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Fire Requirements - Aluminium Composite Material, Problems & Solutions



1. What are Aluminium Composite Materials (ACM)?

ACM is a bonded, laminated material typically consisting of three layers: two aluminium skins bonded to a core material. The core is usually combustible.

2. What are the dangers of PE core ACM products?

PE (polyethylene) is a highly combustible thermoplastic, and a higher PE content increases an ACM's combustibility. Beyond the fire hazard, PE core ACMs are prone to melting, dripping and collapsing.

3. Under the NCC fire safety provisions, why does AS 1530.1 compliance matter when specifying a building product?

The NCC references AS 1530.1 as the test method for demonstrating non-combustibility.

4. What is a Performance Solution under the NCC?

A Performance Solution is an alternative compliance pathway that demonstrates a building meets the NCC's Performance Requirements using recognised Assessment Methods.

5. Can a product that hasn't been tested to AS 1530.1 still be used where non-combustibility is required?

Yes, but it requires further information/testing and a fire engineer's report to support its suitability for the application.

6. Under Clause C2D10 of the BCA, what conditions must a bonded laminated material meet to be used when a non-combustible material is required?

Each adhesive layer must not exceed 1 mm in thickness, the total thickness of all adhesive layers must not exceed 2 mm and the Spread-of-Flame Index and Smoke-Developed Index of the laminated material as a whole must not exceed 0 and 3 respectively.