

# Certification Assessor Bulletin



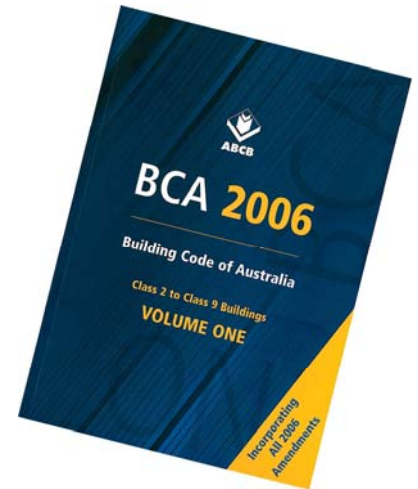
C.H. Group Pty Ltd

## BCA 2006 Bulletin Edition

BCA 2006 came into effect nationally on 1 May 2006.

Among several changes, BCA 2006 calls up the new Australian Standard AS 2293.1-2005 for Emergency Escape Lighting and Exit Signs for Buildings. This Standard has incorporated the international pictogram symbol for exit signage.

The Department of Health & Ageing has confirmed that assessment of question 1 c) ii) of the Certification Instrument will be assessed against this Standard.



### Special points of interest:

- Introduction of BCA 2006
- Pictogram EXIT signage
- ACCAID Improvements
- 9c Seminar Series

## Pictogram Signage



AS 2293.1-2005 sets out the specific requirements for the new pictogram exit signs. Put simply, it replaces the previous worded 'EXIT' sign with the international symbol as shown here.

The 'Running Person' symbol is easily understood by any sighted person, regardless of language. Its adoption will enhance the safety of building occupants in an emergency.

Most new facilities being assessed for certification will have been approved under BCA 2005 or earlier and are likely to have worded 'EXIT' signs.

There will be a cost to existing aged care facilities which are seeking a full score for section 1 c) ii) and have not confirmed compliance with the 1999 certification instrument.

Dependant on whether signage can be modified (new diffuser or diffuser sheet) or new exit signs are required, it has been estimated a changeover cost for installation of pictogram exit signs of between \$400 and \$7,000 for facilities up to 100 beds.

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## Certification Scoring : Q 1 c) ii)

The certification guidelines for question 1 c) ii) provides the following scoring criteria:

0—no emergency lighting or illuminated signage exists.

1- **token effort** at lighting and signage i.e. non illuminated exit signs, inadequate emergency lighting to exits, **no directional signs**.

2- **deficiencies** in regard to **multiple criteria**, including location of exit signs, spacing, location and type of directional signs, spacing of emergency lights.

3- **adequate** coverage from **illuminated signage and emergency lighting**, but **inadequate directional** content..

4- illuminated signage and emergency lighting providing **adequate coverage**, with minor deficiencies in directional content.

5- emergency lighting and exit signage generally complies with BCA96.

The Department of Health & Ageing has confirmed that any reference in the guidelines to BCA96 is to be read as a reference to the current edition of the BCA (i.e. BCA 2006, currently).

Under this interpretation, pictogram signage is required for a raw score of 5. Previously complying exit signage would achieve a raw score of 2.

This represents a difference of 1 in weighted score.

**Certification Assessors are to adopt this approach from now.**



## Staff Profile : Gayle Yun B.Sc.

(No picture was allowed to be included)

Gayle joined C.H. Group 3 years ago and has made significant contributions to the business. Most assessors will know of her development and ongoing improvement of the ACCAID data collection tool, which was a key element of the success of implementing the certification contract in 2005.

Gayle has also developed C.H. Group's website and several databases which support our business. Gayle keeps a close eye on the office network and regularly trouble shoots. Her private interests include books, dabbling in the bottomless pit of useful/useless information known as the Internet, recently discovered blogging (online "journal") and fishing.

If you are in Melbourne, please feel free to visit the office and catch up with Gayle and the rest of the team.



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## Breaking News

### National Class 9C Workshops

- The Department of Health & Ageing, in conjunction with Industry organisations, is planning a series of National workshops in September and October.
- The seminars are targeted at building professionals and aged care providers, and will focus on the requirements of Class 9C as it relates to the Certification Instrument.
- C.H Group will assist the Department in arranging the seminars and will present the technical content and a workshop session.
- Assessors are strongly urged to attend and to advise their colleagues of the seminar series.
- More details will be provided mid year, through industry organisations and professional associations.
- This is an important opportunity to improve knowledge of building professionals of the relatively new Class 9C, and to share experiences in the assessment of new Class 9C Aged Care Facilities.
- It is expected that the seminars will be recognised for professional development purposes.