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# General Housing Specifications



ADDRESS OF PROPERTY :

GENERAL HOUSING SPECIFICATIONS BETWEEN :

OWNER:

AND

CONTRACTOR:

CONTRACTOR LICENCE NO:

**HIA GENERAL HOUSING SPECIFICATIONS - NSW  
(INCORPORATING THE HIA GUIDE TO MATERIALS & WORKMANSHIP)  
REVISED SEPTEMBER 2012**

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This is the Specification referred to in the Contract No. .... Date: .....

**Owner 1**

Name:		
Owner's Signature:		Date:
Witness's name:		Witness's signature:

**Owner 2**

Name:		
Owner's Signature:		Date:
Witness's name:		Witness's signature:

**Builder**

Name:		
Builder's Signature:		Date:
Witness's name:		Witness's signature:

**HIA GENERAL HOUSING SPECIFICATIONS - NSW  
(INCORPORATING THE HIA GUIDE TO MATERIALS & WORKMANSHIP)  
REVISED SEPTEMBER 2012**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

**1.1 General**

This Specification forms part of the Contract documents referred to in the building Contract and details the works to be executed and the materials to be used in carrying out those works at the site.

This Specification is to be read as a general specification only. The extent of the works shall be governed by the approved plans and other requirements under the Contract.

Any works not fully detailed shall, where appropriate, be sufficiently performed if carried out in accordance with the *National Construction Code (NCC) Series*, the relevant manufacturer's instructions or *Engineer's Instructions*.

**1.2 Preliminary Use**

This Specification forms part of the Contract and should be read in conjunction with the other contract documents.

**1.3 Prevailing Documents**

Where there is a difference between the plans and this Specification, this Specification shall take precedence. The *Builder* must at all times maintain a legible copy of the plans and this Specification bearing the approval of the relevant *Local Authority*.

Otherwise to the extent of any conflict between documents, the order of precedence set out in the building contract shall apply.

**1.4 Size and Dimensions**

Unless otherwise stated, all dimensions given in this specification are in millimetres and are nominal only.

**1.5 Prime Cost and Provisional Sum Items**

Prime Cost and Provisional Sums Items are items that the Owner is to select after the contract has been entered into. The prices listed are the Builder's reasonable estimate of the "cost price" of those items including GST. The prices listed do not include unquantifiable components including the "Builder's margin", cost of cartage and freight.

**1.6 Definitions**

In this Specification the following definitions shall apply:

- "NCC" Series includes NCC Series Volume 2, "Building Code of Australia Class 1 and Class 10 Buildings also known as the 'Housing Provisions', NCC Series Volume 3 Plumbing Code of Australia is also included.

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- "Engineer's Instruction" includes any soil classification report, preliminary footings report, construction footings report and any other report, recommendation, site or other instruction, calculations or plans prepared by an engineer in respect of the works.
- Where the term "Local Authority" is mentioned it shall mean the local council, or other governing authority or private certifier with statutory responsibility for the compliance of the work performed.
- Where referred to in this Specification, "Regulations" shall mean the building Regulations and Codes (including the MCC, as amended) statutorily enforceable at the time application is made for a construction certificate or other permits, consents or approvals relating to the Contract.
- The "HIA Guide" means the HIA Guide to Materials & Workmanship for Residential Building Work.

Unless the context suggests otherwise, terms used in this Specification shall have the same meaning as in the HIA Building Contract between the Owner and the Builder ("Contract").

## 2. STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

### 2.1 The Building Works

The building works outlined in the Schedule of Works, annexed to this Specification, shall be constructed in accordance with:

- the Regulations and in particular the Performance Requirements referred to in the MCC, Housing Provisions, Volume 2;
- any conditions imposed by the relevant development consent or complying development certificate; and
- commitments outlined in the BASIX Certificate

### 2.2 Compliance with Requirements of Authorities

The Builder is to comply with the requirements of all legally constituted authorities having jurisdiction over the building works and the provisions of the *Home Building Act*.

### 2.3 Electricity

Where there is no existing building, the Builder is to make arrangements for any electrical power to be used in the construction of the building works. The cost of providing and installing any poles, wiring, service risers or underground wiring etc, as may be required by the electricity supply authority, shall be borne by the Owner.

