

AFIA

ALUMINIUM FOIL INSULATION ASSOCIATION

Recommended improvements to HIP

1. DEWHA to ensure all products used within the HIP are product certified to BCA Compliance through SIA Global, Global Mark, BSI or CODEMARK or similar.
2. DEWHA to ensure that all installers test the roof attic space temperature before commencing work to ensure the work place environment temperature is not exceeding 40DegC.
3. DEWHA to ensure that all imported products are labelled in accordance with AS/NZS4859.1 under compliance to the BCA.
4. DEWHA to ensure all imported glass wool insulation is labelled for health warnings such as imported product containing high levels of formaldehyde binders where these products are not manufactured from Bio Soluble Glass Wool.
5. DEWHA to ensure all installers who install glass wool insulation wear protective breathing masks as recommended on Australian manufactured product labels.
6. DEWHA to ensure that installer invoice claim forms contain information noting product type and brand used (possible also place of procurement).
7. DEWHA to ensure that all installer invoice claim forms state the SQM size of the house insulated which can be validated against official land rates records for the property. This allows analysis of each project to validate the cost per SQM being quoted or charged in line with industry standard costs and that the installer is simply not charging the full \$1200.00 regardless of home size.
8. DEWHA to introduce mandatory pre-installation electrical safety inspections for all HIP jobs to take into account, aged wiring (both aged metal conduit and aged sheathed wiring), noting down lights and general condition and installation of wiring.
9. DEWHA to ensure Installers claims invoice to note any fire flumes or chimneys. This easily allows auditors to review target inspections should the target be "heat flumes or chimneys".
10. With the advent of the Government undertaking electrical safety audits on all current pre-suspension reflective insulation jobs AFIA urges DEWHA to ensure that procedures are in place to manage the work done by the electrical contractors trades to ensure there is no misappropriation of that work.
11. DEWHA should consider reconvening Australian standard, AS3999 the Standard for installations of bulk insulation materials. Australian Standards is now a user pays organisation and the Federal Government will have to fund its full revision.

The reconvening of the Australian Standards committee responsible for its development, Committee BD-058 must take into account within the revision all insulation materials inclusive of reflective insulations. Areas of concern not currently covered in the standard are, the treatment of bulk insulations covering aged wiring that is contained within aged metal conduit or aged rubber sheathing, down lights and compression of glass wool building blankets that are used in commercial and residential applications.

Two years ago AFIA commissioned University of South Australia to undertake compression testing of foil faced glass wool insulations in-situ with official outcomes published showing up to a 60% reduction in the material thermal R-value declared the by companies commercially selling the materials. The published report was handed to both Standards Australia and Australian Building Codes who have both declined to update their respective Standards and Building Codes to take account of the findings.

Within this review AS3999 will need to take into consideration the duty of care to provide counter battening or the newly designed roof rack systems within the roof frame construction.

Finally, AFIA will insist that Standards Australia be ordered to ensure that all the recommendations proposed by Commissioner Fitzgerald in his published report on the review into Standards Australia, 2006 must be implemented. These include committee placements (no capture) for equal voting rights, new chairman (who has no previous commercial dealings with the glass wool association ICANZ or their member companies) are amongst the recommendations.

NOTE: AFIA maintains reservations as to the roll Standards Australia continues to play in developing standards for the Australian insulation industry and its deeply divided technical aspects. AFIA would support a change to the development and governance of standards for the Australian insulation industry by handing it over to expertly qualified organizations such as AIRAH (Australian Institute of Refrigeration, Air-Conditioning and Heating). This removes all commercial interests from the development and voting processes and ensure validated rigorous science prevails.



Handwritten signature of Robert Tikey, with the name 'ROBERT TIKEY' written vertically next to it.