

Priority Buildings guidance for earthquake-prone buildings now available

Posted: 19 July 2017

Building Controls Update 220

Priority buildings are a new concept introduced in the national system for identifying and managing earthquake-prone buildings that came into effect on 1 July. The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment has produced guidance to help territorial authorities and building owners.

Priority buildings are certain types of buildings in high and medium seismic risk areas that are considered to present a higher risk because of their construction, type, use or location. They need to be identified and remediated within half the time allowed for other buildings in the same seismic risk areas.

Territorial authorities in areas of high seismic risk have two and half years to identify priority buildings. In areas of medium seismic risk the time frame is five years.

The Priority Buildings guidance has detailed information on buildings such as hospital, emergency and education buildings that are prioritised because of their function, and priority buildings that are identified with community input.

[Priority Buildings \(https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/b-stability/b1-structure/priority-buildings-earthquake-prone/\)](https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/b-stability/b1-structure/priority-buildings-earthquake-prone/) has the guidance.

[Earthquake-prone buildings resources \(https://www.building.govt.nz/managing-buildings/managing-earthquake-prone-buildings/resources/\)](https://www.building.govt.nz/managing-buildings/managing-earthquake-prone-buildings/resources/) has further resources and tools.

