



Newsletter

INDUSTRY NEWS

Australian Standards Update (AS4285)

We have the opportunity to update AS 4285 every 10 years, and that time is NOW. Anyone a part of the industry is impacted one way or another by our Australian Standards. Every SIA member has the opportunity to have their say. If you are a member of the SIA, you can send any information to admin@siai.com.au. If you are not a member, sign up to the Skylight Industry to have your say.

THIS IS OUR OPPORTUNITY TO ENSURE THAT THE SKYLIGHT INDUSTRY CONTINUES TO UPHOLD THE QUALITY EXPECTED FROM OUR CUSTOMERS AND MEMBERS. GET INVOLVED NOW!

Consumers beware

With many Solarpower LED's Claiming to replace skylights, consumers should be cautious of this new non-regulated industry.



SIA release Hybrid solar Lighting device (HSLD) statement



SIA draws a distinction between skylights and LED solar lighting

The Skylight Industry Association (SIA) has launched a campaign to educate the industry and the public regarding the use of misleading terminology that is confusing industry stakeholders and consumers.

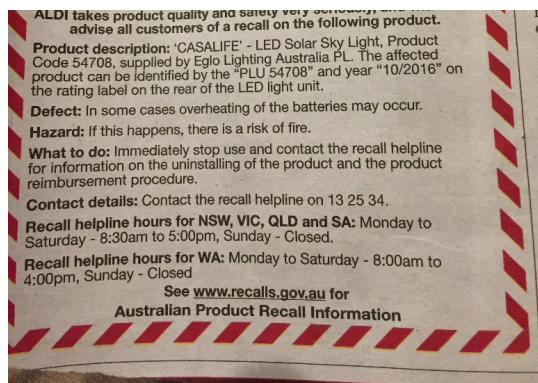
The products in question are solar powered LED lighting devices. In some instances, these products are marketed as solar skylights or similar. According to the SIA, defining these devices as "skylights" has caused unnecessary consumer confusion, to the degree the definition is a misnomer, i.e. a wrong name or inappropriate designation.

The Australian standard for skylights states the prime function of skylights is to provide natural light to interior parts of a building. Dictionary references to a skylight are clear that a skylight is a window built into a roof or ceiling to allow light in.

From an engineering perspective, there are three main components to a HSLD – a solar panel, electric cabling and an LED luminaire. None of these components are found in skylight assembly.

A range of practical benefits synonymous with skylights are not addressed by HSLDs. These include ventilation and transparency options, plus the well-documented positive effects of natural light on psychological well being.

From the Australian Window Association (AWA): Tracey Gramlick, Executive Director & CEO of the AWA, supports the SIA in this position, "The SIA campaign to educate the industry and the public when discussing skylights in contrast to LED solar lightline devices is endorsed by the Australian



The SIA contends the promotion of solar lighting devices as skylights sets a false consumer expectation and impression of how the product works, how it looks and what it achieves.

The SIA has adopted and recommends the terminology hybrid solar lighting device (HSLD) to accurately categorise these products, which speaks to their use of both solar and LED lighting technologies.

Skylights vs HSLDs

The National Construction Code 2015 Volume 2 states, "Roof light ... means a skylight, window or the like installed in a roof ... to permit natural light to enter the room below." The most distinctive feature of a skylight is its provision of natural light. In contrast, the light source of an HSLD is an LED.

The three product definitions within the Industry Code of Practice and the skylight standard, AS4285-2007, are skylights, tubular skylights and roof windows.

There is no provision for HSLDs within AS4285.

The standard that applies to the installation of solar panel products, AS5033, covers low voltage solar products that would include many HSLDs.

To position a HSLD as a "skylight" (when it does not allow access to natural light) infers it will be covered by the skylight standard, which is incorrect, and could result in the misapplication of that standard.

WERS for Skylights is the independent, thermal rating system that is called up in the National Construction Code. There are no protocols to test and rate HSLD products within this scheme.

Window Association and the Window Energy Rating Scheme. It's in the fenestration industry's best interest to ensure all products are marketed correctly."

From the Skylight Industry Association (SIA): Ian Murphy, SIA President, comments, "The SIA welcomes new innovations, and we see a place for these devices within the solar lighting market. However, it's the responsibility of distributors and manufacturers referring to HSLDs as "skylights" to promote their products accurately. In this instance, a select few have introduced confusion, thus leaving it up to the SIA to clear up the distinction between skylights and HSLD's.

"The market confusion has been building over time and the SIA has fielded numerous enquiries from members, individuals and trades seeking clarification over the distinction."

Ian continues, "A core principle on which the SIA was founded in 1989 was terminology clarity, as we sought to address the misinformation prevalent at the time. It's with this same purpose the SIA is now seeking to safeguard the credibility of our industry, to uphold the industry understanding of a true "skylight" as giving natural access to sunlight."

DISCLAIMER: This industry alert has been developed to provide general guidance, awareness and education of existing issues in our industry. It should not be viewed as a definitive guide and is for information purposes only. While every effort has been made to ensure the information is accurate the SIA expressly disclaims all and any liability to any person for anything done or omitted on this publication. No responsibility is accepted by the SIA for any mistakes, errors or omissions in this publication.

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WERSfs - ENERGY TESTING - NOW OPEN

Tell me what WERSfs is all about?

WERSfs = Window Energy Rating Scheme for Skylights!



WERSfs is accredited by the Australian Fenestration Rating Council (AFRC) and adheres to AFRC protocols and procedures. AFRC protocols and procedures are referenced in the NCC both volume One and volume Two for Roof Lights. Therefore as with windows and glazing the clear intention of the NCC is to refer to AFRC protocols for skylights.

Skylights are possibly the least understood and appreciated elements in the fabric of our homes and buildings. They deliver FREE Natural Daylight in all daylight hours, across all seasons, and can offer a healthy living environment without compromise and un-surpassed by anything else in the building fabric. However, skylights, incorrectly specified, chosen or installed, can also represent a source of unwanted heat gain in summer and heat loss in winter.

Today, new understanding of actual performance, design technology and glazing materials, have changed the energy performance of skylights in a radical way. Energy efficient skylights will make your home or building more comfortable, dramatically reduce your energy costs and help to create a brighter, cleaner, healthier environment.

The aim of the scheme is to help consumers evaluate the relative energy performance of different types of skylights and then make an informed decision suited to their needs.

Independent of any one manufacturer, WERSfs is a fair, rigorous and credible system for rating the energy performance of skylights and follows all AFRC protocols

and processes.

A WERSfS Rated Skylight provides a guarantee of fit for purpose quality via certification to Australian Standard AS4285 – SKYLIGHTS and enables energy performance skylight selection relative to minimum BCA requirements or more demanding independent project requirements.

Free Daylight – AS4285 Compliance – Energy Efficient Skylights

It does NOT get any BETTER than that !!!

JOIN THE SKYLIGHT INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION



Question: Are you Involved in The Skylight Industry in any way shape or form YES/NO ??

If NO, we hope you enjoy the Newsletter and we also hope it provokes some thought and ideally questions.

If YES, then why not join the SIA and join the daylighting voice of Australia? Contact us via www.siai.com.au, or directly to our General Secretary, Laurie Baker, email at admin@siai.com.au or mobile on 0413 610 100
