

Recognition of Overseas Products and Standards Guidance

OCTOBER 2025



Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) Hīkina Whakatutuki – Lifting to make successful

MBIE develops and delivers policy, services, advice and regulation to support economic growth and the prosperity and wellbeing of New Zealanders.

More information

This document is issued as guidance under section 175 of the Building Act 2004.

While MBIE has taken care in preparing the document it should not be relied upon as establishing compliance with all relevant clauses of the Building Act or Building Code in all cases that may arise.

This document may be updated from time to time, and the latest version is available from MBIE's website at www.building.govt.nz.

Information, examples, and answers to your questions about the topics covered here can be found on our website: www.mbie.govt.nz or by calling us free on 0800 24 22 43.

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ISBN (online) 978-1-991409-60-7

October 2025

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Document status

This resource is version 1 of MBIE’s Guidance on the Recognition of Overseas Products and Standards and takes effect from September 2025.

Document history		
Status	Commencement date	Alterations
Version 1	October 2025	–

Contents

Document status	3
1. Purpose	5
What is in this document	5
2. Who is this guidance for?	5
3. About MBIE	6
4. Background	6
Endorsed Standards	9
Building Product Specifications	11
Approved Products Certified Overseas	12
5. How overseas products and standards are recognised	15
Endorsed Standards	16
Evaluation process – groups of overseas standards	18
Evaluation process – standards certification schemes	22
Approved Products Certified Overseas	25
Evaluation process – overseas certified building products and methods	27
Recognition notices	39
6. Roles and responsibilities	41
MBIE	41
Designers, specifiers and architects	41
Building consent authorities	41
Product manufacturers, suppliers, wholesalers and retailers	43
7. How the consent process works with recognised products and standards	44
Endorsed Standards	44
Approved Products Certified Overseas	44
8. Appendices	46
Appendix 1: Key terms	46
Appendix 2: Sample building consent authority checklist for a recognised WaterMark product (Approved Products Certified Overseas)	47
Appendix 3: Building Act requirements	48
Appendix 4: Building (Product Certification) Regulations	50

1. Purpose

The purpose of this guidance is to support understanding of the recognition of overseas building products and standards. Recognition of overseas products and standards provides additional compliance pathways for overseas building products and is aimed at improving competition and access to overseas products.

What is in this document

This guidance document:

- explains the three new compliance pathways and the relevant provisions in the Building Act and regulations for:
 - Endorsed Standards
 - Building Product Specifications
 - Approved Products Certified Overseas
- provides an overview of how MBIE will conduct the evaluation and recognition process for Endorsed Standards and Approved Products Certified Overseas
- outlines the roles and responsibilities of key groups
- explains how recognised overseas products and standards can be used in the consenting process.

Note: The recognition process only applies to Endorsed Standards and Approved Products Certified Overseas. The Building Product Specifications pathway is explained on **Pages 9-10**.

A glossary of key terms, sample recognition notices and relevant legislation can be found in the [Appendices](#).

2. Who is this guidance for?

This guidance is for:

- building consent authorities
- manufacturers and importers of overseas building products
- wholesalers, retailers, or other distributors of overseas building products

This document may also be helpful for designers, specifiers and architects, tradespeople and consumers. More information for these groups can be found in **Section 6: Roles and responsibilities**

3. About MBIE

MBIE's role in Aotearoa New Zealand's Building System

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) is the central regulator and steward of Aotearoa New Zealand's building system. We work with a wide range of stakeholders across the building sector to deliver fit-for-purpose, performance-based building legislation and regulations to meet the country's current and future needs.

We have a range of statutory responsibilities in relation to the building system and administer Aotearoa New Zealand's building legislation. We also work with other regulators whose legislation has an impact on the building sector.

Our work includes:

- reviewing and updating building policy, laws and regulations
- monitoring and evaluating the overall performance of Aotearoa New Zealand's building system
- providing information, education and guidance about the building system to support understanding, compliance and enforcement
- oversight of the Building Code
- occupational regulation (eg Licensed Building Practitioners)
- supporting investigations into building or product failures
- issuing determinations and managing product assurance.

Through our stewardship, MBIE aims to ensure that the building system is robust, responsive, and capable of delivering safe, durable, and high-quality buildings for all New Zealanders.

4. Background

Why and when the law and regulations were made

In December 2022, the Commerce Commission published the final report of its residential building supplies market study, concluding that competition for the supply and acquisition of key building products was not working as well as it could.

