

## BC Update 179: Release of joint MBIE/NZGS geotechnical guidance

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This Building Controls Update is a periodic news bulletin for the building sector.

Joint MBIE/NZGS geotechnical engineering guidance, [Module 1: Overview of the Guidelines \(https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/b-stability/b1-structure/geotechnical-guidance-3/\)](https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/b-stability/b1-structure/geotechnical-guidance-3/) of the 'Earthquake Geotechnical Engineering Practice' series, has now been published as Building Act s175 guidance. It is also available on the New Zealand Geotechnical Society (NZGS) website. This version is being issued for public comment. NZGS members are encouraged to make use of this document and return comments to the NZGS Secretary within six months for consideration by the editorial committee.

The guidelines are evolving from the single NZGS document published in July 2010 (Module 1 – Guideline for the identification, assessment and mitigation of liquefaction hazards) into a series of modules being developed in partnership by MBIE and NZGS.

This is the second of the new modules to be published; the first Module 5a, Specification of ground improvement for residential properties in the Canterbury region, was published in October 2015. A revised version of the existing Liquefaction module is now being finalised and will be published shortly. Due to the expansion of the series the numbering system has changed, and the old Module 1 will now become Module 3.

The full list of documents currently in preparation is as follows, and further modules are being planned:

Module 2: Geotechnical Investigation for Earthquake Engineering

Module 3: Identification, assessment, and mitigation of liquefaction hazards

Module 4: Earthquake Resistant Foundation Design

Module 5: Ground Improvement

Module 6: Retaining Walls