



workshop

Symmetry Australian Building Codes and Standards

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Workshop

Symmetry

Neil Savery

Session 1 – Regulation in the 21st century and the role of standards

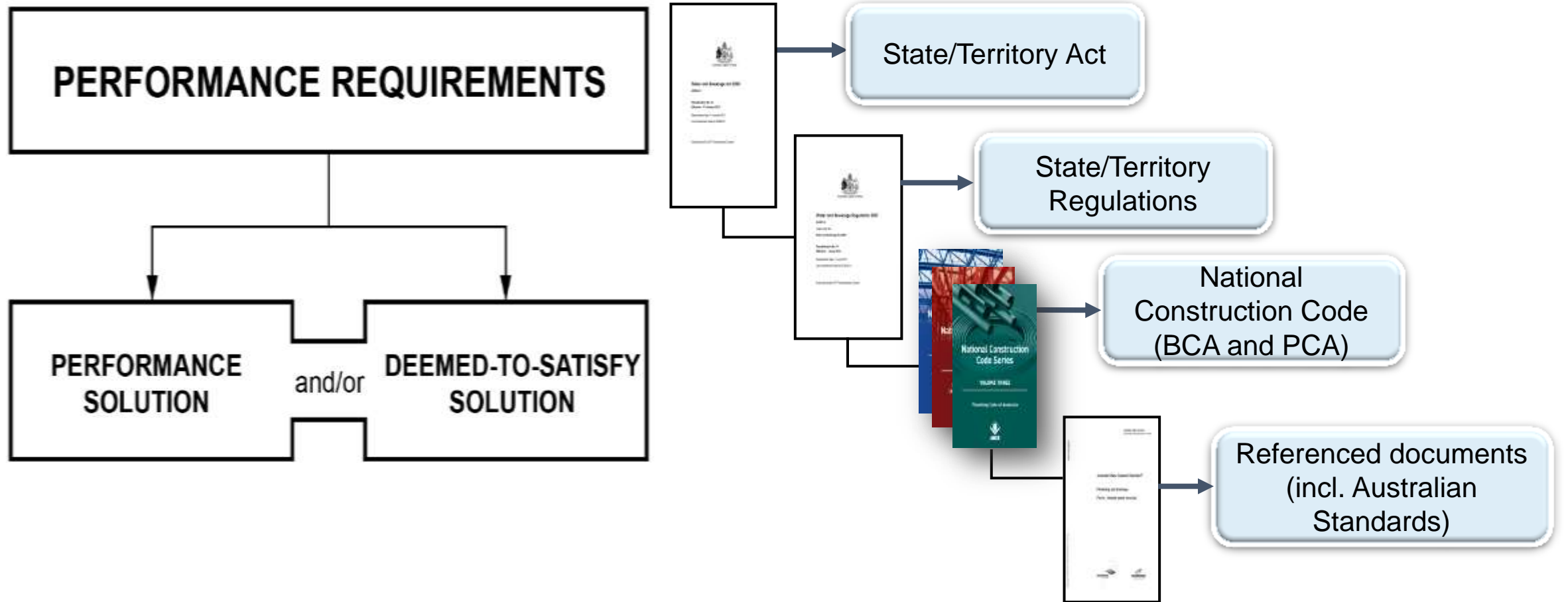
Australian Building Codes Board

- The ABCB is a joint initiative of all governments and exists by way of an Inter-governmental Agreement.
- IGA objective is to facilitate a more efficient and internationally competitive building and construction industry.
- The Board's *key objective* under the IGA is to address issues of safety and health, amenity and accessibility; and sustainability in the design, construction, performance and liveability of buildings.
- Develop Codes and standards that accord with strategic priorities and have regard to societal needs.

National Construction Code

- Is performance-based regulation. Identifies what needs to be achieved without prescribing the solution.
- Comprised of Performance Requirements, Governing Requirements and Deemed to Satisfy Provisions.
- The Deemed to Satisfy Provisions are a recipe book of prescriptive solutions that are not mandatory and will typically reference a technical standard.

Regulatory Framework



National Construction Code

- The NCC is a living document, the content of which, including referenced documents, is reviewed every three years.
- A strategic plan is developed every five years to anticipate significant change in the industry.
- Constant engagement with industry and regulators to consider emerging issues and suitability of the Code provisions.
- Breadth of subject matter and the scale and pace of change necessitates flexible and proactive approaches

Examples of Change



How Standards Are Used

- Not exclusively Australian Standards. Use a number of international, industry and in-house standards.
- These standards will typically provide the technical detail for Deemed to Satisfy Solution across a range of subjects.
- This helps the ABCB ensure regulation is cost effective, proportional, practical and verifiable.
- The ABCB, as a standards writing body in its own right, places significant weight on its engagement with key stakeholders, whilst ensuring that the public interest and competitive practices are maintained.

How Standards Are Used (cont'd)

- Standards also used in product certification
- Technical standards for plumbing products
- Provide a quantifiable measure
- Enable audit and compliance
- Standards are also a means by which building products can establish 'evidence of suitability' (fitness for purpose)



Benefits and outcomes of using standards

- Standards used throughout the National Construction Code, both building and plumbing
- This supports a performance-based system as a benchmark and a readily accessible mainstream solution for repetitive and common construction methods
- This helps deliver on the ABCB's key Objective, as well as its vision of increased productivity and improved building outcomes
- The NCC is not directly focused at the [UN Sustainable Developments Goals](#), but sustainability, accessibility, resilience and liveability are all deliverables

Challenges in working with standards bodies

- Timing and capacity
- Coordination
- Technical expertise
- Vested interests
- Globalisation
- Speed of change
- Access
- Cost

Opportunities in working with Standards Australia

- A long-term respectful and professional relationship with Standards Australia, including access to ISO
- Collaborative partnership involving innovation and problem solving (eg digital platform, common nomenclature, product labelling)
- Sharing of information and ideas (eg improved governance)
- Formal processes established through MoU and Protocol
- Joint forums and participation on respective technical committees (eg national Seminars, BCC/PCC, Standards committees)