Rights and obligations in the building process

If you are involved in a building project, it’s important you know who is responsible for each aspect.

- Homeowner rights and obligations
- Builder and designer rights and obligations
- Building owner rights and obligations
- How the building system protects you
- Roles of councils and MBIE

Stages of the building process

Understand project stages, from scoping and design to consents, construction and completion.

- DIY, but build it right
- Renovations differ to new builds
- Understand your land so you design well
- Top tips for a successful build

Building law reform programme

The reforms will speed up consenting and build confidence in the building system.

- Building law reform programme
- Background
See everything in ‘Getting started’

- Projects & consents
  - Planning a successful build
  - Why contracts are valuable
  - Apply for building consent
  - Build to the consent
  - Sign-off and maintenance
  - Health and safety on site

Understanding the building consent process

For safe, healthy and durable buildings, all building work in New Zealand must meet certain standards. Find out how to build within the rules.

Health and safety on site

Avoid accidents and make site safety a priority.

1. Planning a successful build
   - Check if you need consents
   - Choosing the right people for your type of building work
   - Why contracts are valuable

2. Getting a consent
   - Apply for building consent
   - How to support your building consent application
   - Understanding the building consent process

3. Building to the consent
   - Making changes to your plans
   - Typical council inspections of a building project
   - Completing your project

4. Sign-off and maintenance
   - Get the build signed off
   - How to identify defects
   - Protecting your investment

See everything in ‘Projects & consents’

- Building Code compliance
  - A General provisions
  - B Stability
  - C Protection from fire
  - D Access
  - E Moisture
  - F Safety of users
  - G Services and facilities
  - H Energy efficiency
  - Specific buildings
  - Canterbury rebuild
  - Product assurance & MultiProof
  - Warnings and bans on building products
  - Building Code and handbooks
  - How the Building Code works
  - Geotechnical education
  - Online learning website
  - Introduction to medium-density housing
Maintaining the Building Code

In this section

- How the Building Code works
- Maintaining the Building Code
- Different ways to comply with the Building Code
- Specific buildings
- Product assurance & MultiProof
- Introduction to medium-density housing
- Online learning website

Find Acceptable Solutions, Verification Methods, updates and technical guidance by Building Code clause.

- a General provisions
- b Stability
- c Protection from fire
- d Access
- e Moisture
- f Safety of users
- g Services and facilities
- h Energy efficiency

See everything in ‘Building Code compliance’

Managing buildings

- Managing your BWoF
- General information on building safety in earthquakes
- Securing unreinforced masonry building parapets and facades
- Managing earthquake-prone buildings
- Managing buildings in an emergency
- Change of use and alterations

Specified systems and compliance schedules

If you own a building that contains a specified system such as a cable car, you must ensure they are effectively operated for the life of the building and in keeping with the council-issued compliance schedule.

- Inspections and maintenance of specified systems as a building owner
- Fines and penalties for offences relating to compliance schedules
- Compliance schedules

See everything in ‘Managing buildings’

Resolving problems
Determinations

A determination is a binding decision made by MBIE providing a way of solving disputes or questions about the rules that apply to buildings, how buildings are used, building accessibility, and health and safety.

- Understanding determinations
- Applying for a determination
- Steps in the determination process
- Previous determinations

Weathertight Services

- Signs of a leaky home
- How to make a Weathertight Claim
- Resolving a Weathertight Claim

See everything in ‘Resolving problems’

COVID-19: Building and construction sector guidance

- COVID-19 Health and Safety
- Alert level 1 information for the building and construction sector
- Alert level 2 information for the building and construction sector
- Durability of materials on exposed construction sites
- Inspection and maintenance of specified systems
- Water system safety in reoccupied buildings
- Essential business in the building and construction sector
- Construction and trade sector information
- Retailer and supplier information
- Council and Professional Services information
- Home and building owner and tenant information
- COVID-19: Building and construction sector guidance

See everything in ‘COVID-19: Building and construction sector guidance’
A new project is underway to revise New Zealand's National Seismic Hazard Model.

