



A CODEMARK CERTIFIED PRODUCT?

Given the current Supply Chain uncertainties, and continuous search for product to just enable building progress, it is good to know that there are systems to guide the purchaser.

An essential requirement for all building products and materials under the Australian National Construction Code (NCC) is that they must be 'fit for purpose' and meet performance requirements based on a performance solution or a 'deemed-to-satisfy' provision under the code.

In this regard, 'evidence of suitability' is required from building product suppliers to demonstrate their prospective product's compliance with the performance requirements of the NCC.

One such form of accepted evidence is via the issuance of a 'Certificate of Conformity' under CodeMark or CodeMark Australia, of which is a voluntary third-party building product certification scheme administered by the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB).

For a building product supplier to obtain a Certificate of Conformity under the CodeMark scheme, documentation and processes for the proposed product(s) are subject to a rigorous audit assessment by an independent JAS-ANZ accredited (Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand) certification body. A non-exhaustive list of items the assessment process could scrutinize include the supplier's:

- Internal & external product test reports and analysis
- Testing facilities and processes
- Raw material supply and documentation
- Product manufacturing systems
- Quality assurance procedures



Once satisfied, a certificate of conformity will be issued by the certifying body, with the product supplier becoming a certificate holder listed on the [JAS-ANZ CodeMark register](#).

A key goal of the CodeMark scheme is to provide confidence and certainty for the market and regulatory authorities. So how might the scheme instill confidence for participants in the frame and truss industry? Let's consider an example of a Triple-Grip that was not CodeMark certified (Or any of the other forms of 'evidence of suitability' listed in the NCC) - can we confidently trace any of the following?

- The quality of steel used to manufacture the product or the supplied fixings?
- That current and relevant design standards were used to test and derive the product capacity?
- That sufficient quality assurance procedures were in place to isolate product defects?
- That the product's recommended usage is compliant to the NCC?

With a CodeMark approval, most of the uncertainty highlighted above is removed, as any information pertaining to the product and its usage would have been audited and verified by an independent JAS-ANZ certifying body.

Yet still, one might ask – is it necessary to choose CodeMark certified products in a building design? Well, considering the rigors for a supplier to achieve a CodeMark status for a product, the fact that the supplier themselves volunteered for scrutiny, and the fact that the scheme is clearly recognized by the ABCB and NCC - the risk of a (Correctly installed) CodeMark certified product being non-compliant and not 'fit for purpose' in a building is heavily mitigated and likely worth a purchaser's consideration.

Finally, as the NCC puts it –

"All parties that have a role in the product supply chain should ensure that their obligations or duties to check and assure that the right products are used, and are used correctly, are met."