

ALUMINIUM COMPOSITE PANELS

IS MY CHILD'S SCHOOL SAFE?

Experts have assessed that all ACT Public School buildings with potentially combustible cladding are safe to occupy.

It is important to note that the presence of potentially combustible cladding does not necessarily mean that there is an increased fire risk to your school community.

All schools have an Emergency Management Plan in place which is practiced regularly.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF MY SCHOOL IS CONFIRMED TO HAVE POTENTIALLY COMBUSTIBLE CLADDING?

Each building needs a tailored approach depending on the type of cladding used and where it is on the building.

It is not always necessary to remove all cladding as in some instances the location of the material does not increase the risks to occupants of the building.

The next stage of assessments conducted by qualified Fire Engineers will determine the risk materials may pose and what mitigation or removal option/s are most appropriate.

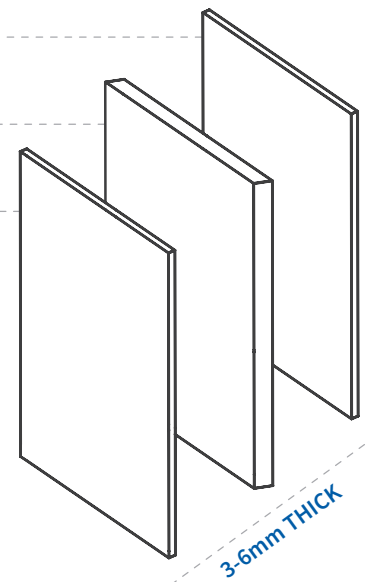
WHAT ARE ALUMINIUM COMPOSITE PANELS?

An aluminium composite panel (ACP) consists of two foil-coated aluminium sheets (typically around 0.5mm in thickness) bonded to a core (around 2 to 5mm thick). Depending on the panel, this core may be aluminium, mineral, or a thermoplastic polymer (usually polyethylene).

ALUMINIUM SHEET

CORE

ALUMINIUM SHEET



Due to their strength and light weight, ACPs are used frequently in construction for insulation, partitions, false ceilings and external cladding. When used externally, cladding may be found on walls, balconies, palings, decorative features and around walls. It may be matte or colourless.

When installed in compliance with the National Construction Code, ACPs are not unsafe as building materials.

It is important to note that the presence of external combustible cladding on a building does not necessarily mean it is a fire hazard. It depends on where the cladding has been applied and the building's overall fire safety measures.

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WHAT MAKES ACPS COMBUSTIBLE?

The combustibility of ACPs depends on the amount of polymer used in the core. Cores containing over 10% polymer have a high potential to spread fire, with the most dangerous cores being 100% polymer. Polymer is combustible, while the thin aluminium sheets conduct heat easily and melt under high temperatures.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION ON THE NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION CODE?

The [National Construction Code](#) was updated in 2019. You can read the current code as well as the 2016 code at ncc.abcb.gov.au.

MELTING AND IGNITION POINTS

