

## The methodology to identify earthquake-prone buildings

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The EPB methodology is the document used by territorial authorities and engineers to identify, assess, and make decisions on potentially earthquake-prone buildings.

You can read the document below or download [The methodology to identify earthquake-prone buildings](https://www.building.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/building-code-compliance/b-stability/b1-structure/epb-methodology.pdf) (<https://www.building.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/building-code-compliance/b-stability/b1-structure/epb-methodology.pdf>) [PDF 611 KB]

The methodology is set by the Chief Executive of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment under the Building Act.

It refers to [The Seismic Assessment of Existing Buildings: Technical Guidelines for Engineering Assessments](https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/b-stability/b1-structure/seismic-assessment-existing-buildings/) (<https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/b-stability/b1-structure/seismic-assessment-existing-buildings/>) (the Engineering Assessment Guidelines) on the building.govt.nz website.

The EPB methodology has three sections:

- Section 1: Territorial authorities identify potentially earthquake-prone buildings. This includes profile categories of potentially earthquake-prone building, category details, and exclusions.
- Section 2: Engineers carry out assessments of potentially earthquake-prone buildings. This includes the engineering qualifications required, deciding what type of assessment is required, and the format of reports.
- Section 3: Territorial authorities decide on earthquake-prone buildings. This includes the criteria for accepting new or previous engineering assessments, how to decide if a building or part of building is earthquake prone and how to determine the earthquake rating for the building.

[Managing earthquake-prone buildings](https://www.building.govt.nz/managing-buildings/managing-earthquake-prone-buildings/) (<https://www.building.govt.nz/managing-buildings/managing-earthquake-prone-buildings/>) has further information.

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Published on 3 July 2017

**Of interest to** Building consent authorities, Building users, Building owners, Territorial Authority, Designers, Engineers, Architects

ISBN: ISBN 978-1-98-851789-6 (Print) / ISBN 978-1-98-851790-2 (Online)

- with compliance with the Building Act, it is published under section 175 of the Building Act
- with a Weathertight Services claim, it is published under section 12 of the Weathertight Homes Resolution Services Act 2006.