

Dear Customer

Please find enclosed Amendment 3, effective 14 February 2014, to the Acceptable Solution and Verification Method for Clause F8 Signs of the New Zealand Building Code. The previous amendment (Amendment 2, Second Edition) was in April 2012.

<b>Section</b>	<b>Old F8</b>	<b>February 2014 Amendments to F8</b>
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**MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,  
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT**  
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

# **Acceptable Solutions and Verification Methods**

For New Zealand Building Code Clause  
**F8 Signs**

**Second Edition**



## Status of Verification Methods and Acceptable Solutions

Verification Methods and Acceptable Solutions are prepared by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment in accordance with section 22 of the Building Act 2004. Verification Methods and Acceptable Solutions are for use in establishing compliance with the New Zealand Building Code.

A person who complies with a Verification Method or Acceptable Solution will be treated as having complied with the provisions of the Building Code to which the Verification Method or Acceptable Solution relates. However, using a Verification Method or Acceptable Solution is only one method of complying with the Building Code. There may be alternative ways to comply.

Users should make themselves familiar with the preface to the New Zealand Building Code Handbook, which describes the status of Verification Methods and Acceptable Solutions and explains alternative methods of achieving compliance.

Defined words (italicised in the text) and classified uses are explained in Clauses A1 and A2 of the Building Code and in the Definitions at the start of this document.

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## New Zealand Government

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## Document Status

The most recent version of this document (Amendment 3), as detailed in the Document History, is approved by the Chief Executive of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. It is effective from 14 February 2014 and supersedes all previous versions of this document.

The previous version of this document (Amendment 2) will cease to have effect on 14 August 2014.

People using this document should check for amendments on a regular basis. The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment may amend any part of any Verification Method or Acceptable Solution at any time. Up-to-date versions of Verification Methods and Acceptable Solutions are available from [www.dbh.govt.nz](http://www.dbh.govt.nz)

<b>F8: Document History</b>			
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Alterations</b>	
First published	July 1992		
Amendment 1	Effective from September 1993 until 10 July 2012	p. v, Contents p. vi, References p. 4, Table 2 p. 11, 6.4.2 a)	p. 12, 6.4.3, Figures 11, 12, 13, 14, 6.5.1 p. 13, 6.6.3, 6.7.1, Figures 15, 16 pp. 15-16 Index
Second edition (Amendment 2)	Effective from 10 April 2012 until 14 August 2014	Document revised 2nd Edition issued	
Amendment 3	14 February 2014	p. 2A, Document history, Status	p. 7 References p. 9 Definitions
<b>Note: Page numbers relate to the document at the time of Amendment and may not match page numbers in current document.</b>			



# References

For the purposes of New Zealand Building Code compliance, the Standards and documents referred in this Acceptable Solution (primary reference documents), which in turn may also refer to other Standards or documents, and so on (lower order reference documents) must be the editions, along with their specific amendments, listed below. Where the primary reference documents refer to other Standards or other documents, (secondary reference documents), then the version in effect at the date this Acceptable Solution was published must be used.

Amend 3  
Feb 2014

## Standards Australia

AS 2293: 2005 Emergency escape lighting and exit signs  
for buildings

Part 1: System design, installation and operation

Part 3: Emergency escape luminaires and exit signs

*Amend: 1*

AS/NZS 2293: 1995 Emergency escape lighting and exit signs  
for buildings

Part 2: Inspection and maintenance

## British Standards Institution

BS 5252: 1976 Framework for colour co-ordination for  
building purposes

*Amend: 1*

## International Organization for Standardization

ISO 3864: 2002 Safety colours and safety signs

Part 1: Design principles for safety signs in workplaces and  
public areas

ISO 7000: 2004 Graphic symbols for use on equipment

ISO 7010: 2003 Graphical symbols – safety colours and safety  
signs – Safety signs used in workplaces and  
public areas

## German Institute for Standardisation

DIN 5381: 1985 Identification colours

DIN 6164: 1980 DIN colour chart

Part 2: Specification of colour samples

## Chemical Industry Council Incorporated

HSNO Code of Practice 2-1 09-04 Signage for premises  
storing hazardous substances and dangerous goods

## Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind

Accessible Signage Guidelines: 2010

## Where quoted

AS1 4.5.5

AS1 2.4, 4.5.3 a) i),  
4.5.5, Appendix A

AS1 4.5.5

AS1 Table 2

AS1 2.4

AS1 2.4

AS1 2.4, 3.2.4

AS1 Table 2

AS1 Table 2

AS1 2.4, 7.1

AS1 2.3





# Definitions

This is an abbreviated list of definitions for words or terms particularly relevant to this Verification Method and Acceptable Solution. The definitions for any other italicised words may be found in the New Zealand Building Code Handbook.

Amend 3  
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**Access route** A continuous route that permits people and goods to move between the apron or *construction* edge of the *building* to spaces within a *building*, and between spaces within a *building*.

**Accessible** Having features to permit reasonable use by *people with disabilities*.

**Accessible route** An *access route* usable by a *people with disabilities*. It shall be a continuous route that can be negotiated unaided by a wheelchair user. The route shall extend from street *boundary* or car parking area to those spaces within the *building* required to be *accessible* to enable *people with disabilities* to carry out normal activities and processes within the *building*.