To address this (and other drivers), the Government introduced reforms aimed at boosting competition, strengthening supply chain resilience, and improving access to affordable housing. These changes are designed to make it easier and more cost-effective to use high-quality overseas building products in Aotearoa New Zealand.

On 7 April 2025 the *Building (Overseas Building Products, Standards, and Certification Schemes) Amendment Act 2025* (the Amendment Act) commenced.

On 4 August 2025, the *Building (Product Certification) Amendment Regulations 2025* were made. The regulations specify the criteria that the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) must be satisfied are met before recognising products certified overseas.

On 31 July 2025, the first version of the Building Product Specifications was published.

On 1 October 2025, the first recognitions for Endorsed Standards and Approved Products Certified Overseas commenced.

The Building Code

In Aotearoa New Zealand, all building work must comply with the Building Code, which is performance-based in that it sets the minimum standards that building work must perform to, but not how to meet them. Products and materials used in building work contribute to compliance with the Building Code. Compliance with Building Code compliance can be demonstrated through different means, including:

- acceptable solutions: these are specific construction methods, some for simple residential buildings, that when followed are deemed to comply with the Building Code
- verification methods: these are methods of testing, calculations and measurements that when followed are deemed to comply with the Building Code
- CodeMark product certification: building products or methods that are CodeMark certified are deemed to comply with the Building Code
- MultiProof (national multiple-use approval): a statement by MBIE that a set of plans and specifications for a building complies with the Building Code.

Three new pathways

The Amendment Act introduced three new pathways that provide additional compliance pathways for overseas building products. These pathways are:

- Endorsed Standards
- Building Product Specifications
- Approved Products Certified Overseas.

The three pathways target each level of the building product assurance system to remove barriers, improve competition and access to overseas products and to streamline achieving Building Code compliance. Figure 1 below demonstrates where each pathway fits in the building regulatory framework:

