



## Protection from Fire: Changes to Verification Method C/VM2 (Amendment 4)

The requirements of the Building Code clauses for Protection from Fire (C1 - C6) aim to protect people in buildings, limit fire spreading to other buildings, and help firefighting and rescue.

The Ministry has made changes to the Verification Method C/VM2 for the Building Code clauses for Protection from Fire.



### Why is the Ministry making changes?

The Ministry, after consultation with the sector, along with sector experts, has developed the following practical solutions to remedy compliance issues that designers and councils are finding when they apply C/VM2 to building designs.

The changes will simplify construction and reduce compliance costs but will not reduce fire safety.



### What are the key changes?

The following changes have been made to the Verification Method C/VM2 that supports the Building Codes clauses for Protection from Fire:

- There is flexibility to model with doors open or closed based on their function in the building.
- The modelled spacing of detectors is clarified.
- Methods are provided to assess if the structure will resist fire for either; the time for occupants to escape or to burnout as applicable.
- The use of manual detection in warehouses is extended to include small ancillary spaces in the warehouse such as toilets and some small isolated offices.
- Limited area offices are also permitted in warehouses with manual activated alarms provided certain conditions are met.
- The Blocked Exit scenario includes limited travel distance in a single direction.
- Pre-activity evacuation times are given for early childhood centres
- There are further methods to assess vertical fire spread from lower roofs.
- Many common wall linings and surface finishes, and flooring no longer require testing.

changes to C/  
VM2 [Amendment 4]  
effective 1 July 2014

Want to know more? [www.dbh.govt.nz/compliance-documents](http://www.dbh.govt.nz/compliance-documents)



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## Is there a transition period?

Amendment 4 is effective from 1 July 2014. There is a eight month transition period, during which the Amendment 3 version continues to be a means of compliance with the Building Code clauses C1 - C6. Any consent applications submitted prior to 1 March 2015 may be based on the Verification Method C/VM2 Amendment 3 version.



## Want to know more?

Read about the changes and commentary document to the Verification Method C/VM2 (Amendment 4) for Protection from Fire clauses C1 - C6 at:

[www.dbh.govt.nz/compliance-documents](http://www.dbh.govt.nz/compliance-documents)

Ask a question or request information about the Verification Method C/VM2

[www.dbh.govt.nz/changes-to-c1-c6-faq](http://www.dbh.govt.nz/changes-to-c1-c6-faq)

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## What is a Verification Method (VM)?

A Verification Method is a design method that can show a design complies with Building Code requirements. It is often a test or calculation method. A specific design that follows and meets the requirements of a Verification Method must be accepted by a Building Consent Authority as complying with the related Building Code provisions.

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