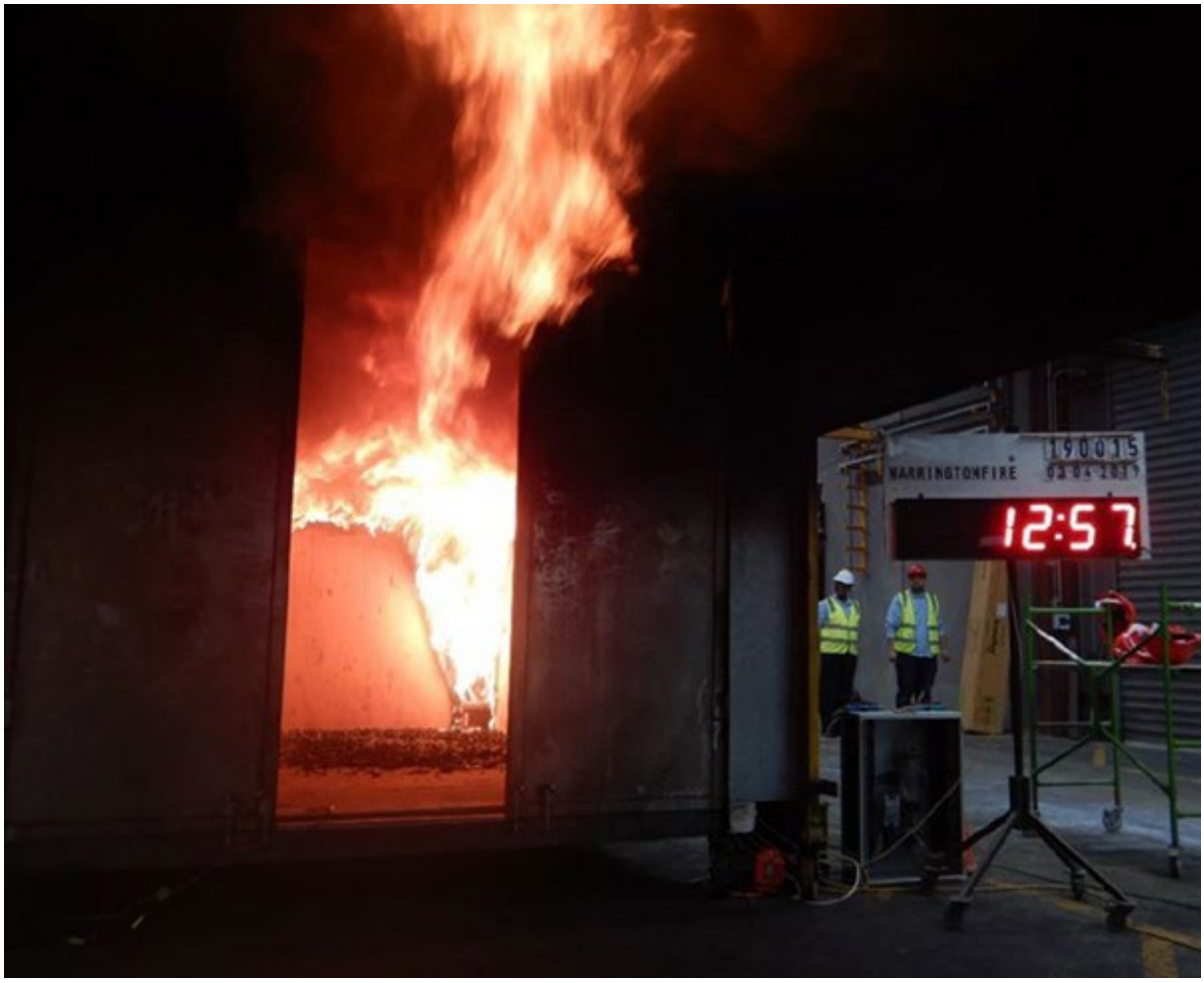
BRIGGS VENEERS

Understanding Fire Ratings and how to specify.....

Veneered and other wood panels need to meet the relevant Fire Hazard Group Numbers as set out in the National Construction Code (NCC) 2019 - Specification C1.10 - Section 4 - Table 3 "Wall and Ceiling Linings". The NCC 2019 introduced tougher test requirements that were not previously necessary.

As a result, throughout 2019 Briggs Veneers undertook exhaustive fire testing on our veneer ranges to provide the Architectural sector a range of timber veneers and substrates that they can confidently specify to achieve the required Fire Hazard Group Numbers. This investment will be continued as market demands change.



