REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

BUILDING CODE ACT NO. 36 OF 2013

Building Code Standards for Construction Work (Amendment) Order No. 81 of 2025

In exercise of the powers conferred on me by subsection 4(1) of the Building Act No. 36 of 2013, I, the Honourable XAVIER EMMANUEL HARRY, Minister of Infrastructure and Public Utilities, make the following Order.

1 Amendments

The Building Code Standards for Construction work Order No. 110 of 2017 is amended as set out in the Schedule.

2 Commencement

This Order commences on the day on which it is made.

Made at Port Vila this 29 **day of** APRIL **, 2025.**

MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE & PUBLIC UTILITIES
PMB 9057
PORT VILA
VANUATU
TEL. 22790 / 33470
MINISTER

Honourable XAVIER EMMANUEL HARRY
Minister of Infrastructure and Public Utilities

SCHEDULE

AMENDMENTS OF THE BUILDING CODE STANDARDS FOR CONSTRUCTION WORK ORDER NO. 110 OF 2017

1 Before the heading "PREFACE 2000 EDITION"

Add

"PREFACE 2025 AMENDMENT

The National Building Code of Vanuatu of 2000 is amended, in particular, sections A and B to ensure its currency and relevance following the earthquake, subsequent aftershocks and land movement on 17 December 2024. The Vanuatu National Building Code has not been updated in over 20 years. Due to current events, recovery efforts and activities require clear requirements in two priority areas to ensure resilience and environmental safeguards are integrated early in the recovery phase:

1) The prevention, control, and management of asbestos in construction, and

2) Updated wind and earthquake hazard parameters for use in building design that align with regional best practice and standards.

With this amendment the Home Building Manual, a deemed-to-satisfy solution, is considered outdated and must not be used until the Home Building Manual has been updated to align with this amendment or The National Building Code of Vanuatu of 2025."

2 Section B- Deemed- To Satisfy Provisions Structural Provisions

(i) Paragraph B1.2(a)

Delete the paragraph, substitute

"(a) Wind loads:

AS/NZS 1170.2:2021 Structural design actions, Part 2: Wind actions.

The maps of New Zealand and Australia are to be disregarded. Use Regional Wind Speeds, with Cyclonic Region D (maximum) for all

locations in Vanuatu. Use a Climate Change Multiplier for Cyclonic Region D of $M_c = 1.08$"

(ii) Paragraph B1.2(a)

Delete the paragraph, substitute

"(b) Dead, Live and earthquake loads:

(i) AS/NZS 1170.0:2002 Structural design actions - Part 0: General principles

(ii) AS/NZS 1170.1:2002 Structural design actions - Part 1: Permanent, imposed and other actions

(iii) NZS 1170.5:2004 Structural design actions - Part 5: Earthquake actions - New Zealand. The maps and tables for New Zealand shown in the Standard are to be disregarded. Use Hazard factor, Z for Vanuatu as follows:

Province	Hazard factor, Z
Malampa Province	1.4
Penama Province	1.0
Sanma Province (including Luganville City)	1.4
Shefa Province (including Port Vila City)	1.3
Tafea Province (including Lenakel Town)	1.1
Torba Province	1.0

"

(iii) Paragraph B1.3(e)

Repeal the paragraph, substitute

"(e) Timber Construction – Design of timber structures:

(i) Timber Structures Standard: NZS 3603

(ii) Design of timber structures: AS 1720.1 or NZ 3604

(iii) Timber structures: AS 1684.2 or AS 1684.4

(iv) Nail planted timber roof trusses: AS 1720.5

(v) Particle board flooring: AS 1860

(vi) Plywood: AS/NZS 2904, AS/NZS 2269."

(iv) Figure B1.2- EARTHQUAKE ZONING MAP OF VANUATU

Delete Figure B1.2

(v) At the end of clause B2.3

Add

"B2.4 Buildings containing asbestos

(1) If a building is to be demolished or partially demolished, asbestos must be removed and disposed of according to the requirements of subclause A5.3(1), prior to demolition works.

(2) If a building is considered dangerous and asbestos cannot be removed safely prior to demolition or partial demolition, the demolition or partial demolition waste must be considered asbestos waste and must be removed and disposed of according to the requirements under subclause A5.3(1).

(3) When asbestos containing materials are removed or disturbed during refurbishment or maintenance of building components, parts, or equipment, the work must be performed according to the requirements under subclause A5.3(1)."

3 At the end of clause A4.2

Add

"A5 Prevention and Control of Asbestos in Construction

A5.1 Interpretations

For the purposes of this clause:

Asbestos means any of the following asbestiform varieties:

(a) asbestos actinolite; or

(b) asbestos grunerite (amosite) (brown asbestos) (cummingtonite-grunerite); or

(c) asbestos anthophyllite; or

(d) asbestos chrysotile (white asbestos) (serpentine); or

(e) asbestos crocidolite (blue asbestos) (riebeckite); or

(f) asbestos tremolite; or

(g) a mixture that contains one or more of the above.

Asbestos Management Code of Practice means the Vanuatu Asbestos Management Code of Practice including amendments or supplementary guidance documents.

asbestos containing material means any goods, material or thing, including waste material and soil, that contains asbestos.

asbestos waste means any waste that contains asbestos or asbestos containing material.

recycling means any operation by which asbestos waste is reprocessed into products, materials or substances whether for the original or other purposes.

re-use means any operation by which asbestos waste is used again for the same purpose for which that asbestos or asbestos containing material was originally intended.

A5.2 Prohibition on the Importation, Use, Re-use, Fabrication and Recycling of Asbestos and Asbestos Containing Materials in Buildings

Any building in Vanuatu is prohibited to use asbestos or asbestos containing materials that is imported, used, re-used, fabricated or recycled for use.

A5.3 Removal and Disposal of Asbestos or Asbestos Containing Materials

(1) The removal of asbestos or asbestos containing material is to be considered asbestos waste and must be removed and disposed following these requirements:

(a) the specified Acts; and

(b) the specified Regulations; and

(c) the Vanuatu Asbestos Management Code of Practice; and

(d) other approved code of practice or standard; and

(e) the Asbestos Removal Control Plan; and

(f) other requirements of the Approval Authority and other Authorities.

(2) The disturbance of asbestos or asbestos containing materials must be managed and comply with the requirements in subclause (1).

(3) An asbestos removal contractor, that has been approved by the Approval Authority to remove and dispose of asbestos or asbestos containing materials, must remove it in accordance with the requirements in subclause (1).

A6 Health and Safety at Work

The Health and Safety at Work Act [CAP 195] and any approved Code of Practices must be complied with during the construction of a building, structure, or part; including any associated activities; and after the building has been built."