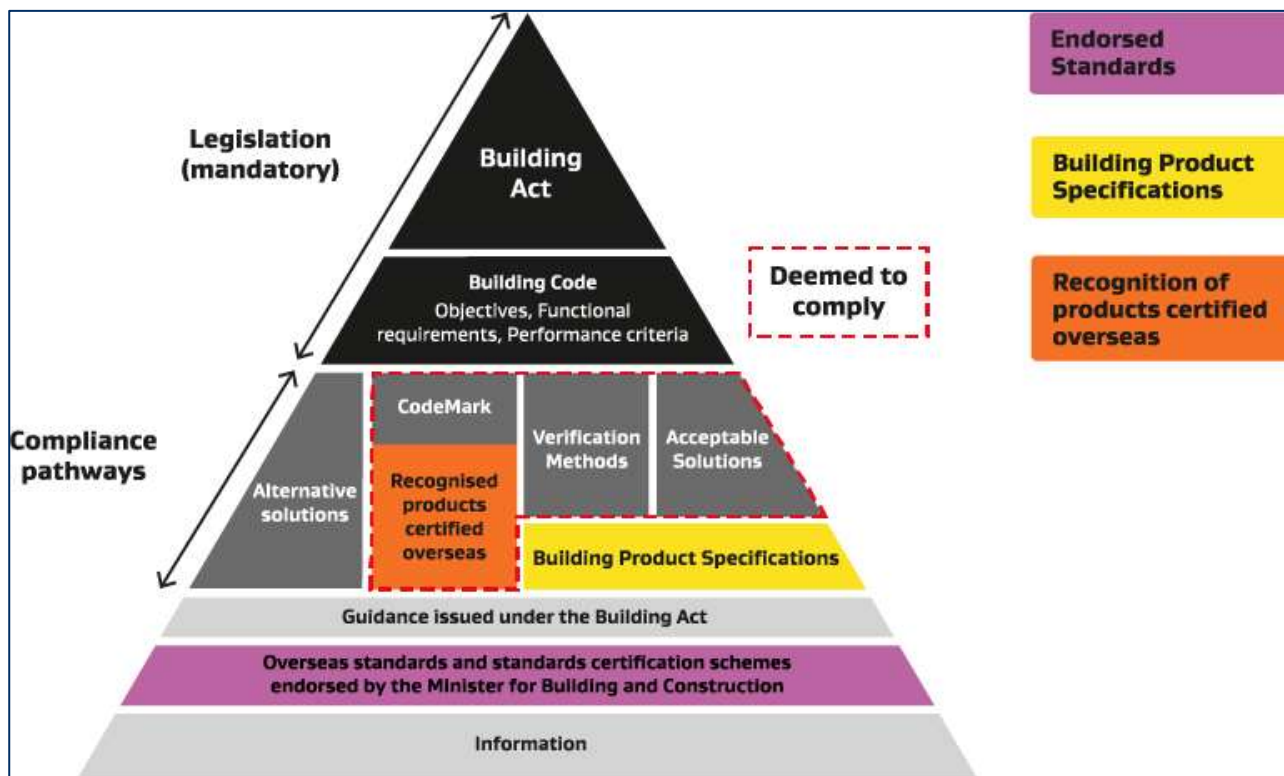


Figure 1: Where the three new pathways fit in the building regulatory framework

The following section explains the three pathways in more detail.

Endorsed Standards

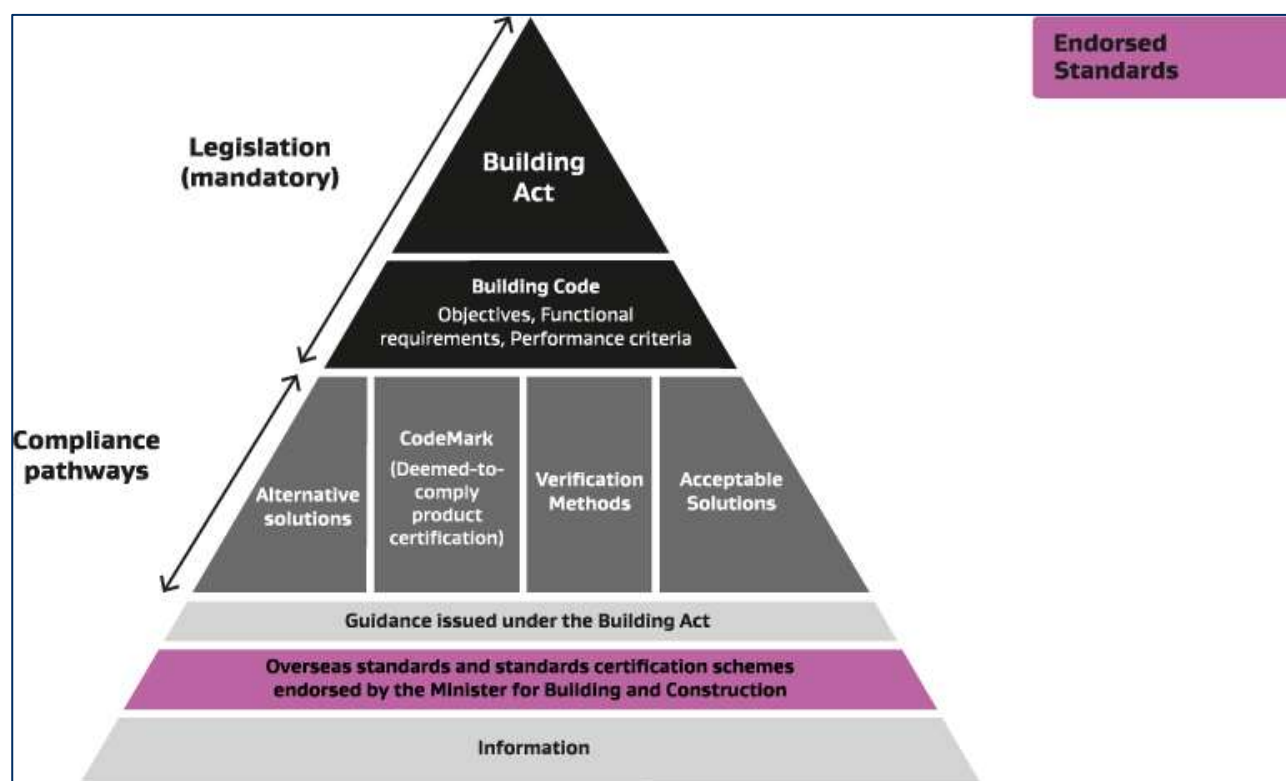


Figure 2: where Endorsed Standards fits in the building regulatory framework

This pathway provides that the Minister for Building and Construction may recognise, in whole or in part, either:

- standards or groups of standards issued by an overseas standards organisation
- standards certification schemes developed, maintained or operated by a standards certification organisation.