Briggs Hoop Pine veneer on Flameblock at "flashover" time.
If a product gets past 10 minutes, it reaches Fire Hazard Group 2, as this Hoop Pine did.
If it gets past 20 minutes it reaches Fire Hazard Group 1.

What is a Fire Hazard Group Number?

A Group Number is a fire hazard property classification, which is calculated based on stringent testing. It is a numeric representation of the performance of wall and ceiling linings achieved during the AS 5637 ISO 9705 Room Burn Test. The Room Burn Test is used as it is the best feasible representation of a real-life situation.

Briggs Veneers assessments of our fire-retardant products have all been done using full room burn testing done by Warringtonfire Australia. The video below shows how the test is conducted and how the group numbers are assigned. It is an interesting video and explains the lengths suppliers like Briggs have gone to in order to provide compliant Group 2 products.

Frequently Asked Questions.....

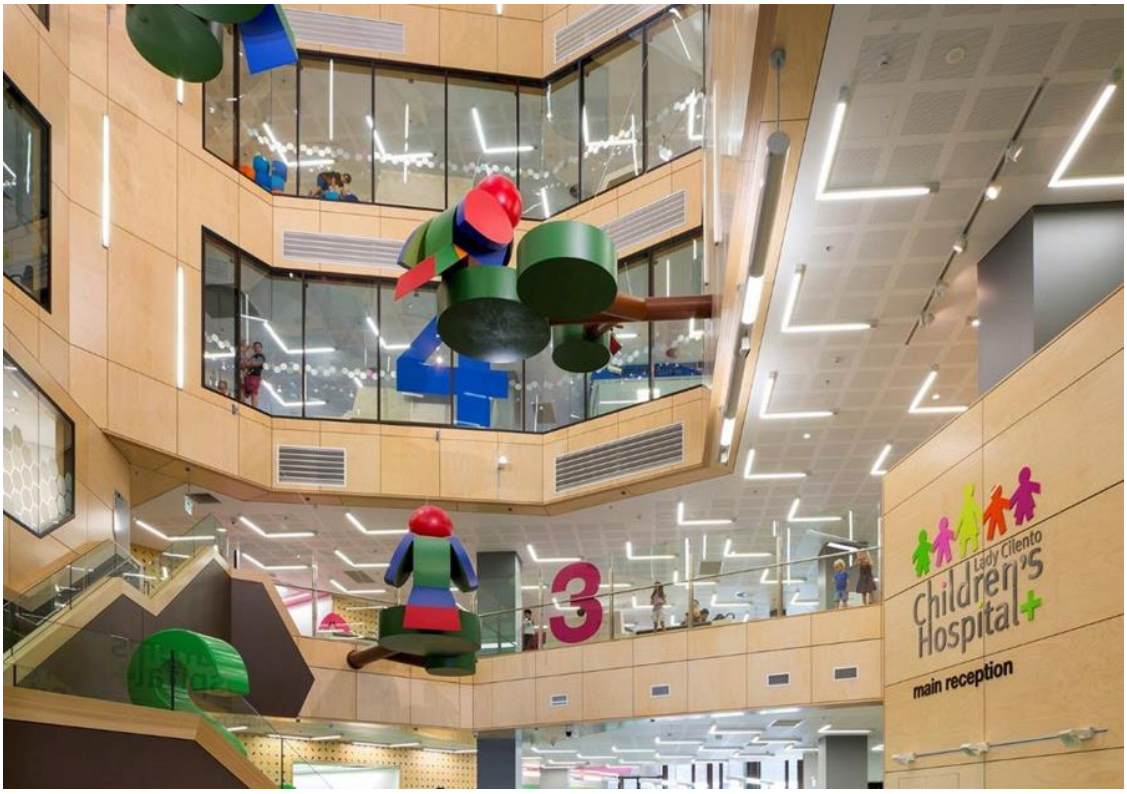
Are products that have Group Numbers based on small-sample Cone tests (AS? NZS 3837 or ISO 5660.1) compliant?

Prior to 2019, small sample Cone test results were allowed by the NCC. However, under NCC 2019, products tested under AS/NZS 3837 or ISO 5660.1 only comply if the results are proven to correlate with the results of the Room Burn test.

