



Building Commission

Number: 2009/002

Info@buildingcommission.wa.gov.au

Date: August 2009

Use of Resistant Timber in Areas Where European House Borer (EHB) Has Been Found

The Building Code of Australia (Section 3, Part 3.4.3 Timber Framing) references Australian Standard AS1684.2 "Residential timber-framed construction" Clause 1.8 'Durability' which requires that "structural timber shall have the level of durability appropriate for the relevant climate and expected service life and conditions including exposure to insect attack".

It is now clear that the eradication programme for European House Borer (EHB) will not remove the risk of attack for a significant part of the life of buildings constructed in infested areas.

Susceptible timbers (pine and other softwoods) used in areas infested with EHB must be treated to ensure durability, or non-susceptible materials must be used. An infested area is defined as a Restricted Movement Zone (RMZ).

Where pine is used as a primary building element in an RMZ, it must be suitable for hazard level H2 or higher (refer Appendix C of AS1684.2 for more information).

The State Government of Western Australia introduced the *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection (European House Borer) Regulations 2006* on 7 February 2006 to support the long-term EHB eradication programme. These regulations define Restricted Movement Zones (RMZs) where movement of pinewood is restricted. Maps indicating the location of RMZs can be found at the following website:

www.ehb.wa.gov.au/html/regulations04_RMZmaps

A series of Building Notes on the EHB have been issued from August 2004 to July 2008.

Peter Gow
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
BUILDING COMMISSION