

NCC 2022's new clause structure

The 2022 edition of the National Construction Code (NCC) comes with some important changes to its structure and format, as part of the Australian Building Codes Board's (ABCBC) commitment to delivering a code that is user-friendly and modern. This supporting document provides a snapshot summary of what to expect with the code's new clause structure.

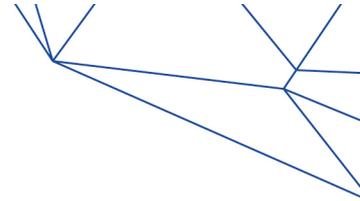
Background

With the introduction of a free online NCC in 2015 came a commitment to improve its useability, so that new subscribers could more easily learn and understand its content. To do this, the ABCBC commissioned a report which recommended simplification of NCC clause structures, as one of the ways to improve useability.

Following that recommendation, the ABCBC has developed a simpler, more consistent clause structure. This will not only improve readability, which enhances understanding and comprehension of the code, but will also make the code more functional and accessible as an online publication. It also enables machine-readability which allows for highly-beneficial digital enhancements.

What's changing?

Simple changes have been made to ensure a consistent clause structure:



- Subclauses will be numbered in a different way to list items, so that it is easier to tell them apart from each other. Where a clause is divided into subclauses, the numbering of subclauses will start at (1), while list item numbers within a clause or subclause will start at (a).
- The number of list levels in a clause will be capped to avoid overly complex lists. This means the lowest level will be:

(1) Subclauses

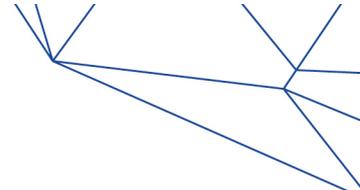
(a) List level 1

(i) List level 2

(A) List level 3

- Lower levels such (AA), (aa) and beyond will no longer be used.
- Floating paragraphs (fragments of text that appear to ‘float’ between list items) will be removed, which also helps simply reading flow.
- Application, Limitation, Exemption, Note and Explanatory Information boxes are located directly after the clause, instead of within a clause when they are first referred to.
- Table and diagrams will always be located at the end of the clause that calls them up, rather than within a clause or subclause which can disrupt reading flow.
- Clauses that are left blank (indicated by * * * * *, where content has been deleted) will be removed. These were only necessary in loose-leaf publications as a way to minimise renumbering of existing clauses and, therefore, the number of replacement pages in an amendment. They are not necessary in an online code.

The diagram below demonstrates the changes to clause structure between NCC editions 2019 and 2022, which simply reorganises the content in a more logical way.



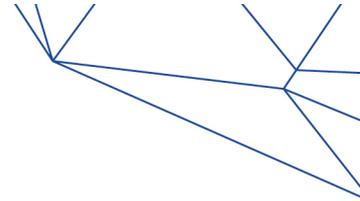
Clause structure comparison between NCC 2019 and 2022



Benefits

While your new NCC may look a bit different at first, the features and benefits will go long way in better supporting NCC users in achieving compliance.

Features	Benefits
Consistent clause structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Retains as much of the existing NCC clause structure as possible with a few areas rearranged ✓ Improved readability ✓ Simplified layout and structure ✓ Means new users only have to learn one structure ✓ Consistent across all volumes and within volumes ✓ Meets the ABCB's accessibility requirements
Machine-readable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Allows the NCC to be easily integrated into multiple customisable formats including online, smart phones, tablets etc. ✓ Enables future expansion of the NCC



More resources

The ABCB has developed [a range of resources](#) to support you with the changes to the NCC's structure and format, ahead of Public Comment in May 2021. Public Comment is your opportunity to have input on the content of NCC 2022, but please note you must be an [NCC registered user](#) to provide comment.