

C6 – Structural Stability



The Council is receiving different structural solutions to satisfy clause C6 of the Building Code for residential projects that include inter tenancy or external walls that are located on or close to boundaries.

When a fire rating is required structural stability of the wall system or elements must be maintained during and after the fire. Two way fire rating solutions are required for walls and other elements usually identified within a fire report and shown on architectural drawings.

Fire wall designs can be either an alternative solution or achieved by specifying a tested system. Any solutions proposed should be specified or designed by professionals who have a good understanding of the B1 and C6 Clause requirements.

Where the design includes specific engineering design, this should be based on load combinations given in section 4.2.4 of AS/NZS 1170.0 and as modified by B1/VM1.

Complete and final documentation is to be included in consent documents to support the design and clearly show how compliance has been achieved.

Structural engineers are requested to pay specific attention to fire wall designs to achieve compliance as required by Clause C6 to avoid delays in consent processing.

Please remember that designs using NZS 3604 as the basis of compliance will not automatically comply with the fire rating requirements of the Code and that post fire structural stability calculations will still need to be undertaken.