Fortunately, in the case of Group 3 veneered Standard MDF and particleboard, small sample Cone test results do correlate with Room Burn tests. See the timber industry Group 3 Assessment Report for veneer on MDF. However, in the case of fire-retardant products, Cone tests do not correlate with Room Burn tests. For such products, always ask for Assessment or Test reports (not just certificates) and ensure that the tests and assessments have been carried out according to AS 5637.1 ISO 9705 Room Burn.

Do Briggs Veneers have Group 2 products?

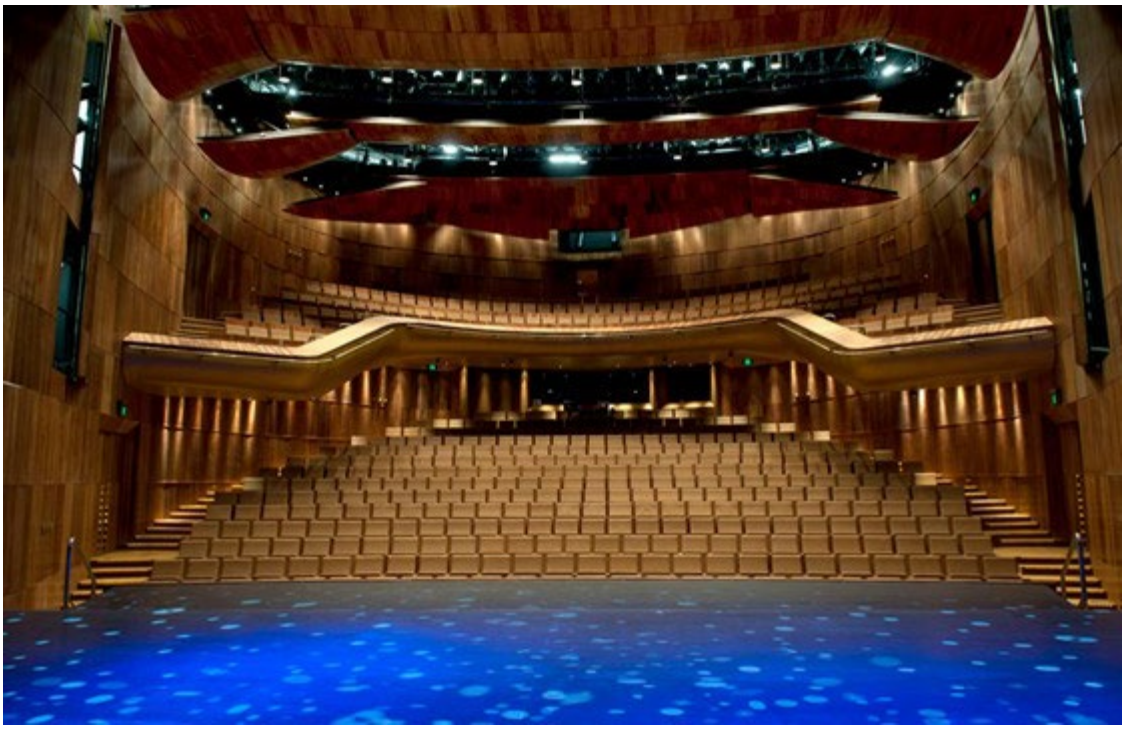
Yes, we do. Flameblock® FRMDF is Group 2. And we have more than 100 stock veneers that reach Group 2 on Flameblock.



Hoop Pine Veneer on Flameblock - Fire Hazard Group 2
Architect: Conrad Gargett, Lyons Architecture
Joiner/Shopfitter: HPP Group
Panel Layer: Sharp Plywood
Photography: Christopher Frederick Jones

Which veneers are Fire Hazard Group 2?

All veneers of density up to 755kg/m3 on Briggs Flameblock substrate 12mm and thicker achieve Group 2. There are around 50 Natural Timber veneers, 15 Woodstock veneers and 50 TrueGrain veneers that meet this criterion, listed in our Group 2 Assessment Report (tables 7, 8, 9 and 10 for the full range). These include American White Oak, Tasmanian Oak, , Tasmanian Blackwood, Woodstock Grey Birch, TrueGrain BlackGold.



Heath Ledger Theater Perth - Tasmanian Blackwood on Flameblock - Group 2

Architect: Kerry Hills Architects

Photography: Eva Fernandez

Which veneers and products do not reach Fire Hazard Group 2?

High density Australian eucalypt veneers such as Blackbutt, Spotted Gum, Ironbark and Jarrah and veneer laminates such as Oberflex, Innato and Shinnoki do not reach Group 2 on Flameblock

Can Briggs Group 2 Fire Report be used for other suppliers FRMDF?