NOTE:

MBIE's role is to evaluate overseas organisations against the criteria set in regulations and provide advice to the Minister for Building and Construction, who is the decision maker.

Recognised groups of standards from trusted overseas standards organisations and standards certification schemes can be used as supporting evidence of compliance with the New Zealand Building Code. This facilitates the specification of many overseas building products in building designs by utilising the certification the product has already received overseas.

Recognitions by the Minister may be considered by building consent authorities when determining compliance with the Building Code. Recognised overseas standards will simplify the building consent process by:

- providing guidance to designers, builders, building owners and building consent authorities about what standards from overseas standards organisations could be considered for a specification of building products that will comply with the Building Code

- making it easier for any building product that has met an appropriate standard from a recognised jurisdiction to be specified and used in a building design in New Zealand.

Recognised groups of standards issued by overseas standard organisations, and standard certification schemes issued by a standards certification organisation recognised by the Minister, **do not** provide a deemed-to-comply pathway. Building consent authorities will still need to assess proposed building work to ensure products are being used for their stated purpose and that the building work will comply with the Building Code.

The Minister may recognise the standards or schemes only if the Minister is satisfied that they meet criteria set out in regulations. MBIE will conduct evaluations against the criteria and provide recommendations to the Minister.

Information on the regulations and how MBIE conducts the evaluation process are detailed in **Section 5: How overseas products and standards are recognised**

What the law says:

Section 272HB: Recognition of overseas standards and domestic and international standards certification schemes

- (1) The Minister may, by notice, recognise, in whole or in part, any
 - (a) groups of standards issued by an overseas standards organisation; or
 - (b) standards certification schemes that a standards certification organisation that is based in New Zealand or overseas administers or operates under.
- (2) Subsection (1)(a) applies only if the Minister is satisfied that
 - (a) the groups of standards or the part concerned meet any criteria prescribed for the purposes of this paragraph; and
 - (b) the overseas standards organisation meets any criteria prescribed for the purposes of this paragraph.
- (3) Subsection (1)(b) applies only if the Minister is satisfied that
 - (a) the standards certification schemes or the part concerned meet any criteria prescribed for the purposes of this paragraph; and
 - (b) the standards certification organisation meets any criteria prescribed for the purposes of this paragraph.
- (4) The Minister may at any time, by notice, amend or revoke a notice of recognition made under subsection (1).

