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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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- [How the building system protects you](#)
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[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.

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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.

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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](#)
- [Change of use, alterations and extension of life](#)
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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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New geotechnical building resources published

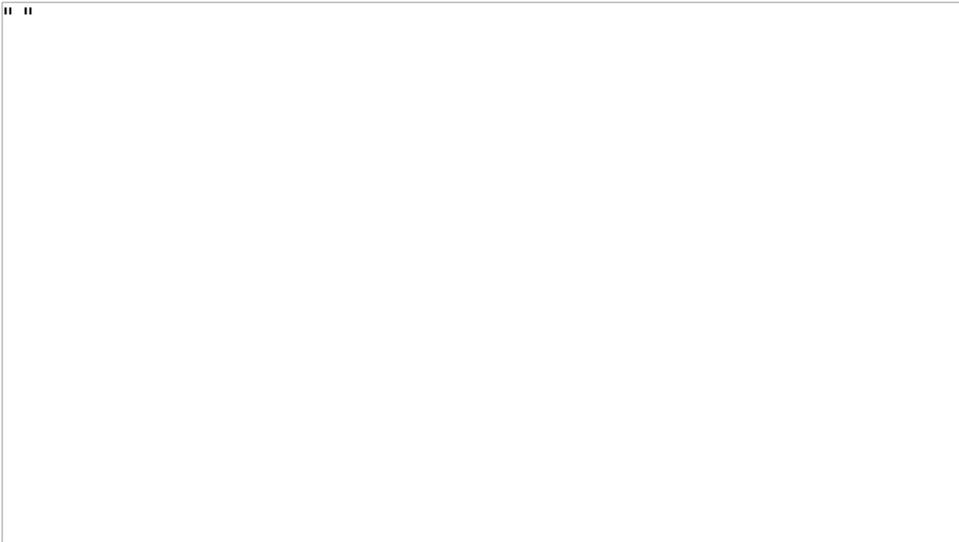
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Posted: 31 May 2017

Building Controls Update 216

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On 31 May 2017 the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) and the New Zealand Geotechnical Society (NZGS) published two new geotechnical engineering guidance documents, and MBIE published a new Field Guide: Rapid post disaster building usability assessment – Geotechnical.

Two new geotechnical modules

MBIE and the NZGS have jointly released two new geotechnical engineering guidance documents as part of the Earthquake Geotechnical Engineering Practice series. This joint guidance has been published as Building Act section 175 guidance.

The two new modules are:

- Module 5: Ground improvement of soils prone to liquefaction
- Module 6: Earthquake-resistant retaining wall design

These versions are being issued for public comment. Geotechnical, civil and structural engineers are encouraged to make use of these documents and return comments to modulefeedback@nzgs.org within six months for consideration by the editorial committee. Comments are also welcome from others working in earthquake engineering.

Module 5

This module covers the design of ground improvement and supports the Canterbury Earthquakes Royal Commission recommendations to prepare national guidelines specifying design procedures for ground improvement, so as to provide more uniformity in approach and outcomes.

Module 6

This module covers the seismic design of retaining walls of a routine nature throughout New Zealand and should be used in conjunction with established handbooks that cover other aspects of retaining wall design in all situations and soil conditions. It builds on and generalises the supplementary retaining wall guidance issued by MBIE supporting the Canterbury rebuild seismic design of retaining structures for residential sites in Greater Christchurch with accompanying worked examples.

Geotechnical engineering education programme

An education programme supporting the release of Modules 5 and 6 will be developed and advertised in due course.

[Read the geotechnical guidelines](#)

[New Zealand Geotechnical Society](#)

[View the geotechnical educational programme](#)

New field guide for rapid post disaster building usability assessment - geotechnical

MBIE has published a field guide to accompany two existing field guides for post disaster building assessments for earthquakes and for flooding.

This Field Guide: Rapid Post Disaster – Geotechnical assessment toward building usability has been produced to assist geotechnical professionals in the assessment and categorisation of land instability in conjunction with a rapid building assessment process during a State of Emergency or during a lesser event in special circumstances.

The geotechnical component of a rapid building assessment process involves the rapid assessment of the impacts of land instability on commercial, industrial and residential buildings that could affect the safety of people. This is the third in a series of field guides that target a uniform approach to rapid building assessment.

[Rapid post disaster building usability assessment – geotechnical](#)

[Rapid post disaster building usability assessment – earthquake](#)

[Rapid post disaster building usability assessment – flooding](#)

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- 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.