

Re-entry from fire-isolated exits

What are the proposed changes?

We're proposing changes to NCC Volume One to minimise the risk that a person becomes trapped in a fire-isolated exit.

These changes include:

- Expanding the list of building classifications to which the provisions for re-entry from fire-isolated exits relate (D3D27(1)).
- Requiring at least every second floor where re-entry is not available, to include a sign stating where they can re-enter the building. This would apply to fire-isolated exit doors fitted with a fail-safe device that automatically unlocks the door upon the activation of fire alarm. (D3D27(2)(a)(ii)).

Why are these changes proposed?

People who inadvertently enter a fire-isolated exit may become disoriented or potentially trapped. Examples of instances where people were trapped in these exits show the results can be catastrophic in terms of their health, and in some cases lead to a fatality.

How were the changes developed?

These changes stem from a [Proposal to Change](#) the NCC we received from a state government body. The proposal included evidence of fatalities and adverse health outcomes for people who had been trapped in fire-isolated exits.

We undertook a technical assessment of the proposed changes that showed expanding the provisions to a broader set of building classifications and introducing signage requirements could address the problem.

Who has been involved?

We consulted with members of our peak technical committee, the [Building Codes Committee](#).

What are the impacts?

These cost-effective changes will mean safer fire-isolated exits from buildings, such as apartment buildings, hotels and shops, and will minimise the risks associated with someone becoming trapped.

More information and relevant links

To read the full details of the changes, please review the [NCC 2025 Volume One PCD](#).

Want to provide feedback?

Responses to the Public Comment Draft are invited until **11:59 PM AEST Monday 1 July 2024**.

In line with the ABCB's process for undertaking public consultation, comment will only be accepted through the ABCB's online [Consultation Hub](#).

To access the Public Comment Draft and response form:

1. Download the NCC volume(s) you wish to view and provide comment. You can also download the supporting information PDF for detailed information on the more significant/complex changes.
2. Download the response form.

Once you've reviewed the draft, complete the response form, and include your feedback on the suggested changes to the NCC.

To submit your comments:

1. Enter our Public Comment Draft consultation hub.
2. Start by agreeing to the privacy statement.
3. Let us know if you'd like your submission published publicly.
4. Enter your contact details.
5. Upload your completed form in .doc format (please make sure each file is under 25MB) and submit.