

1. Important upgrades to BASIX from Saturday 28th March 2009

The Department of Planning NSW will implement a series of upgrades to the BASIX on-line tool in the week commencing Saturday the 28th of March 2009. The first of these upgrades will include changes to Thermal Simulation Software accepted within the Thermal Comfort section of the BASIX tool (see item Number 2 below). Other important changes to be rolled out as part of this upgrade include:

- Improvements in the project portfolio section that will allow users more flexibility when copying existing projects or editing project details.
- providing access to the immediate past version of the BASIX tool on-line, which will simplify the process of making necessary changes to lodged certificates during the life of a project
- removing cross ventilation from the Single Dwelling DIY Thermal Comfort method and increasing the insulation requirements to be in line with BCA requirements.
- removing "solar electric *plus timer*" as an option under hot water systems, as it is effectively covered by selecting "solar electric".
- changes in how BASIX calculates supply volumes for on-site recycled water systems in the Multi-unit tool, limiting the volume based on the sources of water available on the site.
- requiring a schemes name to be selected for reticulated recycled water. This name will also be listed on certificates, making the verification process easier for councils and certifiers.

Please be aware that these changes may affect the score of some projects already entered in BASIX. If a certificate has not been issued adjustments may be required in order to pass.

There will be disruptions to service from **COB Friday the 27th of March** as we implement these changes. More information will be provided as to the exact date and length of these disruptions the week of the 22nd of March.

If you would like more information about how these changes affect your specific project please check the detailed list of changes available on the website www.basix.nsw.gov.au..

2. BASIX to introduce Second Generation Thermal Simulation Software (AccuRate/BERS Professional/FirstRate 5)

The Department of Planning NSW will be implementing Second Generation Thermal Simulation Software (AccuRate/BERS Professional/FirstRate 5) as part of upgrades to the BASIX on-line tool to be implemented in the week commencing 28th of March 2009. The 2nd Generation Thermal Simulation Software will supersede First Generation Thermal Simulation Software (NATHERS/BERS/FirstRate) within the Thermal Comfort (Simulation Method) section of the BASIX tool. These changes will not affect the DIY and 'Rapid' assessment methods available in the Single Dwelling tool.

Please note NATHERS Certificates issued by ABSA (Association of Building Sustainability Assessors) will not be accepted in BASIX after **Friday the 27th March 2009**. From this date Second Generation Thermal Simulation Software will be required. However, projects that have already been lodged with council will still be able to make changes using NATHERS by accessing the old tool.

About Second Generation Software:

Second generation tools contain a larger range of features including a more realistic modelling of:

1. natural ventilation
2. the cooling effects of ceiling fans
3. heat flows in underfloor and roof spaces
4. attached dwellings (apartments).

Second generation software tools can use 69 different climate files (compared to 28 for the first generation).

Further information on Second generation software is available from the following web sites:

- **AccuRate** www.hearne.com.au/products/accurate/
- **BERS Professional** www.solarlogic.com.au/bers-pro/details
- **FirstRate 5** www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/www/html/1491-energy-rating-with-firstrate.asp

3. Supported browsers for use with BASIX

The BASIX website has been optimised for the following browsers:

Internet Explorer 6

Internet Explorer 7

Firefox 3

If you are using an older web browser or a browser that does not appear above, then you may experience difficulties with some parts of the website. We recommend upgrading to any of the browsers above for best performance.