

Taxonomy

The NRF, summarised in Table 1, uses a categorisation scheme that aligns each discipline with a field and category that reflects the core work of each discipline. Individuals registered in a discipline shown in one category may have roles in other categories of work. These roles are not separately listed unless they require separate registration. **The NRF Taxonomy summarises the contents of this paper in Tables 3 to 7.**

The **Design** category consists of general design, engineering design, specialist design and specialist consulting. The core work in each category is defined as:

- design work ([BCR recommendation 13](#) documentation to be prepared by appropriate categories of registered practitioners)
- *declaration of design compliance* ([BCR recommendation 13](#) demonstrating that the proposed building complies with the NCC)
- design review ([BCR recommendation 17](#) genuine independent third party review), or
- construction inspection ([BCR recommendation 18](#) on-site inspections of *building work* at identified notification stages).

General design includes everything that is not specifically excluded as engineering design or specialist design. To be permitted to do *general design work*, general design certification or general design checking without supervision, an individual must be an *architect* or a registered *building designer*.

Engineering design is defined in terms taken from professional engineers acts. Professional engineering design can only be done by a registered professional engineer (Queensland, Victoria, NSW) or an engineering designer level 1 (NRF for other jurisdictions). Technical engineering work (done only in accordance with a prescriptive standard) can be done without supervision by registered professional engineers or an engineering designer level 1, level 2 or level 3.

Specialist design includes fire systems design, plumbing design, gas services design and electrical services design. The NCC does not include gas or electrical standards and so the NRF does not give registration requirements for this work. Specialist design does not include professional engineering design, which must be done by a registered professional engineer or engineering designer level 1 in a relevant area of practice.

Table 6 -Taxonomy for Building Approval, Compliance

Discipline	Level	Qualification	Experience	NCC accreditation	PII	Core competencies	Definitions
Building Surveyor	1	Honours degree in building surveying.	3 yrs	NCC Vols One and Two	PII accreditation relevant to unlimited statutory building surveying work.	A building surveyor level 1 with NCC and PII accreditation is competent to do statutory building surveying work and advisory building surveying work for a building of any NCC Class or size.	<p>Building approval authority means the legal entity that authorises construction or occupation of a building under building approval legislation of a state or territory.</p> <p>Approval work means acting as the <i>building approval authority</i> to authorise construction or occupation of a building under building approval legislation.</p> <p>Certifying means forming an opinion or giving a certificate required under building approval legislation that a building complies with the NCC and other relevant state or territory legislation.</p> <p>Statutory building surveying work means <i>approval work, independent design review, independent construction or installation inspection, and certifying</i> which building approval legislation requires to be done by a registered building surveyor.</p> <p>Advisory building surveying work means providing advice on the legislative compliance requirements for proposed and completed <i>building work, independent design review and independent construction or installation inspection</i>.</p> <p>Building surveyor is an individual registered in the discipline of building surveying.</p> <p>Medium-rise building means a Class 1 and 10 buildings of any size, and Class 2 to 9 building no greater than 3 storeys and 2,000m² in area.</p> <p>Low-rise building means NCC Class 1 and 10 buildings.</p>
		Degree in architecture, engineering, building or building surveying and a graduate diploma in building surveying.					
		Registration as a building surveyor level 1 in any state or territory.	NA				
	2	Advanced diploma in building surveying	2 yrs	NCC Vols One and Two	PII accreditation relevant to medium-rise statutory building surveying work.	A building surveyor level 2 with NCC and PII accreditation is competent to do statutory building surveying work and advisory building surveying work for medium-rise buildings.	
		Registration as building surveyor level 2 in a state or territory.	NA				
	3	Completion of the Skill Set CPCSS00004 plus additional units CPCCBS6003 and CPCCBS6016.	1 yr	NCC Vols One and Two	PII accreditation relevant to low-rise statutory building surveying work.	A building surveyor level 3 with NCC and PII accreditation is competent to do statutory building surveying work and advisory building surveying work for low-rise buildings.	
Registration as building surveyor level 3 in a state or territory.		NA					

Unless otherwise specified:

Declaration of design compliance means a written document provided by a registered person stating that the design work complies with the requirements of the NCC.

Independent design review means an examination and assessment of a component of design work for compliance with the NCC by an individual who is completely separate to the building designer.

Declaration of construction or installation compliance means a written document provided by a registered person stating that the construction or installation work complies with the performance requirements of the NCC.

Independent construction or installation inspection means an independent assessment of construction or installation work to verify that the construction or installation work has been carried out in accordance with the building approval documentation.

Medium-rise building means NCC Class 1 and 10 buildings, and for NCC Class 2 to 9, buildings to a maximum of three storeys above a storey used for the parking of vehicles but not including a building of Type A construction other than for NCC Classes 2, 3, or 9.

Low-rise building means NCC Class 1 and 10 buildings, and for NCC Classes 2 to 9, buildings with a gross floor area of not more than 2000m², but not including Type A or Type B construction.

Design

General Design

NRF for Architects

Application

The NRF sets out minimum requirements for nationally consistent registration of people who design and document buildings to meet the requirements of the NCC. All individuals engaged in general building design and documentation should be registered as an *architect* or a *building designer* unless:

- they only work under the direct supervision of a registered *architect* or *building designer*, or
- they do design and documentation work that is excluded from the definition of *general design work*. In this case they must be registered in the relevant discipline or work under the direct supervision of someone who is registered in the relevant discipline.

Excluded work is either *engineering design work* or *specialist design work* that requires licensing under *fire systems, plumbing, gas* or electrical legislation.

Requirements to be registered as a *building designer* are set out separately.

To implement the NRF, each state and territory must enact new legislation to prohibit the carrying out of general building design work by individuals who are not registered as an *architect* or a *building designer* and who do not have NCC accreditation and PII accreditation.

This framework applies to individuals. States and territories may develop consistent registration schemes that apply to businesses and corporations.

