



GROUP RATING CALCULATOR

This document will help you identify:

- ✓ Class number & classification types – [click to view](#)
- ✓ Specific Areas definition – [click to view](#)
- ✓ Sprinkler requirements definition – [click to view](#)
- ✓ If a product has undertaken the correct fire testing – [click to view](#)

Group Rating Calculator

Information for Atkar Group's 'Wall & Ceiling Group Rating Calculator' has been sourced using data from Specification c.1.10 (Table 3: Wall & Ceiling Lining Materials) of the National Construction Codes 2016 Volume 1, Amendment 1 Building Code of Australia. The information in this tool is provided on the basis that all persons accessing the information take responsibility for assessing the relevance and accuracy to their particular project circumstances.

Building Classes Numbers & Classifications

This table provides the definitions of Building Classes as set out in the Building Code of Australia.

CLASSES OF BUILDING		
Class 1	Class 1a	A single dwelling being a detached house, or one or more attached dwellings, each being a building, separated by a fire-resisting wall, including a row house, terrace house, town house or villa unit.
	Class 1b	A boarding house, guest house, hostel or the like with a total area of all floors not exceeding 300m ² , and where not more than 12 reside, and is not located above or below another dwelling or another Class of building other than a private garage.
Class 2	A building containing 2 or more sole-occupancy units each being a separate dwelling.	
Class 3	A residential building, other than a Class 1 or 2 building, which is a common place of long term or transient living for a number of unrelated persons. Example: boarding-house, hostel, backpackers accommodation or residential part of a hotel, motel, school or detention centre.	
Class 4	A dwelling in a building that is Class 5, 6, 7, 8 or 9 if it is the only dwelling in the building.	
Class 5	An office building used for professional or commercial purposes, excluding buildings of Class 6, 7, 8 or 9.	
Class 6	A shop or other building for the sale of goods by retail or the supply of services direct to the public. Example: café, restaurant, kiosk, hairdressers, showroom or service station.	
Class 7	Class 7a	A building which is a car park.
	Class 7b	A building which is for storage or display of goods or produce for sale by wholesale.
Class 8	A laboratory, or a building in which a handicraft or process for the production, assembling, altering, repairing, packing, finishing or cleaning of goods or produce is carried on for trade, sale or gain.	
Class 9	A building of a public nature.	
	Class 9a	A health care building, including those parts of the building set aside as a laboratory.
	Class 9b	An assembly building, including a trade workshop, laboratory or the like, in a primary or secondary school, but excluding any other parts of the building that are of another class.
	Class 9c	An aged care building.
Class 10	A non-habitable building or structure.	
	Class 10a	A private garage, carport, shed or the like.
	Class 10b	A structure being a fence, mast, antenna, retaining or free standing wall, swimming pool or the like.
	Class 10c	A private bushfire shelter.

Specific Areas Definition: Sprinkler Requirements

The NCC 2016 BCA states in Table 3 that "Specific areas" means:

- (a) for Class 2 and 3 buildings, a sole-occupancy unit; and
- (b) for Class 5 buildings, open plan offices with a minimum floor dimension/floor to ceiling height ratio > 5; and
- (c) for Class 6 buildings, shops or other building with a minimum floor dimension/floor to ceiling height ratio > 5; and
- (d) for Class 9a health-care buildings, patient care areas; and
- (e) for Class 9b theatres and halls, etc, an auditorium; and
- (f) for Class 9b schools, a classroom; and
- (g) for Class 9c buildings, resident use areas.

Sprinkler Requirements

The NCC 2016 BCA states in Specification c1.10 part 4 the following requirements around sprinkler requirements:

4. Wall and ceiling linings

- (a) A wall or ceiling lining system must comply with the *group number* specified in **Table 3** and for buildings not fitted with a sprinkler system complying with **Specification E1.5** have—
 - (i) a *smoke growth rate index* not more than 100; or
 - (ii) an *average specific extinction area* less than 250 m²/kg.
- (b) A *group number* of a wall or ceiling lining and the *smoke growth rate index* or *average specific extinction area* must be determined in accordance with AS 5637.1.

Please refer to page 235 of NCC 2016 BCA for full details of Specification E1.5.

How to know if a product has undertaken the correct fire testing

The BCA has identified the deemed-to-satisfy provision requirements in Specification C.1.10 part 4 that outlines that "a wall or ceiling lining system must comply with the group number specified in Table 3: Wall & Ceilings Lining Materials".

In order to comply with the requirements of Specification C1.10, any wall and ceiling lining must meet the requirements of a group number, which is determined by fire tests as per Australian Standards AS 5637.1 : 2015 - Determination of fire hazard properties. Click here to read our article on 'Understanding the Facts on Group Ratings'.

[Click here](#) to view article on Group Rating requirements.

**Please contact us if you have any other questions on
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