

Australian/New Zealand Standard™

Temporary edge protection

Part 1: General requirements



AS/NZS 4994.1:2009

This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee BD-092, Housing Construction—Working Practices. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 18 May 2009 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 24 July 2009. This Standard was published on 22 September 2009.

The following are represented on Committee BD-092:

Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Australian Council of Trade Unions
Australian Industry Group
Construction Safety Managers and Officers Association
Department of Consumer and Employment Protection, WorkSafe Division (WA)
Department of Labour, New Zealand
Housing Industry Association
Labor Council of New South Wales
Ladder Manufacturers Association of Australia
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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee BD-092, Housing Construction—Working Practices, to supersede AS/NZS 4994.1 (Int):2004, *Temporary roof edge protection for housing and residential buildings*, Part 1: *General requirements*.

The objective of this Standard is to provide requirements and guidance for designers of equipment for roof edge protection, to prevent workers from falling from roofs or other edges of buildings under construction whilst performing any work or carrying out any inspections on roofs of all types of buildings.

This Standard is an expansion of AS/NZS 4994.1(Int):2004, *Temporary roof edge protection for housing and residential buildings*, Part 1: *General requirements*. Whilst the 2004 edition did not specifically apply to roofs of commercial and industrial buildings the Scope noted that it could be used in the absence of a similar Standard. This edition is intended to apply to temporary protection of the edges of all roofs as well as other exposed edges, prior to the installation of the permanent walling materials. It is important that the structure to which the temporary edge protection is to be attached can support the forces that may be applied when the edge protection restrains a person from falling from the edge being protected.

For the Interim Standard, the Committee considered residential roofs of various slopes and the dangers associated with working on steep slopes. At the time it decided that roofs with slopes greater than 35° represented only a small minority of roofs on housing and residential buildings. Such roofs require special work skills, equipment and techniques that remain outside the scope of this Standard. This edition adheres to the same criterion.

The dynamic testing of infill panels has been clarified compared with AS/NZS 4994.1(Int):2004.

Statements expressed in mandatory terms in notes to figures are deemed to be requirements of this Standard.

The terms ‘normative’ and ‘informative’ have been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which they apply. A ‘normative’ appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an ‘informative’ appendix is only for information and guidance.

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SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

1.1 SCOPE

This Standard specifies requirements for the design, manufacture and testing of equipment that is intended to provide temporary edge protection for persons working on roofs of buildings having slopes not greater than 35° to the horizontal and for other exposed edges, prior to the installation of the permanent walling materials.

NOTES:

- 1 This Standard does not apply to the containment of materials on residential roofs.
- 2 Edge protection is used on buildings that are being constructed, renovated, extended, altered or maintained.
- 3 Where roof slopes exceed 35 degrees, roof edge protection should be specifically designed. In some instances it may be appropriate that some other form of restraint may be required to avoid risk of excessive impact.
- 4 AS/NZS 4494.2 specifies requirements for the installation and dismantling of roof edge protection.
- 5 AS/NZS 4494.3 specifies requirements for the installation and dismantling of edge protection of other edges prior to the installation of the permanent walling materials.

1.2 NEW DESIGNS AND INNOVATIONS

This Standard does not prevent the use of design, materials, methods of assembly, procedures and the like that do not comply with the specific requirements of this Standard, or are not mentioned in it, but which can be shown to give equivalent or superior results. Service durability shall be a consideration in any assessment of new materials.

1.3 APPLICATION

Persons using this Standard are advised to familiarize themselves with the relevant specific statutory requirements regarding occupational health and safety legislation, scaffolding and working at heights.

NOTES:

- 1 In Australia, housing and residential buildings are considered to be of not more than three habitable storeys, based on Classes 1, 2 and 10 of the Building Code of Australia (BCA).
- 2 In New Zealand, such buildings within the definition of a housing unit are as per the New Zealand Building Code (NZBC).



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