

### A Guide to Changes in New Zealand Downlights Standard

AS/NZS 60598.2.2: 2001 Including Amendment A - Luminaires Part 2.2 Particular requirements - Recessed luminaires



# **Effective July 2012**

Update bought to you by Pink® Batts® insulation

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### Introduction

In 2011, changes to the recessed luminaires (also referred to as downlights) standard were made. These introduced new classes of recessed downlights that eliminate clearances and ensure safer installation with surrounding thermal insulation.

The standard (AS/NZS 60598.2.2) recognises thermal insulation and/or downlights with varying risk of fire are being installed in an increasing number of new and existing homes, including those homes participating in the EECA Warm Up New Zealand: Heat Smart programme. It aims to ensure that **"a downlight will not be unsafe if thermal insulation,** which is specified as safe to use with downlights, **is installed incorrectly over it."** 

#### What does this mean for downlights?

- All new products manufactured or imported into NZ must be one of five new classes
- Only four of the five classes may be used in residential buildings
- Any residential class downlight must be failsafe if accidentally covered with building insulation
- Covers or barriers are to be supplied as part of the downlight, or specified by the downlight manufacturer
- Downlights must have adequate protection to prevent risk of fire with building insulation

#### What does this mean for thermal insulation in residential buildings?

- As downlight clearances are no longer permitted, buildings will be more thermally efficient
- Installed insulation must maintain its structural integrity at specific temperatures (80/135°C) determined by the downlight installed
- Insulation material must typically pass the AS/NZS 60695.11.5 Needle Flame Test method on all surfaces
- Loose fill material may not be used unless specified by the downlight manufacturer
- Downlight manufacturers must state what building/thermal insulation is safe and compatible to use with the downlight





### New standard effective July 2012

New downlight classification and labelling requirements as per AS/NZS 60598.2.2 are shown below. Each downlight must now be clearly identified, with clearance from building elements and insulation type specified to reduce risk of fire.

#### AS/NZ S60598.2.2 Downlight Class Markings

Class Markings	Description	Residential	Commercial
CA BO'C ABUTTED ONLY	A cooler running, closed abutted recessed luminaire where fixed insulating material (of the downlight manufacturer's specifications) can be abutted to sides	~	~
CA 135°C ABUTTED ONLY	A closed abutted recessed luminaire where fixed insulating material (of the downlight manufacturer's specifications) can be abutted to sides	~	~
ABUTTED & COVERED	Recessed luminaire where fixed building insulation material (of the downlight manufacturer's specifications) can abut and cover the recessed luminaire	~	~
IC-F ABUTTED & COVERED	Recessed luminaire where fixed building insulation material can abut and cover the recessed luminaire	~	~
CLEARANCE NON MANDATORY	A recessed luminaire where building insulation material must not cover or come in contact with any part of the luminaire	×	<ul> <li></li> </ul>

#### Risk of Fire Instructions must include minimum clearances to building elements and insulation type

SCB	Side clearance to building elements	
НСВ	Height clearance to building elements	
SCI	Side clearance to building insulation (non-IC only)	
MIC	<b>MIC</b> Minimum clearance above building insulation for ventilation	
Insulation type	Class Markings and manufacturer's specifications dictate what type of insulation is safe for each model of downlight	



Information provided by Gartner Superlux Ltd

## **Residential Lighting and Insulation Specifications**

Selecting the right recessed downlight and insulation is easy.

#### Step One: Select lighting

When selecting a recessed downlight ensure it is labelled with one of the following:



Current technology limits the durability and availability of these classes of downlights

#### **Step Two: Select insulation**

Selecting the right insulation is easy. Either:

#### Follow the lighting manufacturer's recommendation

TIP: Non-combustible insulation is NOT the same as non-flammable insulation.

- Non-combustible insulation will not catch fire or melt easily when exposed to a continuous flame
- Non-flammable insulation can still catch fire but will self-extinguish if the flame is removed

or

#### Ensure insulation meets the requirements below

For all classes of recessed downlights where insulation is not specified, ensure the insulation is compatible with all classes by complying with the requirements below:

	Insulation Material		
Requirement	Pink <sup>®</sup> Batts <sup>®</sup> glass wool insulation	Other insulation material	
Maintains structural integrity at 80°C or 135°C	~	Product dependent - check with manufacturer	
Passes Fire Hazard Test AS/NZS 60695.11.5.	<ul> <li></li> </ul>	Product dependent - check with manufacturer	

#### Step Three: Select the right level of insulation for New Zealand climate conditions



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