

BAL FZ Construction Compliance & Testing Regimes

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1. What is the primary mechanism of house loss during a bushfire, and why does it matter for construction outside the immediately exposed zone?
2. Name the three mechanisms of bushfire attack that the BAL system accounts for.
3. A building's BAL rating drives its construction requirements. What does the rating represent?
4. List the five factors assessed under AS 3959 to determine a site's BAL rating.
5. BAL-FZ is split into two types by distance. What is the threshold, and why does it matter?
6. Why does the NCC exempt a BAL-FZ roof from the roof ventilation requirement?

By the end of this session you should understand:

- Understand the bushfire risk framework in Australia, including how bushfire-prone land is defined and mapped and the factors that drive bushfire risk.
- Interpret the Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) system and explain how a building's exposure is assessed and translated into construction requirements.
- Navigate the regulatory pathway for bushfire construction, from the National Construction Code performance requirements through to the Deemed-to-Satisfy provisions of AS 3959.
- Understand how bushfire construction systems are tested and verified, and how testing evidence underpins compliance and product selection
- Identify the construction responses appropriate to BAL-FZ exposure, including the key considerations for walls, roofs and building openings in the flame zone.