Building Product Specifications

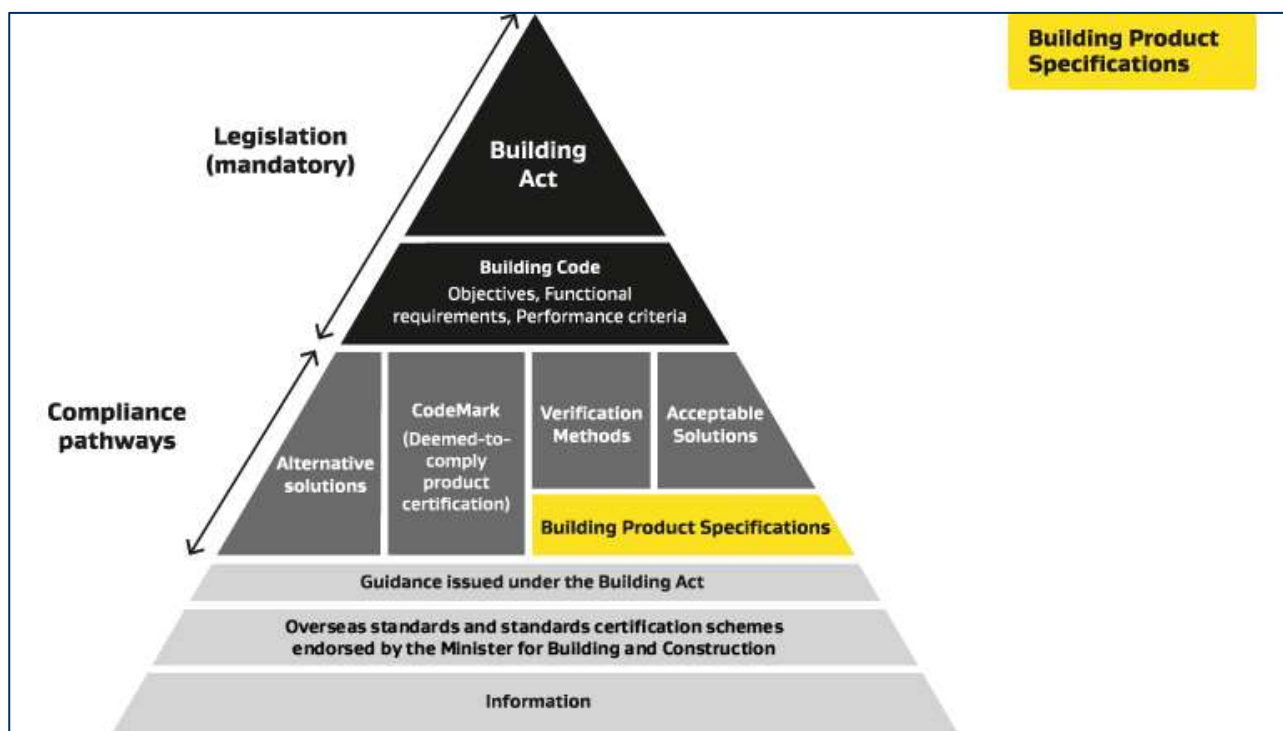


Figure 3: where the Building Product Specifications fits in the building regulatory framework

The [Building Product Specifications \(BPS\)](#) is a new regulatory instrument that contains specifications for building products in relation to their manufacture, fabrication, testing, quality control, physical properties, performance, installation, and/or maintenance.

The Building Product Specifications can be used with an acceptable solution or verification method to show compliance with the Building Code. It cannot be used in isolation to demonstrate compliance with any requirements of the Building Code. Acceptable solutions and verification methods may cite the Building Product Specifications to include relevant product specification information. Where this occurs, the Building Product Specifications forms part of the acceptable solution or verification method.

Acceptable solutions and verification methods outline how the product is used in building work. Products specified must be used within the scope and limitations of the relevant acceptable solution or verification method. As long as a product complies with a standard cited in the Building Product Specifications for its specific purpose and is used in building work which complies with an acceptable solution or verification method, the work must be accepted by building consent authorities as complying with the Building Code.

The introduction of the Building Product Specifications will reduce the time and resources needed to incorporate standards that can be used with acceptable solutions and verification methods to comply with the Building Code. It is also intended to support building consenting processes and increased consumer choice for building products.

The Building Product Specifications is a living document and will incorporate new or updated standards when they are identified as providing an equivalent or better level of performance.

The first edition of the was published on 31 July 2025.

[Building Product Specifications - First edition](#)



The Building Product Specifications is a regulatory instrument, and the standards and specifications cited within this document do not go through a recognition process like Endorsed Standards and Approved Products Certified Overseas. For more information, see: [Overseas products and standards | Building Performance](#)

Approved Products Certified Overseas



Figure 4: where Approved Products Certified Overseas fits in the building regulatory framework

This pathway provides that MBIE may recognise one or more, or one or more groups of, building products or building methods certified under an overseas product certification scheme.

NOTE:

MBIE's role is to evaluate overseas products against the criteria set in regulations and provide advice to the Chief Executive, who is the decision maker.

Product certification is the process of certifying that a certain product has passed performance tests and quality assurance tests, and meets qualification criteria stipulated in contracts, regulations, or specifications (eg scheme rules or requirements). The result of product certification is typically a product certificate (or its equivalent), which verifies that the product meets specific criteria and requirements. This certificate includes details about the product, the issuing certification body, and any applicable limitations or conditions.

MBIE will evaluate which overseas certified building products and methods meet the criteria set out in the Regulations. Recognised products and methods will be deemed compliant with the New Zealand Building

Code and must be accepted by building consent authorities, provided they are used as intended and have the necessary supporting technical information.

The Chief Executive may do so only if they are satisfied that those products or methods meet criteria set out in regulations. MBIE will conduct evaluations against the criteria and provide recommendations to the Chief Executive.

Information on the regulations and how MBIE conducts the evaluation process are detailed in **Section 5: How overseas products and standards are recognised**

Recognition notices, which are secondary legislation, are notified in the NZ Gazette and published on www.building.govt.nz. These notices specify the applicable New Zealand Building Code clauses and any conditions or limitations of the recognition.