### 2.4 Sanitary Accommodation

Prior to the commencement of the building works, unless toilet facilities exist on the site, the Builder shall provide temporary toilet accommodation for the use of site personnel. Where the Local Authority requires the temporary toilet to be connected to sewer mains, the cost of this work shall be borne by the Owner. On completion the Builder shall remove the convenience.

## 3. OWNER'S OBLIGATIONS

### 3.1 Engineer's Instructions

If the Contract indicates, the Owner, at their expense, shall provide the Builder with engineer's reports and specifications (including wind and soil classifications) for the foundation or footing requirements.

In these circumstances, if the Builder instructs any party to provide such reports, the Builder does so only as agent for the Owner.

### 3.2 Water Supply

Where there is no existing building on the site, the Owner, at their expense, shall supply adequate water to the site for construction purposes. The contract documents must include all details for management of water providing clarity for the Owner and Builder regarding items such as rainwater tanks, septic systems and the like.

### 3.3 Sanitation

Unless otherwise specified the Owner shall supply sewerage connection and pay the standard sewer connection fee to the sewerage supply authority.

## 4. PLANS, PERMITS AND APPLICATION FEES

### 4.1 Permits and Fees

Subject to a contrary requirement under the Contract, the Builder shall lodge all necessary application notices, plans and details with the Local Authority for approval prior to commencement of construction.

### 4.2 Mines Subsidence

In areas affected by mine subsidence, the appropriate authority is to be consulted and any work carried out in accordance with the authority's requirements.

### 4.3 Setting Out

The Builder shall accurately set out the building works in accordance with the site plan and within the boundaries of the site.

## 5. EXCAVATIONS

### 5.1 Excavations

The part of the site to be covered by the proposed building or buildings and an area at least 1000mm wide around that part of the site or to the boundaries of the site, whichever is the lesser, shall be cleared or graded as indicated on the site works plan.

Top soil shall be cut to a depth sufficient to remove all vegetation.

Excavations for all footings shall be in accordance with the Engineer's Instructions or the MCC requirements.

## 6. FOUNDATIONS AND FOOTINGS

### 6.1 Underfloor Fill

Underfloor fill shall be in accordance with the *NCC*.

### 6.2 Termite Risk Management

Termite treatment shall be carried out in accordance with the *NCC*.

### 6.3 Vapour Barrier

The vapour barrier installed under slab-on-ground construction shall be installed in accordance with the *NCC*.

### 6.4 Reinforcement

Reinforcement shall conform and be placed in accordance with the *Engineer's Instructions* and the *NCC*.

Support to all reinforcement shall be used to correctly position and avoid any undue displacement of reinforcement during the concrete placement.

### 6.5 Concrete

Except where otherwise approved by an engineer, structural concrete shall be in accordance with the *NCC*. Pre-mixed concrete shall be manufactured in accordance with the *NCC* with delivery dockets kept on site or available for inspection by the engineer, or the *Local Authority*.

Concrete shall be placed and compacted in accordance with good building practice and the *NCC*.

### 6.6 Curing

All concrete slabs shall be cured in accordance with the *NCC*.

### 6.7 Footings and Slabs on Ground

Concrete slabs and footings shall not be placed until approval to do so is given by the engineer or the *Local Authority*.

Unless otherwise specified bench and floor levels indicated on the site plan shall be regarded as nominal.

### 6.8 Suspended Slabs

All concrete slabs, other than those supported on solid ground or properly compacted fill, shall be constructed as suspended slabs. These slabs shall be constructed in accordance with the *Engineer's Instructions*.

### 6.9 Foundation Walls

Where specified, masonry foundation walls are to be built on specified footings to the thickness indicated on the plans and to the height of the underside of the floor bearer or bottom wall plate.

### 6.10 Sub-Floor Ventilation

All sub floor spaces to suspended ground floors shall be provided with adequate ventilation in accordance with the *NCC*.

### 6.11 Sub-Floor Access

Where required, access to suspended sub floor areas shall be located as indicated on the plan.