**Active conductor** Any conductor in which the electrical potential differs from that of a neutral conductor or earth.

**Building** has the meaning ascribed to it by sections 8 and 9 of the *Building Act 2004*.

**Clearly visible** for the purposes of Clause F8 and in relation to a sign means the nearest such sign is visible and readable at the maximum distance from which it needs to be viewed, to a person who either does not have a visual impairment, or uses corrective lenses.

**Doorset** A complete assembly comprising a door leaf or leaves including any glazed or solid panels adjacent to or over the leaves within the door frame including hardware or other inbuilt features; and a door frame, if any, with its fixing to the wall and, for a sliding door or tilting door, all guides and their respective fixings to the lintel, wall or sill.

**Escape route** A continuous unobstructed route from any *occupied space* in a *building* to a *final exit* to enable occupants to reach a *safe place*, and shall comprise one or more of the following: *open paths*, *smoke lobbies* and *safe paths*.

**Comment:**

Doors are not obstructions in an *escape route* provided they comply with C/AS1 and D1/AS1.

**Exitway** All parts of an *escape route* protected by *fire* or *smoke separations*, or by distance when exposed to open air, and terminating at a *final exit*.

**Final exit** The point at which an *escape route* terminates by giving direct access to a *safe place*.

**Comment:**

*Final exits* are commonly the external doors from a ground floor, but this applies only if such doors open directly onto a *safe place*. If a *safe place* can be reached only by passing down an alley, or across a bridge, then the *final exit* is not reached until the end of such an alley or bridge. *Final exits*, therefore, should be seen strictly as a point of arrival, rather than as any particular element of a *building*. They are determined entirely by the definition of *safe place*.

**Fire door** A *doorset*, single or multi-leaf, having a specific *fire resistance rating*, and in certain situations a smoke control capability, and forming part of a *fire separation*. The door, in the event of *fire*, if not already closed, will close automatically and be self latching.

**Hold-open device** A device which holds a *smoke control door* or *fire door* open during normal use, but is released by deactivating the device by an automatic *fire* detection system, allowing the door to close automatically under the action of a self-closing device.

**Illuminance** The luminous flux falling on to a unit area of surface (lumen/m<sup>2</sup>).

**Luminance** The luminous intensity of a surface in a given direction per unit projected area (candela/m<sup>2</sup>).

**Occupant load** The greatest number of people likely to occupy a particular space within a *building*. It is determined by:

- a) dividing the total floor area by the m<sup>2</sup> per person (occupant density) for the activity being undertaken, or

- b) for sleeping areas, counting the number of sleeping (or care) spaces, or
- c) for fixed seating areas, counting the number of seats.

**Open path** That part of an *escape route* (including *dead ends*) within a *firecell* where occupants may be exposed to *fire* or smoke while making their escape.

**People with disabilities** People whose ability to use *buildings* is affected by mental, physical, hearing or sight impairment.

**Person with a disability** Means a person who has an impairment or a combination of impairments that limits the extent to which the person can engage in activities, pursuits and processes of everyday life, including, without limitation, any of the following:

- a) a physical, sensory, neurological, or intellectual impairment:
- b) a mental illness.

**Safe path** That part of an *exitway* which is protected from the effects of *fire* by *fire separations*, *external walls*, or by distance when exposed to open air.

**Safe place** A place, outside of and in the vicinity of a single *building* unit, from which people may safely disperse after escaping the effects of a *fire*. It may be a place such as a street, *open space*, public space or an *adjacent building* unit.

**Comment:**

The Fire Safety and Evacuation of Buildings Regulations 2006 use the term '*place of safety*' and allow the *place of safety* to be within the *building* provided that it is protected with a sprinkler system.

**Safety colour (green, red or yellow)** A colour of specific properties to which a safety meaning is attributed.

**Safety sign** A particular type of sign which comprises a geometric form and a *safety colour*, together with a *safety symbol* or text (that is, words, letters, numbers or a combination of these) and gives a particular safety message.

**Safety symbol** means a graphic symbol used in a *safety sign*.

**Smoke control door** A *doorset* that complies with Appendix C, C6.1.2 of C/AS6.

**Smoke lobby** That portion of an *escape route* within a *firecell* that precedes a *safe path* or an *escape route* through an adjoining *building* which is protected from the effects of smoke by *smoke separations*.

**Smoke separation** Any *building element* able to prevent the passage of smoke between two spaces. *Smoke separations* shall:

- a) Be a smoke barrier complying with BS EN 12101 Part 1, or
- b) Consist of rigid *building elements* capable of resisting without collapse:
  - i) a pressure of 0.1 kPa applied from either side, and
  - ii) self weight plus the intended vertically applied live loads, and
- c) Form an imperforate barrier to the spread of smoke, and
- d) Be of *non-combustible construction*, or achieve a *FRR* of 10/10/-, except that *non-fire resisting glazing* may be used if it is toughened or laminated *safety glass*.

**Comment:**

The pressure requirement is to ensure rigidity and is not a smoke leakage requirement.

Walls and floors, whether *constructed* of sheet linings fixed to studs or joists, or of concrete, glazing, metal or fired clay, need only be inspected by someone experienced in *building construction* to judge whether the *construction* is tight enough to inhibit the passage of smoke.

Item d) is intended to ensure that the *smoke separation* will continue to perform as an effective barrier when exposed to *fire* or smoke for a short period during *fire* development.

There is no requirement for *smoke control doors* or other closures in *smoke separations* to meet the provisions of item d).

**Stairway** A series of steps or stairs with or without landings, including all necessary *handrails* and giving access between two different levels.