Recognising building products or methods certified overseas will simplify the consenting process by:

- demonstrating that an overseas building product or method meets Building Code requirements
- offering more choices of Building Code compliant products or methods for designers, specifiers, and consumers
- providing opportunities for overseas manufacturers and suppliers to import products to New Zealand, as recognised products will have greater market acceptance
- ensuring consistency and certainty during the consenting process, as recognised products must be accepted by all building consent authorities.

Regardless of the use of recognised overseas certified products, compliance with the Building Code and the Building Act remains mandatory. Designers and specifiers must ensure that recognised products are used as intended, according to the scope of the product certificate and any conditions or limitations specified in the recognition notice.

What the law says:

Section 272HA: Recognition of building products or building methods certified under overseas product certification schemes

- (1) The chief executive may, by notice, recognise 1 or more, or 1 or more groups of, building products or building methods that are certified under an overseas product certification scheme.
- (2) Subsection (1) applies only if the chief executive is satisfied that
 - (a) the building products or building methods meet any criteria prescribed for the purposes of this paragraph; and
 - (b) the overseas product certification scheme meets any criteria prescribed for the purposes of this paragraph.
- (3) A person who uses building products or building methods that are (or are in a group that is) recognised under subsection (1) must, for the purposes of this Act, be treated as having complied with all provisions of the building code that are relevant to the intended use.
- (4) Subsection (3) applies only to the extent that the person complies with any limitations or conditions of the recognition that are set out in the notice.
- (5) A notice under subsection (1) is secondary legislation (see Part 3 of the Legislation Act 2019 for publication requirements).

Section 19 of the Building Act – establishing compliance with the New Zealand Building Code

For recognised overseas certified products and methods, section 19 of the Building Act specifies that a building consent authority **must accept** a recognition notice as evidence of compliance with the Building Code, if every relevant limitation and condition of the recognition is complied with. This puts a recognition notice at the same level of compliance as (among other forms of evidence) a CodeMark product certificate, a MultiProof approval, a determination, and a BuiltReady manufacturer's certificate.

For recognised groups of overseas standards and standards certification schemes, a building consent authority **may have regard to** a recognition by the Minister for Building and Construction. This means a building consent authority can consider a recognition notice as one of several factors when processing a building consent application. However, they must still ensure that the proposed building work complies with the Building Act and the Building Code, is safe, and considers the broader implications for the built environment and the public.

The key differences between the two types of recognition notice are detailed below:

Approved Products recognition notice	Endorsed Standards recognition notice
• Issued under section 272HA of the Building Act by the Chief Executive of MBIE for products and methods certified overseas. • Building consent authorities must accept notice as evidence of Building Code compliance. • Recognition criteria under Regulation 18 of the <i>Building (Product Certification) Regulations 2022</i>.	• Issued under section 272HB of the Building Act by the Minister for Building and Construction for groups of overseas standards or standards certification schemes. • Building consent authorities may have regard to notice as evidence of Building Code compliance. • Recognition criteria under Regulation 19 of the <i>Building (Product Certification) Regulations 2022</i>.

What the law says:

Section 19: How compliance with building code is established

(1) A building consent authority must accept any or all of the following as establishing compliance with the building code:

- (a) compliance with regulations referred to in section 20:
- (b) compliance with an acceptable solution:
- (ba) compliance with a verification method:
- (c) a determination to that effect made by the chief executive under subpart 1 of Part 3:
- (ca) a current national multiple use approval issued under section 30F, if every relevant condition in that national multiple use approval is met:
- (d) a current registered product certificate, if every relevant condition in that product certificate is met (eg a CodeMark product certificate)
- (da) in relation to the design and manufacture of a modular component that is designed and manufactured by a registered MCM, a current manufacturer's certificate issued by that registered MCM:
- (db) any recognition by the Chief Executive under section 272HA of any building products or building methods, or group of building products or building methods, that are certified under

an overseas product certification scheme (if every relevant limitation and condition of the recognition is complied with):

(e) to the extent that compliance with a requirement imposed by regulations made under the Electricity Act 1992 or the Gas Act 1992 is compliance with any particular provisions of the building code, a certificate issued under any of those regulations to the effect that any energy work complies with those **requirements**.

(2) In considering whether something complies with the building code, a building consent authority or, as the case may be, a regional authority

(a) must have regard to any relevant warning or ban in force under section 26(2); **and**

(b) may have regard to any guidance information published by the chief executive under section 175.

