



**National  
Construction  
Code**

Handbook



# Structural robustness



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# Preface

The Inter-Government Agreement (IGA) that governs the ABCB places a strong emphasis on reducing reliance on regulation, including consideration of non-regulatory alternatives such as non-mandatory guidelines, handbooks and protocols.

This handbook is one of a series produced by the ABCB and developed in response to comments and concerns expressed by government, industry and the community that relate to the built environment. Handbooks expand on areas of existing regulation or relate to topics that have, for a variety of reasons, been deemed inappropriate for regulation. They provide non-mandatory advice and guidance.

The Structural Robustness Handbook has been developed to foster an improved understanding of this issue. This handbook addresses the issues in generic terms. It is expected that this handbook will be used to develop solutions relevant to specific situations in accordance with the generic principles and criteria contained herein.

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## REMINDER

This Handbook is not mandatory or regulatory in nature and compliance with it will not necessarily discharge a user's legal obligations. The Handbook should only be read and used subject to, and in conjunction with, the general disclaimer at page i.

The Handbook also needs to be read in conjunction with the relevant legislation of the appropriate State or Territory. It is written in generic terms and it is not intended that the content of the Handbook counteract or conflict with the legislative requirements, any references in legal documents, any handbooks issued by the Administration or any directives by the appropriate authority.

# 1 Background

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The NCC is a performance-based code containing all Performance Requirements for the construction of buildings. A building, plumbing or drainage solution will comply with the NCC if it satisfies the Performance Requirements, which are the mandatory requirements of the NCC. To comply with the NCC, a solution must achieve compliance with the Governing Requirements and the Performance Requirements. The Governing Requirements contain requirements about how the Performance Requirements must be met.

This document was developed to provide guidance to practitioners seeking to demonstrate compliance with the structural robustness requirements of the NCC.

## 1.1 Scope

The handbook is focused on the Australian regulatory aspects of structural robustness. It provides support in understanding the structural robustness requirements of the NCC, specifically the relevant Performance Requirements and Verification Methods in Volumes One and Two.

## 1.2 Design and approval of Performance Solutions

The design and approval processes for structural robustness solutions is expected to be similar to that adopted for demonstrating compliance of other NCC Performance Solutions. Since the design approval process for Performance Solutions varies between the responsible State and Territory governments it is likely to also be the case with structural robustness and requirements should be checked for the relevant jurisdiction.

Notwithstanding the quantified input and acceptance criteria, other qualitative aspects of structural robustness, which are discussed in this document, require assessment and analysis throughout the design and approval process. The advice of an appropriately qualified person should be sought to undertake this assessment and analysis where required, and may be aided by the early and significant involvement from regulatory authorities, peer reviewer(s) and / or a technical panel as appropriate to the State or Territory jurisdictions.























