## 7. RETAINING WALLS

### 7.1 Retaining Walls

Where the *Builder* is required by the Schedule of Works annexed to this Specification, the *Builder* shall construct retaining walls as shown on the approved plans. Where a retaining wall is not included in the Schedule of Works, the construction of any retaining wall shall be the responsibility of the *Owner*.

## 8. EFFLUENT DISPOSAL/DRAINAGE

### 8.1 Effluent Disposal/Drainage

In both sewerred and unsewerred areas:

- (a) Any bath, wash basin, kitchen waste, wash tubs, pedestal pan and the floor grate to a shower recess shall be located in the position shown on the plan (refer to Schedule of Works); and
- (b) waste pipes with traps shall be provided to the above fittings and connected to the drainage system.

The whole of the work is to be performed in accordance with the *NCC* and requirements of the sewerage authority concerned.

### 8.2 Septic System

The *Builder* will provide and install a septic system where applicable to the requirements of the *Local Authority* and in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

### 8.3 Storm Water Drainage

Stormwater drainage shall be carried out in accordance with the *NCC*.

The *Builder* will allow for the supplying and laying of stormwater drains as shown on the site plan.

## 9. TIMBER FRAMING

### 9.1 Generally

All timber framing shall comply with the *NCC*, alternative structural framing shall be to structural engineer's details and certification.

Timber Engineered products may be used provided their design comply with the MCC and they are installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

The work shall be carried out in a proper and tradesperson like manner and shall be in accordance with recognised and accepted building practices.

#### 9.1.1 Floor Framing

All floor framing is to be framed at the level shown on the plan.

#### 9.1.2 Wall Framing

Wall framing is to be erected plumb and straight and securely fastened to the floor framing or floor slab.

The interface between masonry and wall framing will conform with the MCC.

#### 9.1.3 Heads Over Opening (Lintels)

- All solid timber lintels shall conform to the MCC.
- Glue laminated beams conforming to AS 1328 or laminated veneer lumber beams to manufacturer's specification and data sheets may also be used.

#### 9.1.4 Roof Trusses

Where roof truss construction is used, trusses shall be designed in accordance with AS 1720 and be erected, fixed and braced in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

#### 9.1.5 Bracing

Bracing units shall be determined and installed in accordance with the MCC as appropriate for the design wind velocity for the site. Bracing shall be evenly distributed throughout the building.

#### 9.1.6 Flooring

Strip and sheet timber floors shall be installed in accordance with the MCC.

The selection, installation and waterproofing of wet area floors shall conform to the MCC when listed in Schedule of Works. Where specified in the contract floors shall be sanded to provide an even surface and shall be left clean throughout.

#### 9.1.7 Roof Framing

Roofs shall be pitched to the slope shown on plan.

The work shall be carried out in a proper and tradesperson like manner and shall be in accordance with recognised and accepted building practices.

Metal fascias shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and shall meet the requirements of the MCC.

#### 9.1.8 Timber Posts

Unless otherwise specified and where required by the MCC posts supporting carports, verandas and porches shall be timber suitable for external use.

#### 9.2 Corrosion Protection

All metal brackets, facing plates and other associated fixings used in structural timber joints and bracing must have corrosion protection appropriate to the site in accordance with the MCC.

#### 9.3 Hot Water Storage Units

Where a hot water storage unit or solar panels are supported by the roof structure the structure shall be specifically designed to support all imposed loads.

### 10. STEEL FRAMING

#### 10.1 Generally

Steel framing shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and the MCC.

### 11. ROOFING CLADDINGS

All roof cladding is to comply with the relevant structural performance and weathering requirements of the MCC and be installed as per the manufacturer's specifications.

#### 11.1 Tiled Roofing

The Builder shall cover the roof of the dwelling with approved tiles as selected. The roof shall be fixed and waterproofed in accordance with the MCC. Roofing adjacent to valleys should be fixed so as to eliminate water penetration. Where roof tiles are made of natural products slight variation in colour is acceptable.

#### 11.2 Metal Roofing

The Builder shall provide and install a metal roof together with accessories as determined in the contract documents in accordance with the MCC and the manufacturer's recommendations.

