

Tasmania / ADMA-NCC (BCA) Flexible Duct, Thermal & Fire Rating Requirements from May 1 2013

Domestic Applications

BCA 2009 is mandatory for all Class 1 - 10 domestic buildings in TAS issued with a building permit from May 1 2007:

BCA 2009 specifics:

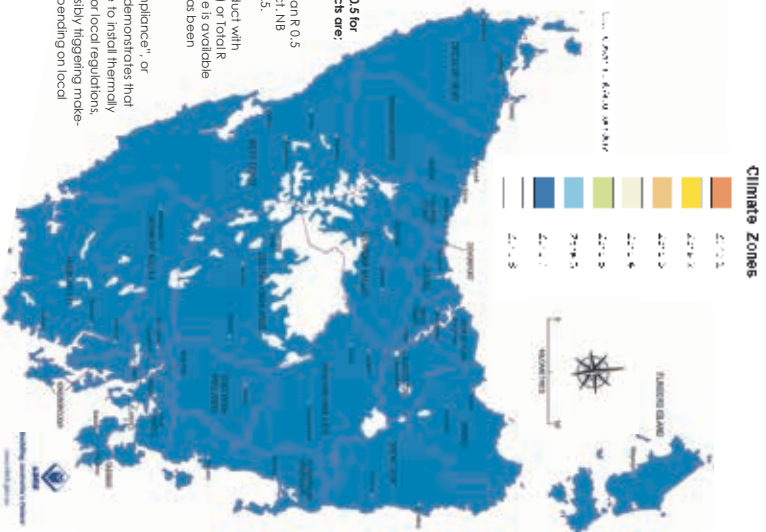
- Total R Value (R_T)/Insulation R Value plus 0.15 allowance for outer of fittings for oil/heatable duct and surfaces tested to AS/NZS 4859.1. It is not acceptable to quote an insulation thickness and/or weight instead of a Total R Value(R_T).
- All duct in heating systems that is ignited by a flame must be fire rated to AS 4254.1:2012
- R_T 0.4 for fittings in oil installations
- R_T 0.6 for duct in oil evaporative systems
- R_T 1.0 for duct in all heating only or edge/graded heating systems (except zone 6, R_T 1.5)
- R_T 1.5 for duct in oil reverse cycle and odd on cooling systems (see note).

Note: R_T Value required for duct may be reduced by 0.5 for reverse cycle systems in only climate zone 7 if the ducts are:

- Under a suspended floor within an enclosed perimeter or
- In a roof space that has insulation of not less than R 0.5 directly beneath the roofing i.e. above the duct. NB Sarking /reflective foils can usually achieve R0.5.

Contractor/homeowners need to ensure that only duct with a suspended or sarked floor/insulation Modelled R Value (R_T) or Total R Value (R_T) is installed and that documentary evidence is available to demonstrate that required thermally rated duct has been ordered, supplied and installed by the duct supplier.

The supply of a "letter of certification", "letter of compliance", or equivalent, by a builder that indicates compliance, demonstrates that regulatory standards have been followed. The failure to install thermally and fire rated compliant product may breach state or local regulations, builders' guarantees, or the Trade Practices Act, possibly triggering make-good provisions, and may extend for some years depending on local regulations and building contracts



Commercial Applications

BCA 2013 is mandatory for all commercial buildings issued with a building permit from May 1 2013:

- Building classes 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.

BCA 2013 specifics:

- "Material R Value" (R_m) /R Value of insulation only) must be used on flexible duct and fittings, tested to AS/NZS 4859.1 "Total R Values" (R_T) are not acceptable nor is quoting insulation thickness and or weight instead of a Material R-value (R_m).
- All duct in oil systems must be fire rated to AS 4254.1:2012
- R_m 2.0 duct and fittings must be used on all heating, cooling and evaporative installations unless:

 - Duct is no more than 3 metres in length to an outlet or from an inlet than R_m 0.8 acceptable
 - Duct and fittings are installed within a "conditioned space" which require Zone 7 - R_m 1.2 Zone 8 - R_m 1.6.
 - Duct and fittings are installed in Zone 8 which requires R_m R 2.4.