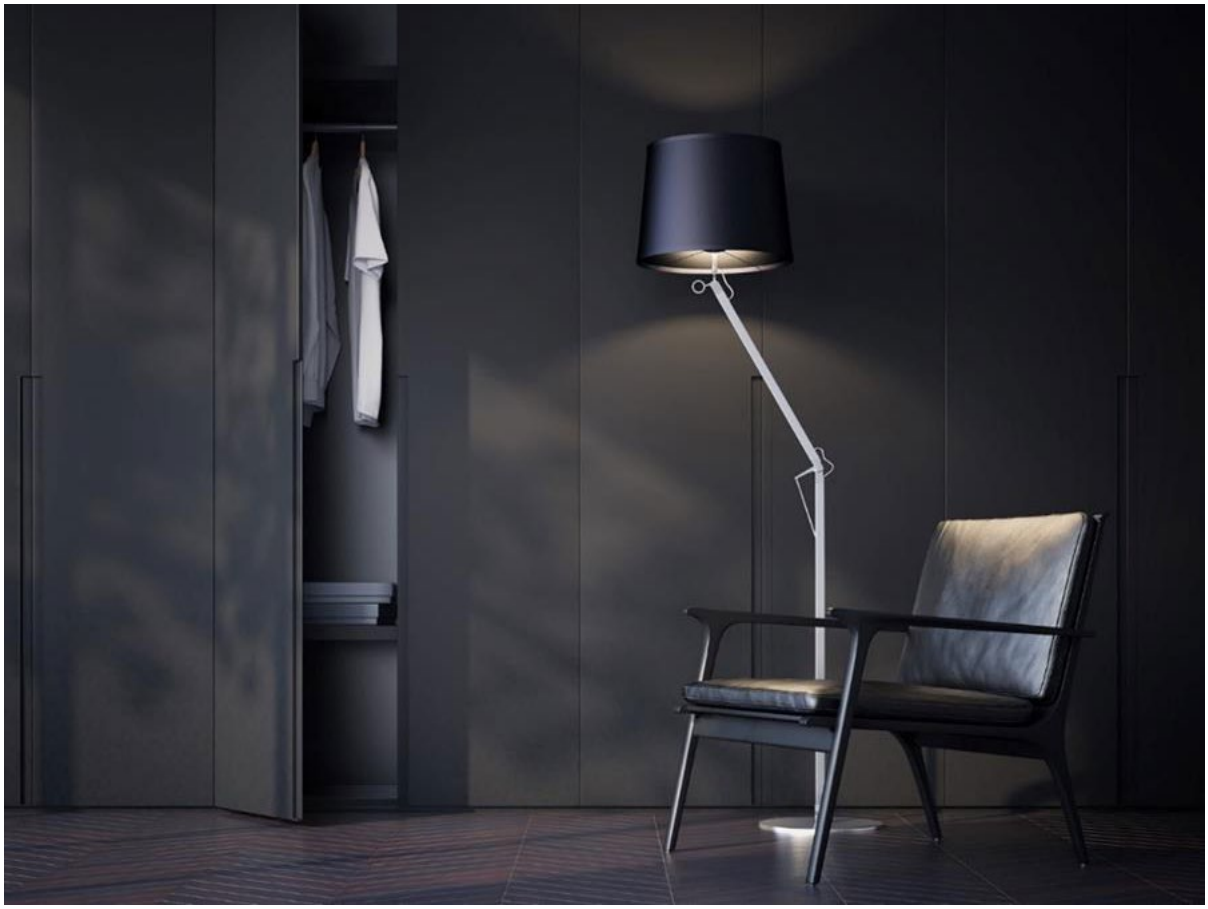
No. This report only applies to Briggs Veneers Flameblock FRMDF.

Is Flameblock rated for use in other applications?

Flameblock is designed and tested to meet the specific section of the NCC 2019 for interior walls, ceilings and lift car interiors. It is not rated for use in other areas of buildings that may require fire retardancy such as doors, around fireplaces, etc.

Is Flameblock "non-combustible"?

No. It is fire *retardant*, meaning that it will slow down a fire but will not stop it.

