



6th September 2017

Alucobond Architectural Statement

You may be aware of media reporting around the issue of aluminium composite material (ACM) cladding used in construction.

We wanted to reassure you that, as we have done for many years, Alucobond Architectural only imports and distributes Alucobond® PLUS - our premium ACM cladding product for building façade construction in Australia.

Manufactured in Germany by 3A Composites to stringent quality standards, Alucobond® PLUS is a proven fire-resistant ACM panel that is fully compliant with the National Construction Code (NCC). It has been tested extensively both internationally and locally and carries a certification under the CodeMark scheme in Australia.

We are aware that many of our customers have questions about the Alucobond® PE cladding solution used prior to the introduction of Alucobond® PLUS.

Please be assured that Alucobond® PE was compliant with standard industry interpretations of the BCA at the time it was being supplied. Where PE panels have been supplied, they are installed as one component of a wall, and typically assessed in the context of a fire-engineered building that has been certified by qualified engineers and certifiers based upon the interpretation of the NCC at the time.

We do not believe direct parallels between the Grenfell Tower and Australian projects are appropriate. Investigations into the Grenfell Tower incident are ongoing, but reports suggest that the type of ACM PE cladding used was only one of several contributing factors. Just to confirm, Alucobond® was not the ACM cladding on the Grenfell Tower, or the Lacrosse Building in Melbourne.

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Alucobond® PLUS remains the high-quality, compliant and safe choice for fire-resistant ACM for constructional building façade needs. Fire-resistant ACP cladding is an important component of construction projects in Australia for good reasons. It is safe, lightweight, easy to install, visually attractive and is proven for long-term performance.

Nobody in the ACM industry in Australia has done more to advocate for the NCC to be updated than Alucobond Architectural. We first advocated for amendment to the NCC as part of a Proposal for Change in 2010 to the ABCB. This proposal sought the Code to adopt a minimum performance criteria for fire-resistant cladding, mandatory full-scale façade testing and cavity protection within the façade design. We now believe it is critical that the NCC stipulates that all ACP cladding, including current Deemed to Satisfy (DtS) products, be subject to full-scale façade testing as prescribed in AS5113.

In 2016 Alucobond Architectural led the market in having their product tested to the BS8414 full-scale façade test, despite already having conducted multiple internationally-benchmarked tests. The standard containing this test was not meant to have been called up in Australia until the revision to the NCC set to come into effect in 2019.

We hope this addresses any questions or concerns you might have. If you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch with us, your local Alucobond Architectural representative, or visit www.alucobond.com.au.

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