



Product Identification

The Minister for Planning announced a [prohibition](#) on the use of the external wall cladding products ACP and EPS for any building work in connection with buildings of Type A and Type B construction, effective 1 February 2021.

How is combustible external wall cladding identified?

The VBA engages experienced registered building practitioners to conduct inspections. There are several strategies for product identification:

- In most cases product identification can be made by sight or by exposing or cutting into a building product or material to assist with visual identification; or
- In exceptional cases, where visual identification is not possible, the VBA make take a sample of the product and send it to a laboratory for testing. This type of testing does not allow for the sample to be returned to owners.

When is product identification required?

Product identification is often required to confirm if combustible external wall cladding, such as expanded polystyrene (EPS) or aluminium composite panels (ACP) with a polymer core has been used on a building.

Materials with a rendered finish, such as expanded polystyrene, can often be visually confirmed by drilling to form a small hole.

A high risk amount of combustible polymer content in an aluminium composite panel is often indicated by a black or dark coloured core.



How does it work?

By drilling into the external wall cladding to expose the core and identify the material. After the inspector has assessed the exposed material, it is filled in, sealed and covered.

Who can undertake a product identification test?

A VBA inspector.

What happens when the VBA completes this test?

The VBA will contact the building owners or owners corporation in advance and arrange a time for the test to be carried out.

After a product identification test is complete, the results will be recorded as part of the assessment.

Building owners and owners corporation managers will be notified of the results once a full assessment of the building's external wall cladding and fire safety measures has been completed.

Want to know more?

If you have any questions about this information, please contact the VBA.

Telephone: 1300 815 127

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