

Fire Hazard Properties for Wall and Ceiling Linings

In order to design wall or ceiling linings with plywood, the Material Group number applicable to the design / construction must be determined, then a plywood product with that material group number is selected.

Group 1 materials are suitable for the most stringent fire hazard requirements whilst Group 4 do not meet the requirements for lining materials for walls and ceilings.

For a technical explanation of the Material Group Number, refer to the [Technical Explanations](#) section.

Table 2 of BCA 2007 Specification 1.10(a) gives Deemed-to-Satisfy Provisions for wall and ceiling lining materials, in terms of Material Group Numbers, for sprinklered and unsprinklered buildings, and is reproduced here for convenience :

Class of building	Fire-isolated exits Wall/ceiling	Public corridors Wall	Ceiling	Specific Wall	areas Ceiling	Other areas Wall/ceiling
Class 2 or 3, Excluding accommodation for the aged, people with disabilities, and children						
Unsprinklered	1	1,2	1,2	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3
Sprinklered	1	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3
Class 3 or 9a, Accommodation for the aged, people with disabilities, children and health-care buildings						
Unsprinklered	1	1	1	1,2	1,2	1,2,3
Sprinklered	1	1,2	1,2	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3
Class 5,6,7,8 or 9b schools						
Unsprinklered	1	1,2	1,2	1,2,3	1,2	1,2,3
Sprinklered	1	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3
Class 9b other than schools						
Unsprinklered	1	1	1	1,2	1,2	1,2,3
Sprinklered	1	1,2	1,2	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3
Class 9c						
Sprinklered	1	1,2	1,2	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3
For the purpose of this Table:						
1. "Sprinklered" means a building fitted with a sprinkler system complying with Specification E1.5.						
2. "Specific areas" means within:						
(a) for Class 2 and 3 buildings, a <i>sole-occupancy unit</i> .						
(b) for Class 5 buildings, open plan offices with a minimum floor dimension/floor to ceiling height ratio >5.						
(c) for Class 6 buildings, shops or other building with a minimum floor dimension/floor to ceiling height ratio >5.						
(d) for Class 9a <i>health-care buildings, patient care areas</i> .						
(e) for Class 9b <i>theatres and halls, etc. an auditorium</i> .						
(f) for Class 9b <i>schools, a classroom</i>						
(g) for Class 9c aged care buildings, resident use areas.						

Wall and Ceiling Lining Materials (Material Groups Permitted)