



NCC 2022's new 'SPTC' referencing system

The 2022 edition of the National Construction Code (NCC) comes with some important changes to its structure and format, as part of the Australian Building Codes Board's (ABCBC) commitment to delivering a code that is user-friendly and modern. This supporting document provides a snapshot summary of what to expect with the code's new referencing system: 'SPTC' (Section - Part - Type – Clause).

Background

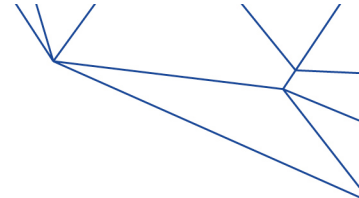
Historically, the NCC has used several different systems for numbering its Sections, Parts, Specifications and clauses. The differences in these systems reflected a general need for clear delineation between volumes, and between different content types within each volume. There was also a desire to avoid confusion between the NCC and other documents such as legislation and Australian Standards.

It remains essential today to make sure the NCC is easily recognisable, and distinguishable from other documents commonly referred to by practitioners. However, there is also a need to simplify the NCC's referencing system to make it easier for current and future users to understand. A uniform referencing system will also enable the digitisation of the NCC Online and development of features which will greatly assist practitioners, which forms part of the ABCBC's [improved NCC useability initiative](#).

[A detailed history of the NCC's referencing system can be found at Attachment A.](#)

What's changing?

Following considerable research and development, the ABCBC devised the SPTC (Section-Part-Type-Clause) referencing system for NCC 2022. This approach retains key aspects of the current NCC referencing system wherever possible, and more accurately reflects the actual structure of the NCC. Importantly, this system allows for the much needed consistency across



all volumes while maintaining the ability to easily distinguish NCC numbers from those used in legislation, Australian Standards, etc.

As demonstrated in the example below, the Section, Part and Clause referencing system from Volumes One and Three have been retained. The Type of clause has simply been moved to a more logical position within the clause reference and replaces the decimal point within the current clause referencing system.

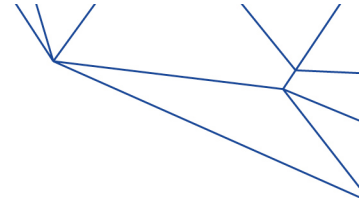
SPTC referencing system in practice

Reference	Example	Description
Section	E	Section lettering will for the most part stay as is, e.g.: Section E
Part	3	Parts will remain numbers, e.g.: Part E3 is the third part of section E
Type	V	Refers to the clause type. O, F, P and V are currently used for Objective, Functional Statement, Performance Requirement and Verification Method (respectively). For consistency, 'D' and 'G' have been added across all the volumes when referring to clauses in the D eemed-to-Satisfy Provisions and G overning Requirements.
Clause	2	The last part of the syntax refers to the clause number, within the Type group.
	E3V2	This clause is the 2nd Verification Method in Part E3: <i>Emergency alerts on the use of lifts</i> . The current reference is: EV3.2

Housing Provisions (Volume Two)

The approach to dealing with Volume Two, which has a very different referencing system to Volumes One and Three, first requires one small adjustment to Volume One. To enable Volume Two to use the designation 'H' for housing, the current *Section H – Special Use Buildings* in Volume One will be redesignated as Section I, which is currently empty having been removed in NCC 2014. The Section H designation will then only be used in Volume Two.

The use of the letter 'H' is a helpful reminder of 'Housing / Houses / Homes', which reflects Volume Two's focus on housing. This also maintains the ability to easily distinguish between



Volumes One and Two, which was a key reason for the original decision to use a different referencing system for Volume Two when it was first developed.

Volume Two will therefore only be made up of Section A (Governing Requirements), Section H, and the Schedules. Section H will contain several Parts, numbered from H1 onwards which contain the Performance Requirements, Verification Methods, Deemed-to-Satisfy Provisions and related explanatory information.

Specifications

Specifications will be numbered sequentially across all volumes starting at 1 for the first Specification called up in the Governing Requirements, then moving to the Specifications called up in each volume, starting at Volume One. The reference for these would be 'S' for specification, then the specification number (1, 2, 3 etc.), a 'C' for Clause, followed by the actual clause number. In more complex Specifications, clauses will be grouped under subject headings in much the same way as occurs in the current NCC.

For example, the 5th clause of Specification 7 would simply be: S7C5. The current edition would have referenced this as: Specification C1.10—5.

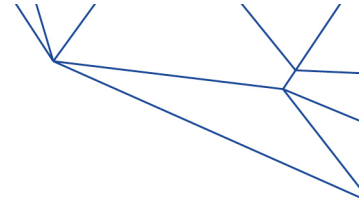
Transitional assistance

To assist NCC users in transitioning to the new referencing system, NCC 2022 will include the current and new systems throughout, as demonstrated in the example below.

F6D3	Pliable building membrane	[2019: F6.2]
(1) Where a <i>pliable building membrane</i> is installed in an <i>external wall</i> , it must—		
(a) comply with AS/NZS 4200.1; and		
(b) be installed in accordance with AS 4200.2; and		
(c) be a vapour permeable membrane for <i>climate zones</i> 6, 7 and 8; and		
(d) be located on the exterior side of the primary insulation layer of wall assemblies that form the external envelope of a building		

Benefits

While your new NCC may look a bit different at first, the features and benefits will go long way in better supporting NCC users in achieving compliance.



Features	Benefits
New SPTC provides predictable and easy-to-digest structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Retains as much of the existing NCC referencing as possible✓ Easy to read, understand and reference✓ A better user experience✓ Means new users only have to learn one structure✓ Consistent across all volumes✓ Flexible for future expansion of the NCC
NCC Online can be digitised	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Allows the NCC to be easily integrated into multiple customisable formats including online, smart phones, tablets etc.✓ Enables future expansion of the NCC✓ Simplified publication process

More resources

The ABCB has developed a [range of resources](#) to support you with the changes to the NCC's structure and format, ahead of Public Comment in May 2021. Public Comment is your opportunity to have input on the content of NCC 2022, but please note you must be an [NCC registered user](#) to provide comment.