



Bushfire testing of Paarhammer timber window

Paarhammer windows and doors in Red Ironbark timber were used for years in bushfire prone areas and satisfied the highest level of the previous AS (Level 3). Building materials now need to be tested by independent Fire Test Laboratories to comply with the different levels of the new AS 3959-2009.

Red Ironbark is one of the 7 timbers that have been tested in accordance with AS/NZS 3837 and have met the requirements of the new AS as bushfire resisting timbers. Other approved timbers are Silvertop Ash, Blackbutt, River Red Gum, Spotted Gum, Kwila (Merbau) and Turpentine.

Some of these timbers are more or less suitable for windows and doors e.g. availability, ease of machining, bleeding etc. Products made in any of the above timbers can be used up to BAL29 according to the new AS. For any higher BAL ratings they have to be independently fire tested.

Paarhammer had their double glazed tilt & turn window in Red Ironbark just recently undergo a preliminary fire test to AS 1530.8.1-2007 with excellent results, thus proving that using the right timber -in combination with appropriate construction- performs as good as aluminium products.



BAL40 preliminary testing

The AS 1530.8.1-2007 covers methods for fire tests on building materials, components and structures, tests on elements of construction for buildings exposed to simulated bushfire attack – radiant heat and small flaming sources. Clause 16 Glazed Vertical elements applies to fixed and openable windows and glazed doorsets, and glazing protected by mesh and shutters.

Exposure to burning embers is simulated as well as exposure to burning debris and collection of burning embers. While radiant heat exposure may vary in different bushfires, the test is simulating the passing of the fire front adjacent to the structure.

With the preliminary test successfully completed, Paarhammer is looking forward to their full window and door systems test to be done in a few weeks by NATA accredited Exova Warringtonfire in Dandenong, Victoria.



Independent comprehensive tests like these allow building professionals and homeowners to choose appropriate products for buildings in bushfire prone areas.

For more information please contact Paarhammer on 03 5368 1999.

Window after BAL40 preliminary testing, outside, inside