

BNL01 Skylight Back Kerb Design for Compliance

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Version 1

The design of a penetration back kerb does not affect compliance with NZBC E2 – External Moisture, however for flat pitches and wide penetrations it is prudent, for any design of back kerb, to check the catchment capacity of the roofing profile using the COP calculator. ([9.4.4 Maximum Area Above Penetration Calculator](#)).

The metal Roofing and Wall Cladding Code of Practice (COP) recommends alternatives to a flat back kerb be used for penetrations wider than 600mm, penetrations in an aggressive environment, or in situations where access for maintenance is difficult. ([See 9.4.2.4 Penetration Flashings Reference](#))

The intention of the COP is to encourage designers to specify penetration designs appropriate to the design, building use, value, aesthetics, environment, and accessibility of the building, rather than leave it to the roofer to decide, or have a one size fits all approach. The purpose of those recommendations is to optimise both the cost and the durability of the flashing, it is not intended as a mandatory requirement, nor is it phrased as such.

Flat back kerbs have been the norm for decades, and have proven to meet durability requirements when subjected to Normal Maintenance in accordance with B2.1.3. Modern metallic protection systems now applied to roofing and flashings will additionally enhance durability.

Flat back kerbs of 600mm to 1200mm in width manufactured from pre-painted steel can be expected to meet the durability requirements of NZBC B2 in environments where they are acceptable in a Sheltered application in accordance with E2/AS1 Appendix C, or in environments where the manufacturer warrants the material for use as a wall cladding.

Updates, Disclaimer, Copyright and Scope

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**Acceptable Environments for Flat Back Kerb Flashings for Penetrations
 600-1200mm Wide**

Material	Coating Class To AS/NZS2728	Environment to NZS 3604	Environment to COP section 4.6.2
Pre-Painted Steel	Type 4	Mild Medium	Up to and including: Moderate Marine
	Type 6	Mild, Medium, High	Up to and including: Severe Marine
Aluminium	Plain or Pre-Painted	Mild, Medium, High	Up to and including: Very Severe Marine

The durability of skylights wider than 1200mm and fitted with a flat back kerb should be assessed on a case by case basis.

In accordance with the above recommendations, a skylight with a flat back kerb between 600mm and 1200mm in width, designed in accordance with good trade practice and competently installed, can be expected to meet the performance requirements of NZBC B2 Durability and E2 External Moisture.

Yours Sincerely,

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 Editor Metal Roofing and Wall Cladding Code of Practice