Improving New Zealand's National Seismic Hazard Model is vital in helping both the building sector and government understand likely earthquake impacts on land, buildings and infrastructure. This information is essential to New Zealand building resilience and managing risks to safety, security and our economy.

GNS Science and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) are leading this project with support coming from the Earthquake Commission (EQC), engineers, and international scientists.

Key users include MBIE, EQC, local and regional authorities, NZTA, structural and geotechnical engineers, land-use planners, seismic hazard and risk modelling consultants, and the insurance sector.

More information on this project can be found on the gns.cri.nz website

All news and updates

- 2020
  - August
    - Helping New Zealand build earthquake resilience
  - July
    - 2020 Building Advisory Panel members announced
    - Building for Climate Change programme gets underway
  - June
    - New learning modules available to help you understand the Building Code
  - May
    - More protection for subcontractors through the retention money regime
    - New building consent exemptions approved by Government
    - Change to the delivery of 2020 Building Code updates
  - March
    - Extending June 2020 biannual Building Code consultation
  - February
    - Building Advisory Panel – recruitment notice
    - Have your say on Building Code amendments – consultation opens 17 February

- 2019
  - December
    - Webinar about key changes to C/AS2
  - November
    - Latest improvements to the Building Code have been published
  - October
    - Corrections to 2019 C/AS2 Acceptable Solution
    - Next steps announced for building law reforms
  - September
    - Third consultation of the biannual Building Code update closing soon
    - National Construction Pipeline Report 2019
  - August
    - Submissions summary on proposed building law changes now available
    - Have your say on Building Code changes – consultation opens 5 August
  - July
CertMark International withdraws from NZ CodeMark scheme
CertMark International suspended as CodeMark product certification body
MBIE funds over 120 building standards for free download

- **June**
  - Updates to the Building Code will make it easier to comply
  - Consultation now closed on building law reforms
  - Section C5 'Concrete Buildings' proposed revision
  - New system for building emergency management

- **May**
  - Updated information on private building consent authority registration

- **April**
  - Report released about Tauranga City Council’s actions related to Bella Vista

- **March**
  - Consultation on amending Acceptable Solutions and Verification Methods June 2019 Update

- **February**
  - BEAL CodeMark product certification body accreditation revoked
  - Fire performance of external wall cladding systems

- **2018**

  - **November**
    - Acceptable Solution and Verification Method amendments November 2018
    - BEAL CodeMark product certification body issued notice of revocation
    - Six ACP CodeMark certificates removed

  - **October**
    - Online courses on managing buildings in an emergency
    - Consultation on proposal to change CodeMark regulations

  - **September**
    - BEAL CodeMark product certification body accreditation suspended
    - Consultation on amending Acceptable Solutions and Verification Methods 2018

  - **August**
    - MBIE to consult twice yearly on changes to the Building Code System
    - Suspension of six aluminium composite panel (ACP) CodeMark certificates
    - Guide to managing buildings in an emergency
    - Addendum to Statistics House Investigation report

  - **June**
    - Guide to altering an existing building

  - **April**
    - Website access blocked for older browsers from 27 May
    - Loop bar warning and B1/VM1 Amendment 16

  - **March**
    - Fire safety design guide for residential community housing

  - **February**
    - New EPB resources now available
    - 2015-2017 technical review programme summary

- **2017**

  - **December**
    - Amendments to Unreinforced Masonry Building Securing Fund
    - Making building Standards easier to access

  - **November**
    - Revised scope for C/VM2 Framework for Fire Safety Design

  - **October**
    - New version of guidance ‘Securing parapets and facades on URM buildings’
    - Strengthening MBIE’s role as building regulator

  - **September**
    - Consultation opens on B1/VM1 and loop bar connections
    - New geotechnical planning and engineering resource published
    - LBP Supervision Practice Note

