James Hardie a Group 1 Non-Combustible Façade Solution

Specifying with Confidence

The Victorian Building Authority (VBA) has launched an investigation into hundreds of multi-residential buildings due to non-compliant, imported building products used in Australia. These products easily imitate commonly used building products such as aluminium. With no compulsory product assurance scheme in Australia it is critical that the use of a façade system is certified or deemed non-combustible by a suitable authority. Fire performance is a risk that designers and builders must be able to manage.

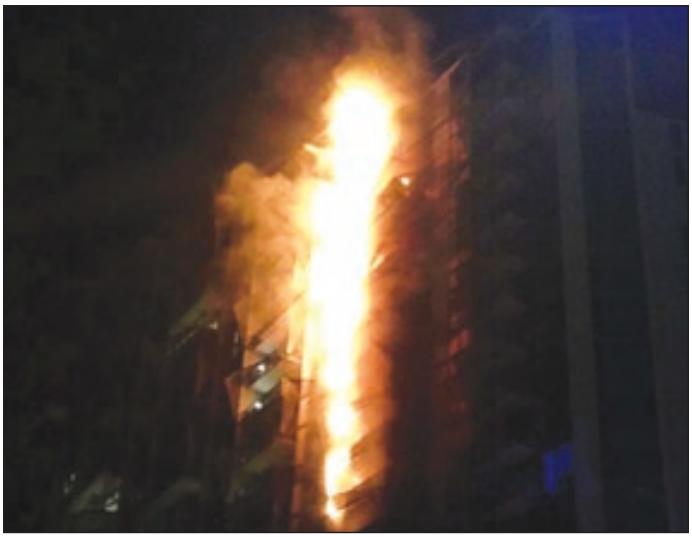


FIGURE 1: DOCKLANDS APARTMENT BUILDING GOES UP IN FLAMES[2]

Concerns about compliance of imported products was brought to regulatory authorities attention when on the 25th of November 2014 a Docklands apartment fire took only six minutes to burn through the 14th to 23rd storey[1] . This building used Alucobest, an imported aluminium composite as the external facade. This material fails Australian non-combustible tests and contributed to the rapid spread of fire.

FIGURE 2: ALUCOBEST CATCHING FIRE IN NON-COMBUSTIBILITY TEST [3]

Bob Baldwin the governments parliamentary secretary for industry stated in 2014 that *"These faulty products are not meeting Australian Standards and causing significant risk of fire or failing the most basic of stress tests,"*

Another high-rise building, this time in China which used the Alucobest façade material caught a blaze at incredible speeds turning the building into a towering inferno in seconds. Further to this, buildings in Dubai and France have also caught on fire.

Specifiers Responsibility

According to the Australian Institute of Architecture (AIA), an architect's responsibility and due diligence involves 'developing *technical detail for the project, prepare specifications for the builder and ensure that the project is constructed in accordance with the drawings and specifications'.* It is also important that the specified product meets Australian Standards and is fully installed, not switched out to a non-suitable product.

HOW DO YOU KNOW IF A FAÇADE MATERIAL IS NON-COMBUSTIBLE?

When architects specify materials that can be easily imitated or imported you are allowing them to take unnecessary fire risks with your building. Ensure that your architect specifies non-combustible building materials such as fibre cement manufactured by proven and experienced industry leaders.

Non-combustible Fire Performance

For years leading Australian Architects and Designers have elected to use James Hardie's high quality reinforced fibre cement building materials. The reason – peace of mind.

- ✓ Fibre cement is deemed non-combustible according to the National Construction Code (NCC) Volume 1 Section C1.12 and Volume 2 Section 3.7.1.2
- ✓ Fibre cement performs in the highest category and is a Group 1 fire resistant material according to NCC Volume 1 Section C1.10
- ✓ Fibre cement does not reach flashover when exposed to 100 kW of heat for 600 seconds followed by exposure to 300kW for 600 seconds
- ✓ Fibre cement cladding is homogeneous and does not rely on a non-combustible material sandwiched in between.
- ✓ ISO 9000.1. This helps to ensure that the product meets and exceeds manufacturing standards
- ✓ James Hardie fibre cement complies with Australian and New Zealand Standards for cellulose-cement flat sheet product AS/NZS 2908.2:2000
- ✓ Selected James Hardie fibre cement products are GECA certified

Caution: There have been imported products claiming to be fibre cement. These materials have been found to not be fibre cement and can detrimental building performance implications.

James Hardie a Leader in Fibre Cement

James Hardie has been a global leader in building materials for over 125 years and is an Australian manufacturer of fibre reinforced cement. They provide peace of mind through a range of external non-combustible wall systems including:

FAÇADE SYSTEMS

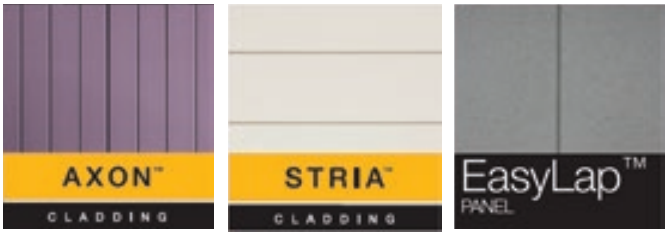
EXOTEC® FACADE PANEL AND FIXING SYSTEM

ExoTec® façade panel is compressed fibre cement designed as part of an express-jointed system with low maintenance and high impact resistance.

COMTEX® FACADE PANEL AND FIXING SYSTEM

ComTex® façade panel is a pre-primed system that gives a monolithic rendered look without the need for masonry.

BALCONY CLADDING SOLUTIONS



Further Information

For comprehensive information on the wide variety of fire resistant building products available from James Hardie visit **www.jameshardie.com.au, www.accel.com.au** or **ASK James Hardie™ on 13 11 03**

Certified Product™
Australian Standard

[1] http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/docklands-apartment-fire-hundreds-of-highrise-towers-to-be-investigated-for-fire-danger-20150428-1mvc9j.html
[2] Photo courtesy of Twitter
[3] Image courtesy of http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-05-27/cheap-cladding-turns-apartments-into-time-bombs/6501716

**To the extent set out in James Hardie's published literature at the time of installation*