

# Glossary of Key Terms

## Fire Safety Basics: Understanding Passive & Active Systems

### Glossary of Key Terms

- **Active Fire Protection (AFP):** Systems designed to detect and actively suppress fire, requiring activation (manual or automatic).
- **AS 1530:** Australian Standard outlining test methods used to assess the ability of building elements to resist the passage of fire.
- **Certifiers:** Professionals who verify and approve fire safety measures in buildings to ensure compliance with regulations before occupancy.
- **CodeMark Certification:** A voluntary third-party scheme certifying building products for compliance with the NCC.
- **Compartmentation:** A building design strategy dividing a structure into smaller, fire-resistant sections to slow the spread of fire and smoke.
- **Deemed-to-Satisfy (DTS) Provisions:** Pre-approved, standardized solutions within the NCC that automatically meet compliance requirements.
- **Egress:** The safe and efficient movement of occupants out of a building during an emergency.
- **Evidence of Suitability (NCC A5G3):** Requirement under the NCC proving that fire safety materials meet required standards through testing or certification.
- **Fire Compartmentation:** See Compartmentation.
- **Fire Door:** A door designed to resist fire and smoke spread for a specified period, typically self-closing and rated for fire resistance.
- **Fire Protection:** The combination of systems, materials, and design features aimed at reducing the impact of fire in buildings.

- **Fire Resistance Level (FRL):** A rating system measuring the fire performance of building elements based on Structural Adequacy, Integrity, and Insulation.
- **Fire Suppression:** The act of controlling or extinguishing a fire using systems like sprinklers or extinguishers.
- **Intumescent Coatings:** Fire-retardant coatings that expand when exposed to heat, forming a protective insulating barrier.
- **Integrity (FRL Component):** Measures how well a building element prevents the passage of flames and hot gases during a fire.
- **Insulation (FRL Component):** Measures how effectively a building element prevents heat transfer to the unexposed side during a fire.
- **National Construction Code (NCC):** The primary regulatory framework for building and plumbing requirements in Australia, including fire safety.
- **Passive Fire Protection (PFP):** Built-in structural elements designed to contain fire and smoke and protect structural integrity, requiring no activation.
- **Performance Solutions:** Alternative approaches to NCC compliance that require evidence of meeting performance requirements through testing, assessment, or modeling.
- **Penetration Seals:** Materials used to seal gaps and openings in fire-rated walls and floors where services (like pipes or cables) pass through, preventing fire and smoke spread.
- **Smoke Barrier:** A barrier designed to control the movement of smoke within a building.
- **Smoke Door:** A door designed primarily to prevent smoke movement.
- **Structural Adequacy (FRL Component):** Measures how long a load-bearing building element can maintain its structural stability under fire conditions.
- **WaterMark Certification:** Certification scheme applicable to plumbing and fire safety products related to water systems, ensuring compliance with Australian standards.