  - **July**
    - Priority Buildings guidance for earthquake-prone buildings now available
    - Consultation on new Fire Safety Residential Community Housing proposal
    - New system for managing earthquake-prone buildings comes into effect
June
- Commerce Commission compliance advice letter on J-Frame LVL
- Online tutorial for passive rockfall protection structures now available

May
- New geotechnical building resources published
- Consultation opens on new fire safety proposals

April
- Acceptable Solutions and territorial authority guidance for pool safety
- Building Advisory Panel members announced

March
- Statistics House Investigation Report released
- Contracts retention money provisions come into force on 31 March 2017
- Progress on amendments to clarify the requirements for retention money
- Pool manufacturers and retailers required to supply consumer notices

February
- Requirement to secure unreinforced masonry parapets and facades

January
- Improved seismic performance of parapets and facades

2016
- December
  - BC Update 207: New pool safety legislation comes into effect on 1 January 2017
  - BC Update 206: Amendments to Acceptable Solutions and Verification Methods
- November
  - BC Update 205: Rockfall protection structures guidance released
  - BC Update 204: Two practice advisories released for earthquake performance
  - MBIE releases Terms of Reference into quake investigation
  - BC Update 203: Two new geotechnical guidance modules released
  - BC Update 202: Clarifications on ductile steel mesh testing published
  - BC Update 201: Consultation on new Acceptable Solutions for residential pool barriers
- October
  - BC Update 200: Building (Pools) Amendment Bill will come into effect on 1 January 2017
  - BC Update 199: Clarifying that retention provisions will not apply to existing contracts
  - BC Update 198: Consultation relating to pool inspection and retailer notices
- September
  - BC Update 197: Use licensed people on the job
  - BC Update 196: Consultation on earthquake-prone building regulations and methodology
  - BC Update 195: Broader scope of construction contracts comes into force
  - New geotechnical education programme launched
- August
  - Release of final report into Dunedin balcony collapse
  - BC Update 194: Consultation to amend Grade 500E ductile steel mesh testing requirements
  - Feedback sought on Acceptable Solutions C/AS 2-7 – alternative format
- July
  - BC Update 192: Release of Practice Advisory 18 – Fire Safety Design for Tall Buildings
  - BC Update 191: New guidance says well-planned ground investigations can save costs
  - BC Update 190: Clarification on designing firecells for more than 1000 people
  - BC Update 189: Free-standing carports now included in building consent exemptions
  - BC Update 188: Ban on installing or repairing foil insulation in residential buildings
- June
  - BC Update 187 : Launch of the New Zealand Geotechnical Database
  - BC Update 186: New system for managing earthquake-prone buildings
- May
  - BC Update 185: Glass barrier requirements changed on 1 June 2016
  - BC Update 184: Joint MBIE/NZGS liquefaction and ground improvement geotechnical guidance
  - BC Update 183: Glass barrier requirements to be amended 1 June 2016
  - BC Update 182: Proposed ban on retrofitting foil insulation into residential buildings
- April
  - BC Update 181: Complaints about non-compliant building products
  - BC Update 180: Further update: Conformance of reinforcing steel mesh
- March
  - LBP Skills Maintenance reminder
  - BC Update 179: Release of joint MBIE/NZGS geotechnical guidance
GoShift – simplifying the building consent process
BC Update 178: Conformance of reinforcing steel mesh

February
BC Update 177: Safety and suitability of external claddings
BC Update 176: Further guidance relating to building product substitution

January
BC Update 174: Clarification of the role of the MBIE residential guidance
BC Update 175: Release of two practice advisories for design
This information is published by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment’s Chief Executive. It is a general guide only and, if used, does not relieve any person of the obligation to consider any matter to which the information relates according to the circumstances of the particular case. Expert advice may be required in specific circumstances. Where this information relates to assisting people:

- 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.