Except where design prohibits, sheets shall be in single lengths from fascia to ridge. Fixing of sheets shall be in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions as required for the appropriate design and wind speed.

#### 11.3 Gutters and Downpipes

Gutters and downpipes as determined in the contract documents shall be manufactured and installed in accordance with the MCC.

#### 11.4 Corrosion protection

Materials used for flashings, fasteners, gutters and downpipes shall be compatible.

#### 11.5 Sarking

Sarking under roof coverings must comply with and be fixed in accordance with the MCC.

#### 11.6 Sealants

Appropriate sealants shall be used where necessary and in accordance with manufacturer's specifications.

### 11.7 Flashing

Flashings shall comply with, and be installed in accordance with the NCC.

## 12. MASONRY

### 12.1 Bricks

All masonry construction and units shall comply with the NCC.

Tolerances shall only be applied to the total measurements over 20 units, and not to the individual units. As clay masonry units are natural kiln fired products their individual size may vary due to the manufacturing process.

### 12.2 Concrete Blocks

Concrete blocks are to be machine pressed, of even shape, well cured and shall comply with the NCC. Concrete blockwork shall be constructed in accordance with the NCC.

Autoclaved aerated concrete blocks shall be in accordance with the manufacturer's product specification at the time the work is being carried out.

### 12.3 Damp Proof Courses

All damp proof courses shall comply with the NCC.

The damp proof membrane shall be visible in the external face of the masonry in which it is placed and shall not be bridged by any applied coatings, render or the like.

### 12.4 Cavity Ventilation (Weepholes)

Where required open vertical joints (weepholes) must be created in the course immediately above any Damp Proof Course or flashing at centres in accordance with the NCC.

### 12.5 Mortar and Joining

Mortar and joint tolerances shall comply with the NCC.

### 12.6 Masonry Accessories

Masonry accessories shall comply with the NCC and accepted building practices. Articulated joints shall be constructed in accordance with the NCC.

### 12.7 Lintels

Lintels used to support masonry above openings in walls must be suitable for the purpose as required by the NCC. Lintels are to be provided to each wall leaf and are to be corrosion protected appropriate for the site environment and location of the lintel within the structure in accordance with the NCC.

### 12.8 Cleaning

All exposed face brickwork shall be cleaned with an approved cleaning system. Care should be taken not to damage brickwork or joints and other fittings.

## 13. CLADDING AND LININGS

### 13.1 External Claddings

Sheet materials or other external cladding shall be fixed in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and any applicable special details.

Where required, the specified materials shall be used to line soffits at eaves, open verandas and porches.

### 13.2 Internal Wall and Ceilings Linings

Unless otherwise specified, internal linings to walls and ceilings in other than wet areas shall be of gypsum plasterboards.

Plasterboard sheets are to be of a minimum 10 mm thick with recessed edges to facilitate a smooth set finish. Internal angles to walls are to be set from floor to ceiling.

Where specified, suitable cornice moulds shall be fixed at the junction of all walls and ceilings. Alternatively the joint may be set as required for vertical internal angles.

Wet area linings are to be fixed in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

The ceiling access hole shall be of similar material to the adjacent ceiling.

### 13.3 Waterproofing

All internal wet areas are to be waterproofed in accordance with the NCC. External tiled decks and balconies where required are to be waterproofed in accordance with the NCC and relevant manufactures specifications.

## 14. JOINERY

### 14.1 General

All joinery work (metal and timber) shall be manufactured and installed according to accepted building practices.

### 14.2 Door Frames

External door frames shall be suitable for the expose conditions and to receive doors. Internal jamb linings shall be suitable to receive doors as specified in the contract documents. Manufactured door frames shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

### 14.3 Doors and Doorsets

All internal and external timber door and door sets shall be installed in accordance with accepted building practice and specific manufacturer's instructions.

### 14.4 Window and Sliding Doors

Sliding and other aluminium windows and doors shall be installed in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations and AS 2047.

All glazing shall comply with the NCC and any commitments outlined in the relevant BASIX Certificate.