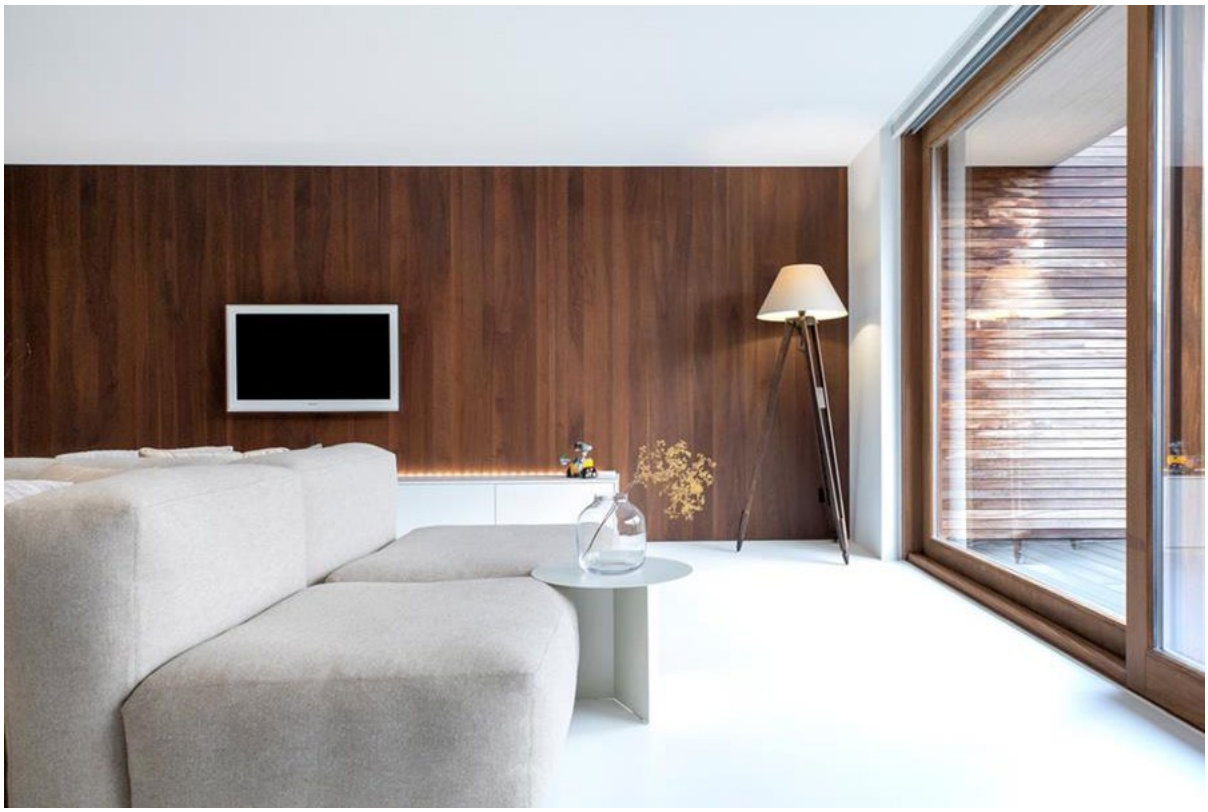


Black Flameblock with a matt/low gloss coating - Group 2

What colours does Flameblock come in?
Natural coloured and black (except that 25mm Flameblock is pinkish orange)

Are drilled, slotted or routed panels covered in Briggs Group 2 Fire Report?
No. Panels which have been modified such as with acoustic slotting are not covered. However, customers in the wall and ceiling manufacturing sector have panel systems made using Flameblock that they have had tested as Group 2.

Which is more Fire Retardant - higher or lower Group numbers?
Group 1 products have the best fire performance. Group 4 products the worst.



