



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Adoption of NCC 2016 Volume One Amendment 1

“Amendment 1 to Volume One of the National Construction Code (NCC) - an out-of-cycle amendment to the 2016 edition - has been adopted today by the States and Territories,” said Chief Executive of the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCBC), Neil Savery.

“At the request of Building Ministers following the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower, the ABCBC has brought forward and expedited work on a comprehensive package of measures arising out of its response to the Lacrosse Apartments fire in Melbourne, to improve fire safety in high-rise buildings,” he said.

The changes to the NCC include:

- the introduction of a new Verification Method for testing of external wall assemblies for fire spread. This includes a new testing standard, Australian Standard (AS) 5113, to be used as part of the Verification Method;
- clarifying language within the code relating to the use of external wall claddings and attachments;
- revision of the NCC’s evidence of suitability provisions (including for cladding materials); and
- increased stringency for the sprinkler protection of balconies of multi-storey residential buildings through referencing of a revised AS 2118.

The changes to the NCC will be complemented by other measures developed to help address the non-compliant use of external wall claddings, which include:

- the national ABCBC Advisory Note - Fire Performance of External Walls and Cladding, has been updated to reflect changes associated with the out-of-cycle amendment;
- release of an Evidence of suitability Handbook (to include the introduction of voluntary Product Technical Statements);
- improvements to the CodeMark product certification scheme; and
- the development of education and training materials.

Mr Savery emphasised that the mandatory requirements of the NCC have not changed as a result of the Amendment, which are aimed at reducing the spread of fire within and between buildings, protecting occupants when evacuating a building and facilitating fire brigade intervention.

“I encourage building practitioners, developers and industry to familiarise themselves with the content of the Amendment, which has been available since 19 January, along with other informative material available on the ABCBC website,” Mr Savery said.

For further information or to access the Amendment please visit the ABCBC website, [www.abcb.gov.au](http://www.abcb.gov.au).

Neil Savery, Chief Executive Officer  
Australian Building Codes Board

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