The perimeter insulation should not block off the air flow from the eave to the roof space.

The above photograph and diagram illustrate a practical method of ensuring that air entering the eaves can freely make its way into the roof space.
One method is to lay one row of R.2.0 high performance batts -70mm thick 600mm wide batts around the perimeter of the house this illuminates the problem with the thicker batts choking off the air flow to the roof space. (See photo) R2.5 batts may also be used depending on the detail and space available at the area from the eave to the ceiling level.

The losses in R value in making this change are minimal and can be made up in the same way that the losses for ceiling penetrations for down lights can be made up.

The information below illustrates the impact on a typical 250 Sq. meter house with a perimeter of 60 meters

- R 3.5 ceiling insulation to a house with R2.0 to perimeter –average across the whole house –R 3.18
- R 4.1 ceiling insulation to a house with R2.0 to perimeter –average across the whole house –R 3.60
- R 3.5 ceiling insulation to a house with R2.5 to perimeter –average across the whole house –R 3.32
- R 4.1 ceiling insulation to a house with R2.5 to perimeter –average across the whole house –R 3.77

It is possible to model the individual insulation types in an individual zone within the approved software tools or apply the average value to the zones around the perimeter of a house and model the interior zones with the full R-Values of the ceiling insulation.

The assessor will then need to allow for losses due to down lights etc. on top of this.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information contact the Building Standards and Occupational Licensing team

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