

## CONSTRUCTION IN BUSHFIRE PRONE AREAS

Can Cavi-Break® Strips be used in lightweight clad walls in bushfire prone areas?

In general, there is no information or requirements in AS3959 specifically relating to cavity battens or thermal breaks.

The following table sets out a summary of the requirements for wall construction in the various BAL zones:

BAL ZONE	Wall Construction Requirements	Can Cavi-Break™ be used
BAL - LOW	No additional requirements needed Plastic cavity closer can be used	Yes
BAL - 12.5	Up to 400mm above ground level: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Min 90mm masonry veneer, or</li> <li>• 6mm thick FC cladding or Weathertex cladding or sheet metal cladding</li> </ul> Above 400mm above ground level: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No additional requirements</li> </ul> No additional requirements for seals or weatherstrips All gaps to be sealed in any cladding Weepholes to be screened Sarking to have a flammability index <5 Galv Steel or aluminium cavity closer can be used	Yes
BAL - 19	Up to 400mm above ground level: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Min 90mm masonry veneer, or</li> <li>• 6mm thick FC cladding or Weathertex cladding or sheet metal cladding</li> </ul> Above 400mm above ground level: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No additional requirements</li> </ul> No additional requirements for seals or weatherstrips All gaps to be sealed in any cladding Weepholes to be screened Sarking to have a flammability index <5 Galv Steel or aluminium cavity closer can be used	Yes
BAL - 29	Full external walls: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Min 90mm masonry veneer, or</li> <li>• 6mm thick FC cladding or sheet metal cladding</li> </ul> No additional requirements for seals or weatherstrips All gaps to be sealed in any cladding Weepholes to be screened Sarking to have a flammability index <5 Steel or aluminium cavity closer can be used	Yes
BAL - 40	Full external wall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Min 90mm masonry veneer, or</li> <li>• 9mm thick FC cladding or sheet metal cladding</li> </ul> Seals or weatherstrips to have a flammability index <5 All gaps to be sealed in any cladding Weepholes to be screened Sarking to have a flammability index <5 Steel or aluminium cavity closer can be used	TBC per case
BAL - FZ	All external walls to have a FRL of 30/30/30 min	No