

4 December 2009

Fibrous Plaster Association (New Zealand)  
P O Box 38-314  
Wellington Mail Centre  
Wellington

Attn Mr Steve Leitch – Association President

Dear Sir

Further to our recent discussion I am taking this opportunity to clarify the situation regarding test reports that BRANZ has previously conducted for the Fibrous Plaster Association.

BRANZ has previously carried out five tests for the Association, namely FE 1514 (issue date 27 March 1990), FR 763 (14 February 1986), FR 966 (16 November 1984), FR 494 (21 May 1980) and FR 422 (6 June 1979). The test reports with an FR prefix are Fire Resistance tests, while the report with an FE prefix is a Reaction-to-Fire (Early Fire Hazard Properties) test.

Since the date of these five test reports being issued, the test standards cited for compliance with the building regulations have changed. Currently, the New Zealand Building Code Compliance Document for the Fire Safety Clauses (C/AS1) cites AS 1530.4:1997 for Fire Resistance testing and AS/NZS 1530.3:1999 for the Reaction-to-Fire testing.

There is some uncertainty as to exactly how Building Code compliance is affected by cited test standards that are subsequently superseded by revised standards, as is the case with these test reports. Essentially it comes down to a judgement call by the separate Building Consent Authority (BCA). It is understood that generally common practise is for BCA's to accept test reports conducted against older, superseded test standards. So long as what was originally tested still matches what is currently done on site then this approach would seem reasonable.

Enclosed with this letter is one copy of each of the five test reports. Your attention is drawn to the fact that these test reports are subject to various terms and conditions, which are referred to specifically in each report document.

Yours faithfully



Greg Baker  
**Manager Fire & Structural Engineering Services**  
**BRANZ Ltd**