Building surveyor fined for fire safety reports

A building surveyor has been fined after an investigation by the Victorian Building Authority (VBA) found reports he provided into fire safety matters were inadequate.

The Building Practitioners Board heard the matter and found Robert Marsicovetere of East Brunswick guilty of 12 allegations relating to reports he prepared for alternative solutions for fire safety measures. He was reprimanded, fined $3000 and ordered to pay partial inquiry costs.

The VBA’s Compliance and Performance Director, Murray Smith, said Mr Marsicovetere was hired to prepare alternative solution reports for properties in Doncaster, Toorak and Windsor. These reports proposed fire safety systems and measures that he concluded would meet the relevant performance requirements of the Building Code of Australia.

“All alternative solution reports must include details and information to show how the solution complies with the regulations,” Mr Smith said.

“Mr Marsicovetere’s reports failed to include the necessary information, including the details of the assessments and calculations carried out, along with supporting evidence. Without this information, there is no way to determine if the solution put forward achieves a satisfactory level of fire safety.”

An inquiry was also carried out into the conduct of building surveyor Theo Theodorou, who issued Certificates of Compliance Design for the properties in Toorak and Windsor based on reports provided by Mr Marsicovetere. Mr Theodorou was reprimanded and fined $2000 for issuing the certificate based on an alternative solution report that included insufficient information.

“Buildings in Victoria must meet certain fire safety requirements under the Building Regulations 2006 and the Building Code of Australia.” Mr Smith said.

The VBA’s Chief Executive Officer, Prue Digby, said the VBA will take action and investigate these types of offences to ensure the safety of the community.

“As the industry regulator, it is the VBA’s role to help ensure everyone involved in building work in Victoria complies with the relevant laws and regulations,” Ms Digby said.

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