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AS 3959:2018
(Incorporating Amendment Nos 1 and 2)

AS 3959:2018



Construction of buildings in bushfire-prone areas



This Australian Standard® was prepared by Committee FP-020, Construction of Buildings in Bushfire-Prone Areas. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 23 October 2018.

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The following are represented on Committee FP-020:

- Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC)
 - Australian Building Codes Board
 - Australian Garage Door Association
 - Australian Institute of Architects
 - Australian Institute of Building Surveyors
 - Australian Roofing Tile Association
 - Australian Steel Institute
 - Australian Window Association
 - Bushfire Building Council of Australia
 - Consumers Federation of Australia
 - Department of Health and Human Services, Vic.
 - Fire Protection Association Australia
 - Forest and Wood Products Australia
 - Housing Industry Association
 - Insulated Panel Council Australasia
 - Insurance Council of Australia
 - Master Builders Australia
 - Roofing Tile Association of Australia
 - Think Brick Australia
 - Timber Preservers Association of Australia
 - Window and Door Industry Council
-

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Standards Australia wishes to acknowledge the participation of the expert individuals that contributed to the development of this Standard through their representation on the Committee and through the public comment period.

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AS 3959:2018
(Incorporating Amendment Nos 1 and 2)

Australian Standard[®]

Construction of buildings in bushfire-prone areas

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee FP-020, Construction of Buildings in Bushfire-Prone Areas, to supersede AS 3959—2009.

This Standard incorporates Amendment No. 1 (June 2019) and Amendment No. 2 (December 2020). The changes required by the Amendment are indicated in the text by a marginal bar and amendment number against the clause, note, table, figure or part thereof affected.

This edition incorporates the following changes:

- (a) The site assessment in Section 2 has been simplified to address interpretational issues related to slope, grasslands and low threat vegetation.
- (b) Section 3 clarifies that the shielding concessions relate only to the elements of the wall and do not apply to the subfloor or roofs.
- (c) The protection of gaps and openings has been addressed by requiring suitable measures for doors and windows and providing for other gaps to be suitably sealed.
- (d) The requirements for floors at BAL-12.5 and BAL-19 relating to bearers, joists and flooring within 400 mm above finished ground level now align with BAL-29.
- (e) Windows address the framed material, hardware, glazing, seals and weather strips and screens. Doors address the door panel material, door frame material, hardware, glazing, seals and weather proofing, screens and to be tight fitting. Vehicle access doors recognise that guide tracks do not permit direct access for embers and do not require edge gap protection. Where specified, weather strips are to conform with a flammability index not greater than 5 (AS 1530.2).
- (f) Roofs can now include certain translucent or transparent roof coverings at BAL-12.5 and BAL-19 for verandas, carports or awnings where the roof is separated from the main building.
- (g) Editorial changes have been made for consistency with Section 2 and to locate tables with the relevant sections of the site assessment methodology. Appendices F and H have been combined.

The terms ‘normative’ and ‘informative’ have been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which they apply. A ‘normative’ appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an ‘informative’ appendix is only for information and guidance.

The use of Notes in this Standard is of an advisory nature only. They provide explanations and guidance on recommended design considerations or technical procedures, as well as an informative cross-reference to other documents or publications.

This Standard incorporates a Commentary on some clauses. The Commentary directly follows the relevant clause, is designated by ‘C’ preceding the clause number and is printed in italics in a panel. The Commentary is for information only and does not need to be followed for conformance with the Standard.

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
FOREWORD.....	5
 SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL	
1.1 SCOPE.....	6
1.2 OBJECTIVE	6
1.3 APPLICATION	7
1.4 NORMATIVE REFERENCES	7
1.5 DEFINITIONS.....	8
1.6 PROCESS OF DETERMINING CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS	10
1.7 BUSHFIRE ATTACK LEVELS (BALs).....	11
 SECTION 2 DETERMINING THE BUSHFIRE ATTACK LEVEL (BAL)	
2.1 GENERAL.....	13
2.2 SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURE (METHOD 1)	13
 SECTION 3 GENERAL CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS	
3.1 GENERAL.....	33
3.2 CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIFIC STRUCTURES	33
3.3 EXTERNAL MOULDINGS	35
3.4 HIGHER LEVELS OF CONSTRUCTION	35
3.5 REDUCTION IN CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS DUE TO SHIELDING.....	36
3.6 VENTS, WEEPHOLES, GAPS AND SCREENING MATERIAL	38
3.7 BUSHFIRE SHUTTERS	39
3.8 TESTING OF MATERIAL, ELEMENTS OF CONSTRUCTION AND SYSTEMS TO THE AS 1530.8 SERIES	40
3.9 GLAZING	40
3.10 SARKING	41
3.11 TIMBER LOG WALLS.....	41
 SECTION 4 BUSHFIRE ATTACK LEVEL LOW (BAL—LOW)	
43	
 SECTION 5 CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS FOR BAL—12.5	
5.1 GENERAL.....	43
5.2 SUB-FLOOR SUPPORTS	43
5.3 FLOORS.....	43
5.4 WALLS	44
5.5 EXTERNAL GLAZED ELEMENTS, ASSEMBLIES AND DOORS	45
5.6 ROOFS (INCLUDING PENETRATIONS, EAVES, FASCIAS AND GABLES, AND GUTTERS AND DOWNPIPES).....	48
5.7 VERANDAS, DECKS, STEPS AND LANDINGS.....	50
5.8 WATER AND GAS SUPPLY PIPES	52
 SECTION 6 CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS FOR BAL—19	
6.1 GENERAL.....	53
6.2 SUB-FLOOR SUPPORTS	53
6.3 FLOORS.....	53
6.4 WALLS	54
6.5 EXTERNAL GLAZED ELEMENTS, ASSEMBLIES AND DOORS	55

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