#### 14.5 Architraves and Skirting

Architraves and skirting as nominated on the plans or listed in the Schedule of Works shall be installed in accordance with accepted building practice.

#### 14.6 Cupboards/Kitchens/Bathroom

Units shall be installed to manufacturer's recommendations. Bench tops shall be of a water resistant material.

#### 14.7 Stairs, Balustrades and other Barriers

Where required stairs or ramps to any change in levels shall be provided and balustrades or barriers fitted in accordance with the NCC.

### 15. SERVICES

#### 15.1 Plumbing

All plumbing shall comply with the requirements of the NCC Volume 3 and the relevant supply authority. All work shall be carried out by a licensed plumber.

Fittings, as listed in the Schedule of Works, shall be supplied and installed to manufacturer's specifications.

Fittings, hot water systems and any rainwater harvesting systems shall be appropriate to satisfy any commitment outlined in the relevant BASIX Certificate.

#### 15.2 Electrical

All electrical work is to be carried out by a licensed electrical contractor to AS/NZS 3000 Electrical installations (known as the Australian/New Zealand Wiring Rules) plus any other relevant regulations. The location of lights, switches, power points and the like, is to be nominated in the contract documents.

Unless otherwise specified, the electrical service shall be 240 volt, single phase supply.

#### 15.3 Gas

All installation (including LPG) shall be carried out in accordance with the rules and requirements of the relevant supply authority.

#### 15.4 Smoke Detectors

Smoke alarms shall be installed in accordance with the MCC.

#### 15.5 Thermal Insulation

Where thermal insulation is used in the building fabric or services, such as air conditioning ducting or hot water systems, it shall be installed in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations to achieve the R-values required by the NCC or as outlined in the relevant BASIX Certificate.

### 16. TILING

#### 16.1 Materials

Tiles shall be as listed in the Schedule of Works or as selected by the Owner.

Cement mortar and other adhesives shall comply with AS 3958.1 or tile manufacturer's specifications.

#### 16.2 Installation

Installation of tiles shall be in accordance with AS 3958.1 or the manufacturer's recommendations and accepted building practices.

Where practicable, spacing between tiles should be even and regular.

Expansion joints shall be installed in accordance with AS 3958.1 or the tile manufacturer's specifications.

All vertical and horizontal joints between walls and fixtures e.g. bench top, bath, etc. and wall/floor junctions shall be filled with flexible mould resistant sealant.

All joints in the body of tiled surfaces shall be neatly filled with appropriate grout material as specified by the tile manufacturer or accepted building practice.

As tiles are made of natural products a slight variation in colour is acceptable.

Tiles are to be fixed to the substrate with adhesives that are compatible with the substrate and any waterproofing material.

#### 16.3 Walls

Wall surfaces shall be tiled with selected tiles and accessories where indicated by the contract documents.

#### 16.4 Floors

Floors shall be tiled to areas where indicated by the contract documents with selected tiles. Tiles shall be laid in a sand and cement mortar or using an adhesive, where required, edge strips or metal angle to exposed edges in doorways or hob-less showers in wet areas shall be provided in accordance with the NCC.

Where required, adequate falls shall be provided to wastes in accordance with the MCC.

### 17. PAINTING

#### 17.1 General

All paint used shall be of a quality suitable for the purpose intended and the application shall be as per the manufacturer's specifications. The colours used shall be as listed in the Schedule of Works or other relevant contract document. All surfaces to be painted shall be properly prepared to manufacturer's instructions.

## 18. WORKMANSHIP STANDARDS AND TOLERANCES

### 18.1 General

These general specifications incorporate the *HIA Guide*. By agreeing to these specifications, the Owner agrees that he/she has been provided with a copy and has had the opportunity to read the *HIA Guide*.

The *HIA Guide* is to be used by the *Builder* and *Owner* as a point of reference for information on workmanship standards and tolerances, and amongst other things, in deciding whether an alleged defect exists and/or whether the materials used and/or workmanship is in accordance with the plans and specifications.

The parties agree to use the *HIA Guide* in precedence over any other non-legislated guide to standards and tolerances.

## ANNEXURE

### Schedule of Works

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