

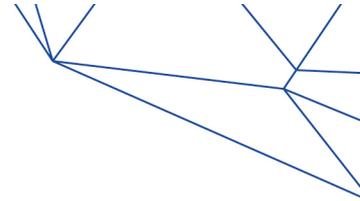
NCC 2022's new consistent volume structure

Attachment A – Evolution of the code's volume structures

Because the National Construction Code (NCC) has evolved over decades, the volume structure of the current NCC's Volume Two is very different from that of Volumes One and Three. The difference between Volume structures originated with the division in 1996 of the Building Code of Australia (BCA) 1990 into two separate Volumes, with the BCA requirements for housing (Class 1 and 10 buildings) being separated out into a stand-alone code known as the Housing Provisions, or BCA Volume Two. The Housing Provisions were given a different structure and referencing system as a way of separating them from BCA Volume One, which covers Class 2 to 9 buildings and retains the structure inherited from BCA 1990.

The unique structure of the Housing Provisions allowed for different compliance options within its Deemed-to-Satisfy Provisions. The first option was to follow an Acceptable Construction Manual (ACM), which was usually a referenced Australian Standard. The second option was to follow the Acceptable Construction Practice (ACP), a set of simplified technical provisions set out within the code and based upon common, established domestic building materials and methods.

Depending on their scope and the availability of relevant reference documents, some Deemed-to-Satisfy Provisions contained both an ACM and ACP option, while others had only one or the other. In some cases, the scope of the ACP can also differ from the (usually broader) scope of an ACM. Of course, there was also the option of using a Performance Solution, if neither the ACM nor ACP was suitable for the project at hand.



This ACM/ACP system introduced in the BCA 1996 Housing Provisions continues to this day in what is now the NCC 2019 Volume Two. It enjoys widespread support in the building industry, especially among practitioners whose businesses focus exclusively on the housing sector.

NCC Volume Three, the Plumbing Code of Australia (PCA), originated as the PCA 2004 which was structured in a similar way to BCA Volume One, except that it did not include any Specifications. Due the absence of a Guide to the PCA (similar to the Guide to the BCA Volume One), Explanatory Information boxes — used in Volume Two in place of a Guide — were introduced into the Volume Three structure in NCC 2012. This has caused Volume Three's structure to become, in a minor way, a hybrid of the Volume One and Volume Two structures.

In NCC 2019, a set of consistent Governing Requirements was introduced to replace the General Provisions of all three Volumes. Some parts of the former General Provisions, such as the glossary of defined terms, were also moved into a consistent set of NCC 'Schedules', appended to each Volume. The structure of the technical content of each Volume, however, remains inconsistent.