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INFORMATION SHEET 13

WEATHERTIGHTNESS RISK MATRIX

ESTABLISHING THE RISK

Part E2 of the New Zealand Building Code requires that a building has each wall, or wall segment if there is a change in the wall, to be evaluated against the risk matrix scoring system to determine suitable cladding types and whether the chosen cladding requires fixing over a drained and ventilated cavity. This allows the risks related to various features to be aggregated, resulting in a risk score for the design. This guide directly references parts of E2.

Paragraph numbers and Table references refer to those in E2. A copy of E2 can be downloaded free from the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment website 🌐 <https://www.building.govt.nz/#building-code>.

An interactive online version of the risk matrix with explanatory diagrams can be found at 🌐 <https://www.designnavigator.solutions/ExtMoistureMatrix.html>

DEFINITION OF RISK

E2 gives a definition of risk 6 major factors that limit weathertightness. Owing to the nature of the terrain and conditions each project needs to be assessed in relation to its location in the Wairoa District using the method outlined.

There is also a comprehensive series of documents about weathertight construction available to download from the MBIE website at 🌐 <https://www.building.govt.nz/>

THE RISK SCORE

Each face of the building must be assessed. One elevation could have more than one assessable face. Common sense will often indicate when one side of the building should have more than one assessment. If it is too difficult to determine which factor applies to a building face because of design changes in that side, then the side should probably be split into separate parts. When submitting your building consent application to the Council you must include the assessments for all building sides. If these are incomplete the application will be deferred for further information.

Once the risk matrix has been completed for all faces of the building E2 can be checked to see which claddings can be used on that face and whether they can be direct fixed or will require fixing over a drained and ventilated cavity.

A comprehensive guidance document in relation the risk matrix can be found on the MBIE website. 🌐 <https://www.building.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/building-code-compliance/e-moisture/e2-external-moisture/e2-riskmatrix.pdf>