

FLOOR NZ E3 INTERNAL MOISTURE UPDATE JANUARY 2022

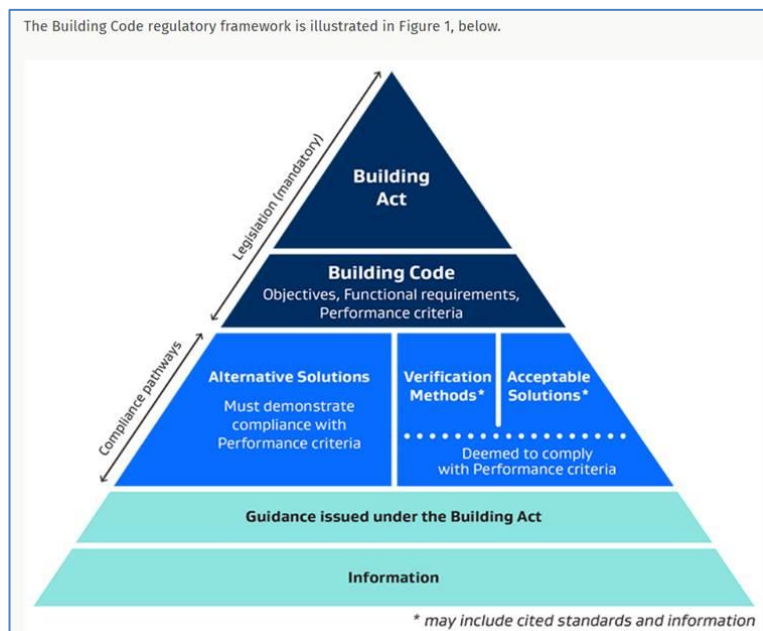
Key point summary for sales staff and specifiers

The following are key points to help understand why and what has changed when specifying flooring to areas where there is a sanitary fixture (e.g. tap/tub/toilet) or sanitary appliance (e.g. dishwasher). This is in reference for new or refurbishment work that will require council consent.

Why?

- Amendments are being made across the building code under the Building Amendment Act which came into Law 7 June 2021. E3/AS1 is just one of many clauses to be amended.
- The amendments are also another form of protection for the public/customers by having supporting information as part of the consent process. Flooring businesses already have to comply with Consumer Protection Laws for their products/systems; similarly the supporting information verifies the products and systems being used.
- MBIE's (Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment) intent was not to prevent the use of the many flooring options NZ and the world use every day i.e. wood based /vinyl planking products. The intent was to verify products quality and performance in areas where there is a sanitary fixing/appliance. MBIE also wanted to bring the NZ building code in line with other overseas countries and referred to Australia and the UK as having similar Deemed-to-Satisfy provisions.

- The illustration provided by MBIE shows the pathway to consent of which Alternative solutions will make up a large proportion of the compliance pathways. There are eight possible pathways to an Alternative solution. For more detail <https://floornz.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Build-187-33-Design-Right-Alternative-Solutions-Provide-Options.pdf>



What to do

- To meet compliance for areas that have a sanitary fixing/appliance, any floor covering/finish **other** than Sheet vinyl, Ceramic Tiles, Steel trowelled or Polished concrete (ground floor) will need to be submitted with the house/building plans as an **Alternative Solution**. Included with the submission will be support information (including the installation/application system). Examples of the type of support information will be manufacturer documents that provide recommended use/performance/history.
- 1.5 metre rule for water splash area - this is still a grey area in terms of carpet meeting a kitchen bench where the sink or dishwasher is within 1.5 metres. This is because the surface within this area needs to satisfy the impervious and easily cleaned performance clause. If the customer wants carpet to this area, MBIE have recommended that specifiers contact the relative council before submission and discuss the context of the proposed plan and carpet.
- Installers at the time of installation will need to follow the specified installation/application system.