

Building Performance

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[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.

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[Stages of the building process](#)

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

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[Priority work programmes](#)

An overview of the priority work programmes within the MBIE Building System Performance branch.

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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

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4. Sign-off and maintenance

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

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About managing buildings

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- [General information on building safety in earthquakes](#)
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- [Securing unreinforced masonry building parapets and facades](#)
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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.

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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.

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Weathertight Services

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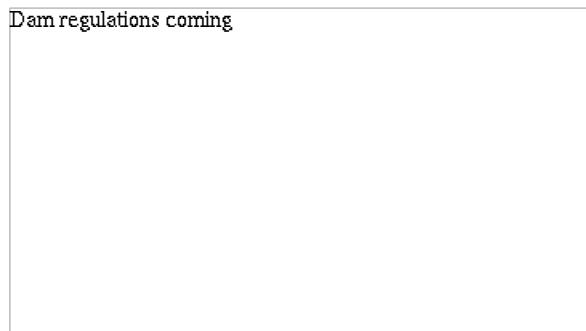
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- Updating Aotearoa's dam regulations

New regulations for Aotearoa's dams

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Posted: 23 February 2022



New regulations are expected to be made in the first half of this year to improve the safety and resilience of New Zealand's dams, bringing us into line with the rest of the OECD.

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New Zealand does not currently have regulations to ensure that dams are well maintained and regularly inspected after they are built. The absence of dam safety regulations puts people, property and the environment at unnecessary risk, should a dam fail.

Some dam owners are already following industry best practice dam safety guidelines prepared by the New Zealand Society on Large Dams (NZSOLD), but the new regulations set a minimum standard for dam safety. MBIE has taken into consideration the current terminology used in the dam safety guidelines when preparing the regulations, and they have also been informed by feedback received from MBIE's public consultation on dam safety.

The regulations will only apply to dams that are above a certain size, depending on both the height and volume of water it holds. As a general guide, the regulations will cover dams that have a height of:

- 4 or more metres and stores 20,000 or more cubic metres volume of water, or other fluid
- 1 or more metres and stores 40,000 or more cubic metres volume of water, or other fluid.

The intent is that small dams will be excluded from the regulations. This includes small 'turkey nest' dams, irrigation races, stock drinking ponds and weir.

Dam owners will need to assess whether their dam falls within one of these height and volume categories, and if it does they will need to assess the impact that their dam's failure could have. They will then need to classify the potential impact of that dam as low, medium or high.

The classification will need to be certified by a recognised engineer and then submitted to the regional authority for approval. This must be done no later than three months after regulations come into force, or no later than three months after the dam is commissioned.

There will be a two year lead in period before the regulations come into play, starting when they are made. MBIE will provide a range of resources during 2022 to help dam owners better assess and understand their dams and how the regulations might apply to them.

The following table shows the activities that owners of dams covered by the regulations will need to undertake, and the implications of low, medium and high impact.

Activity	Low potential impact dams	Medium potential impact dams	High potential impact dams
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Regulations commence

2 years after they are made.

Submit a potential impact classification (PIC) to regional authority

Up to 3 months after regulations commence, or the dam is commissioned.

Submit a Dam Safety Assurance Programme (DSAP) to regional authority

Not required

Up to two years after the regional authority approves the PIC

Up to 12 months after the regional authority approves the PIC

Carry out an intermediate dam safety review.

Not required

Within 12 months of the regional authority approving the DSAP

Within 12 months of the regional authority approving the DSAP

Carry out a comprehensive dam safety review.

Not required

Within 5 years of the regional authority approving the DSAP.

Within 5 years of the regional authority approving the DSAP.

Submit an Annual Compliance Certificate

Not required

On the anniversary of the regional authority approving the DSAP.

Review the DSAP

Not required

Within 10 years after the date which the regional authority approves the DSAP, and then after the first review, at intervals of not more than 7 years.

Within 5 years of the date which the regional authority approves the DSAP, and then after the first review, at intervals of not more than 5 years.

Review the dam's PIC Within 5 years of the regional authority approving the classification, and then not more than every 5 years.

[More information about the policy decisions behind this proposal](#) - MBIE.govt.nz

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