

## What is the current status of the NCPR?

- The database includes key manufacturer products, as well as 10 industry schemes that are accredited by the Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand (JAZ-ANZ).
- NATSPEC's impartiality and competence has put us at the forefront of a broad range of industry resources.
- The NCPR continuously accepts industry feedback and constantly works with product manufacturers. At present, it is particularly focused on the National Construction Code (NCC) relevant product categories. The NCPR addresses the strategy of the [Australian Building Codes Board \(ABCB\)](#) in relation to raising awareness of product conformity and compliance.

## What's inspired the NCPR?

The tragedy of the Grenfell Towers fire in the UK, resulting in over 70 deaths, has thrust product conformity and compliance into the global spotlight. Locally we have not been immune. Since 2006, there have been increasing reports of non-conforming products entering Australia including structural steel bolts, structural plywood products, copper pipe tubing, fire collars and glass sheets. More recently, there have been significant issues with electrical cables, combustible cladding, products with asbestos, and glass failures.

Many construction products have been used in the local market with inadequate or falsified conformity evidence (meaning they are non-conforming to applicable standards). Equally, a significant portion of products and materials have been used inappropriately (meaning either their application or installation is non-complying with regulation).

Product non-conformity and non-compliance affects the safety and construction quality of Australian buildings.

Amidst the wake of various tragedies, different levels of government have collaborated to improve build quality by reducing product-related risk. The recently released Shergold and Weir report<sup>1</sup>, commissioned by the Building Ministers' Forum, has highlighted compliance enforcement by each jurisdiction and various regulatory bodies.

## Why is the NCPR domiciled with NATSPEC?

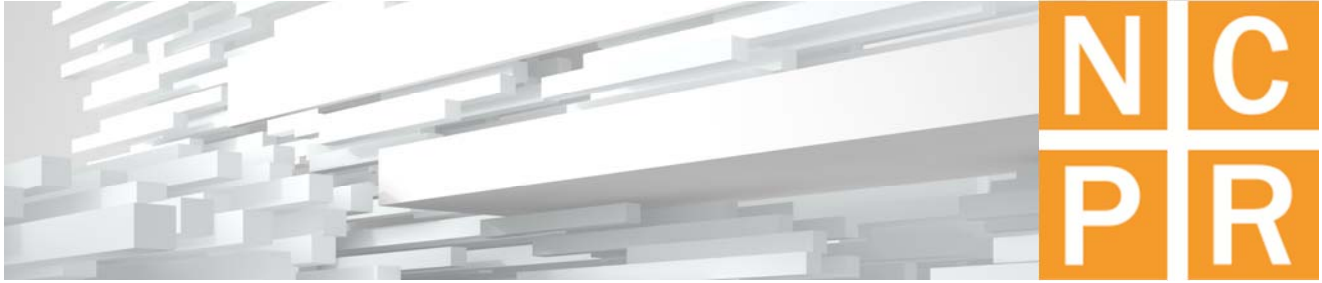
NATSPEC has promoted construction quality since its inception in 1975. It is considered by many in the architectural, engineering and construction industries as the eminent resource for quality construction practices. The National Construction Product Register (NCPR) is supported by various government departments and industry bodies.

Popular reasons why the NCPR is run by NATSPEC:

- NATSPEC is owned by government and industry.
- NATSPEC is a not-for-profit organisation with the objective to improve the quality of construction in Australia.
- NATSPEC has 40 years experience delivering a national comprehensive construction master specification system on behalf of various local, state and federal governments, industry bodies and professionals.
- NATSPEC operates a comprehensive program of tracking relevant Australian and international AEC standards as part of our basic service offerings. We are adequately resourced to operate the NCPR.
- NATSPEC is impartial and not involved with advocacy and policy development.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.industry.gov.au/regulation-and-standards/building-ministers-forum>



### **What is the Objective of the NCPR?**

The principle aim of the NCPR is to raise the awareness of product conformity in the construction industry.

This is intended to mitigate the risk of non-conforming building products and products with fraudulent evidence of conformity.

### **Why does NATSPEC need to authenticate manufacturers' product test reports and certification?**

While most manufacturers do the right thing, some do not. Consistency of performance is a hallmark of quality. As a pioneer in the practical application of specifications in the built environment, NATSPEC is committed to developing innovative products and services to help the industry consistently meet community needs. Offering an independent product evidence of conformity authentication service and register helps with protecting stakeholders with a safety net of assurance.

The National Construction Product Register (NCPR) is an online searchable database of construction products which has evidence of conformity, authenticated by NATSPEC, to relevant Australian and international standards.

Manufacturers' submissions includes all forms of test reports, test certificates, appraisals, product certification or other evidence which designers may deem as critical.

The authentication process was developed to confirm:

- Products listed in the evidence of conformity are the same that a manufacturer intends to list on the NCPR.
- The credentials of the Conformity Assessment Body (CAB).
- The expiry date of product certification.
- The authenticity and completeness of evidence documentary, as issued by the CAB.

### **What will NATSPEC do with a manufacturers' submission?**

Successfully authenticated evidence of conformity will have non-IP sensitive information listed on the website. The original evidence will NOT be disclosed to the public. Designers will be encouraged to contact the manufacturers for more details of the referenced evidence.