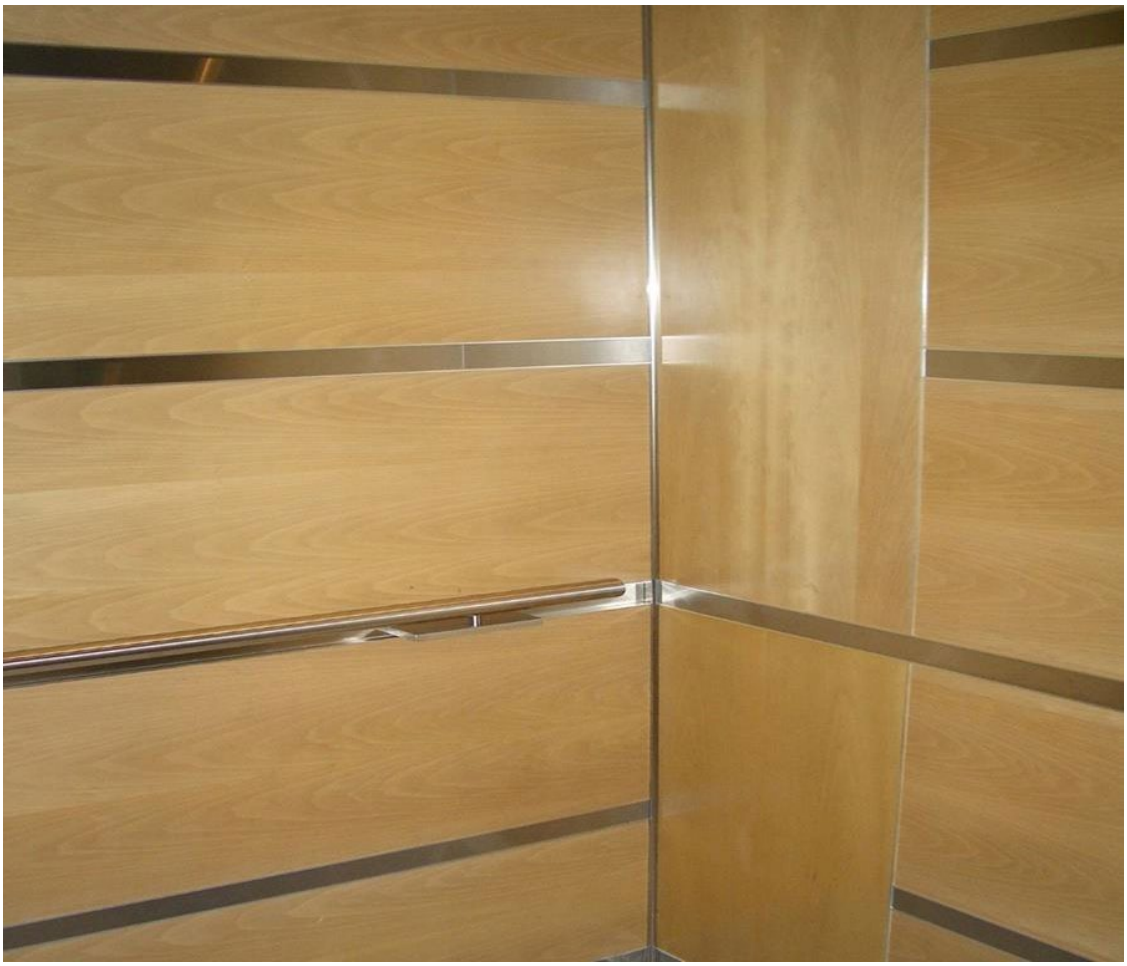
Briggs Shinnoki Smoked Walnut veneer on MRMDF - Group 3

What products reach Fire Hazard Group 3?

All veneers (except Teak) on 6mm+ standard MDF & Particleboard reach Fire Hazard Group 3. see timber industry Assessment Report. Shinnoki MRMDF is also Group 3. Veneer laminates (Oberflex, Innato and Shinnoki) haven't yet been tested/assessed.

Does Briggs Veneers have Group 1 certified veneers?

As far as we know, it is near impossible for wood based products, even if fire retardant, to achieve Group 1 in an ISO 9705 Room Burn test. However, Group 1 wall/ceiling systems may exist that we are not aware of.



Golden Sassafras veneer on Flameblock in a lift car interior - Group 2

What about Lift Cars?
The walls and ceilings of lifts must be Group 2 or Group 1. Refer to NCC 2019 - Specification C1.10 - Section 6.

Do coatings affect the fire rating?
NCC 2019 Section C1.10 Fire Hazard Properties (c) (viii) says "a paint, varnish, lacquer or similar finish, other than nitro-cellulose lacquer does not need to have its Fire Hazard Property rated". (However, nitro-cellulose lacquer should not be used because they are highly flammable).

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Contact your local representative

NSW, QLD, ACT, WA, NT

Rob Mayo
M: 0418 297 681
E: rob@briggs.com.au

Juel Briggs
M: 0412 594 419
E: juel@briggs.com.au

VIC, SA, TAS

Maree Goodwin
M: 0439 001 938
E: maree@briggs.com.au

For samples email: samples@briggs.com.au

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Briggs Veneers Pty Ltd
409 Victoria Street, Wetherill Park, NSW, 2164
Ph: +61 2 9732 7888