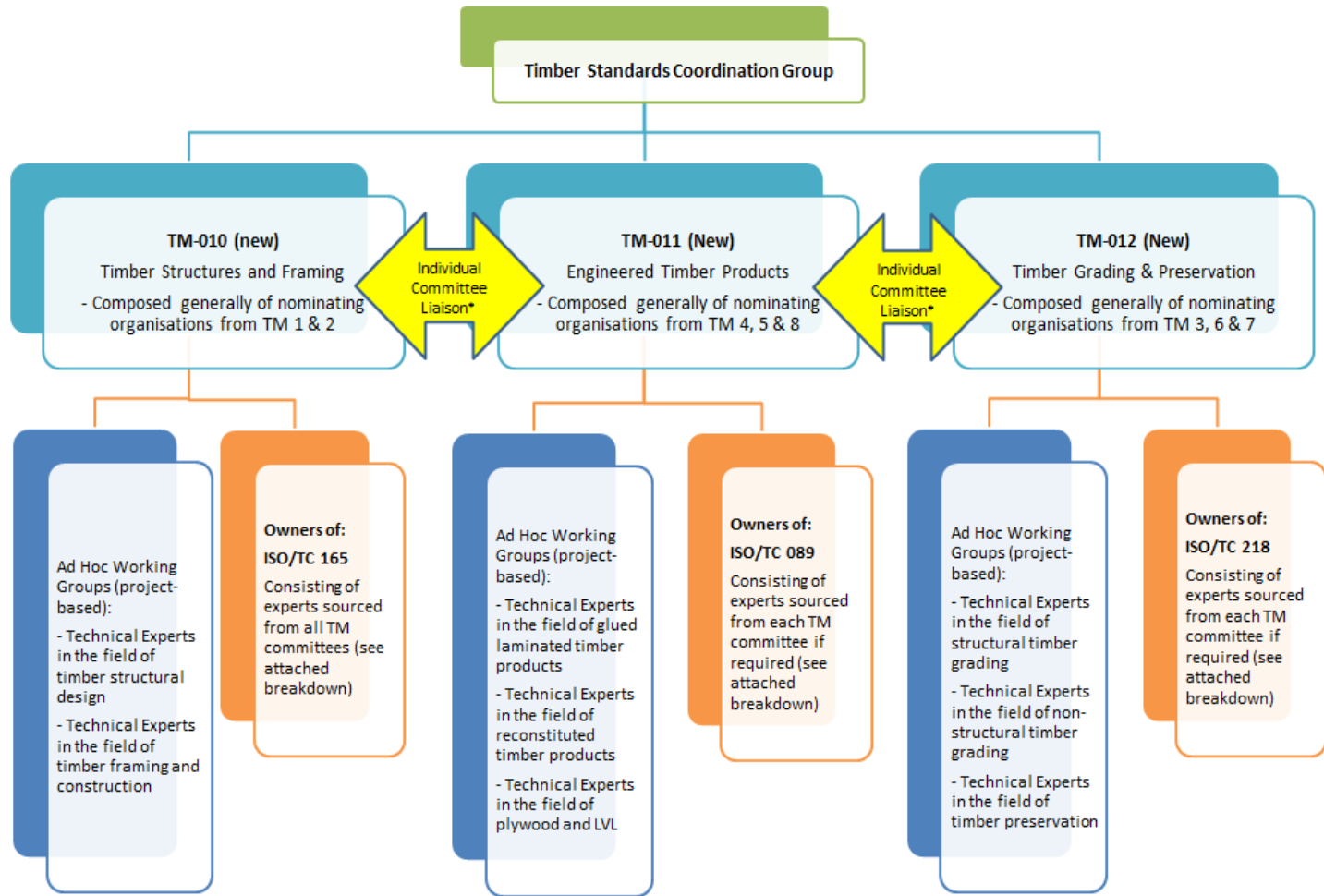


Standards Australia

– Committee Restructure *Cont...*

- A discussion paper prepared by FWPA in consultation with FWPA's Standards Reference Group and Standards Australia regarding restructuring of Timber Committees.
- Circulated by Standards Australia to Timber Standards Committees, Working Groups and Nominating organisations.
- Standards Australia has undertaken a significant restructure with nominations for committee representatives now being finalised.
- FWPA is now a member organisation of Standards Australia.

New Structure

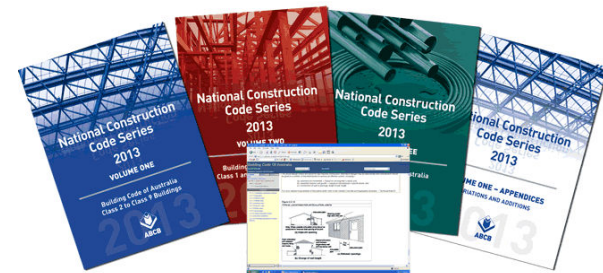


* Individual who sits on both committees to allow for transfer/sharing of information

Opportunities in the BCA

Class 3 Buildings *(Residential parts of hotels/motels, health-care buildings)*

- FWPA researched, developed and submitted a change to the Building Code of Australia – Vol. 1.
- Sought to extend the current deemed-to-satisfy concession for Class 2 buildings (3 storey apartment buildings) to also apply to Class 3 buildings.
- Proposed change was reviewed by the Building Codes Committee and accepted by the Australian Building Codes Boards.
- Comes into force 1 May 2014.



Opportunities in the BCA *Cont...*

Addressing NCC Non-Combustibility Requirements

- National Construction Code (NCC) limitations imposed on combustible (timber) building systems in all classes of buildings other than residential housing.
- Continue work to open up markets for the use of timber construction in commercial buildings within the NCC-BCA.
- Undertaking risk-based fire modelling for 5 storey timber-frame and 8 storey massive timber buildings with sprinklers.



Review of Durability Design and Assurance

- Industry concerns in relation to the suitability of AS 1604: Specification for preservative treatment.
- Project being undertaken to document concerns/issues in relation to the service life design of preservative treated timber elements and structures.
- Discussions being held with key stakeholders (*timber industry, preservation industry, researchers, associations*) to obtain comments/concerns.
- The resulting Issues (and Options) paper will be used to assist with the development of an industry wide position and aid Standards development.





Technical Skills Shortage

- Development of standards requires specialised technical skills and understanding.
- Previously the domain of the well resourced industry associations.
- Now, a limited number of industry personnel is available to assist with standards drafting and development.
- Industry requires the next “batch” of industry technical people to be trained to support the maintenance and development of new standards: both National and International.



Codes & Standards Program – Benefits to Industry

- Efficient and cost effective development of timber standards.
- Prioritisation of Australian Standards that meet industry's needs.
- Addressing Building Code related matters to grow the market opportunities for timber products.
- Assist in the development of the new generation of timber technical personnel.

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Questions?



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