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LIGHTWEIGHT CONSTRUCTION IN HIGH FIRE RISK INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS - MEETING NCC FIRE REQUIREMENTS IN CLASS 7B AND 8 BUILDINGS

1. Explain two ways in which the production activities in Class 8 buildings can act as ignition sources.

- Welding, ovens and other heat-intensive equipment generate localised temperatures that may ignite adjacent combustible materials.
- Operational machinery can build up heat over time, particularly if maintenance is inadequate or ventilation is poorly designed.

2. Which section of the NCC relates to the fire performance provisions of Class 7b and Class 8 buildings?

Section E addresses the required fire performance provisions of Class 7b and Class 8 buildings.

3. Architects specifying materials for Class 7b and Class 8 buildings tend to choose conventional masonry and concrete systems. Why is this the case?

Because there is a misconception that only these materials can provide the required Fire Resistance Level (FRLs) set out in NCC 2022.

4. What effect does the presence of masonry and concrete have on the retrofitting of industrial buildings?

It makes retrofitting difficult, particularly in cases where operational needs change or compliance upgrades are required.

5. What are the benefits of specifying lightweight construction systems for Class 7b and Class 8 buildings?

Lightweight construction systems offer a space-efficient and time-saving alternative without compromising on fire safety compliance.