(c) may have regard to any recognition by the Minister under section 272HB of any

(i) groups of standards issued by an overseas standards organisation; or

(ii) standards certification schemes that a standards certification organisation that is based in New Zealand or overseas administers or operates under.



5. How overseas products and standards are recognised

This section explains how overseas products and standards are recognised as Endorsed Standards or Approved Products Certified Overseas. It provides guidance on the types of evidence that MBIE will use to evaluate overseas standards and products against the criteria set in regulations. It also provides an overview of the evaluation and recognition processes.

Endorsed Standards

The Minister for Building and Construction can recognise groups of standards issued by overseas standard organisations or standards certification schemes issued by a standards certification organisation. Recognised groups of standards from trusted overseas standards organisations and standards certification schemes can be used as supporting evidence of compliance with the New Zealand Building Code. This facilitates the specification of many overseas building products in building designs by utilising the certification the product has already received overseas.

MBIE will evaluate overseas standards organisations against the prescribed criteria for decision-making under section 19 of the Regulations. Evaluation will primarily assess whether there is sufficient evidence that a standards organisation can consistently develop and maintain standards of the required quality. It does not entail a detailed evaluation of individual standards or their design or performance characteristics.

MBIE will conduct evaluations proactively. This means that MBIE will select overseas standards organisations and standards certification schemes that, if recognised, would provide the best benefits for Aotearoa New Zealand. MBIE will also consider feedback on suitable organisations and schemes from the sector. MBIE will also utilise specialist technical advice can support decision making for recognition where required.

If you would like to provide feedback on what standards organisations or standards certification schemes might be suitable for evaluation, please email overseasproducts@mbie.govt.nz

Criteria for the recognition of groups of overseas standards and standards certification schemes

The Minister for Building and Construction can recognise groups of standards issued by overseas standard organisations or standards certification schemes operated by a standards certification organisation. To be recognised, the Minister must be satisfied that these groups of standards or standards certification schemes meet specific criteria. These decision-making criteria are set out under Regulation 19 of the *Building (Product Certification) Amendment Regulations 2025* (now incorporated into the *Building (Product Certification) Regulations 2022*). The decision-making criteria are intended to make sure overseas building products and standards are safe, reliable, and suitable for use in Aotearoa New Zealand.

For recognition notices made under section 272HB of the Building Act, the Minister for Building and Construction must be satisfied that:

Groups of standards

- the overseas standards organisation that has issued the groups of standards
 - o is a full member of the International Organization for Standardization, the International Electrotechnical Commission, or the International Telecommunication Union, or
 - o has robust and transparent processes for the development, maintenance and publication of standards, consistent with internationally recognised good standardisation practice
 - o the groups of standards are, or can be made, available for use in New Zealand.

Standard certification schemes

- the standard certification scheme is accredited to an appropriate standard and has robust processes that are regularly reviewed and monitored.

The next section details how MBIE will evaluate available evidence against these criteria.

Regulation 19 Criteria that Minister must be satisfied are met

Recognition of groups of standards issued by overseas standards organisations

(1) For the purposes of section 272HB(2)(a) of the Act, the prescribed criteria that the Minister must be satisfied the groups of standards or the part concerned meets are as follows:

- (a) the groups of standards or the part concerned is available, or can be made available, to users in New Zealand:
- (b) the groups of standards or the part concerned
 - (i) is in English; or
 - (ii) is accurately translated into, and published by the overseas standards organisation in, English.

(2) For the purposes of section 272HB(2)(b) of the Act, the prescribed criterion that the Minister must be satisfied the overseas standards organisation meets is that

- (a) the overseas standards organisation
 - (i) is the International Organization for Standardization; or
 - (ii) is the International Electrotechnical Commission; or
 - (iii) is a full member of the International Organization for Standardization of the International Electrotechnical Commission;

or

(b) the overseas standards organisation has robust and transparent processes for developing, maintaining, and publishing standards, and those processes are consistent with internationally recognised good practice relating to standards and include the following:

- (i) processes for ensuring that standards issued by the overseas standards organisation are informed by technical expertise and appropriate consultation with the industry concerned and consumers:
- (ii) processes for ensuring that any persons and organisations engaged in developing standards issued by the overseas standards organisation act impartially and independently:
- (iii) processes for ensuring that standards issued by the overseas standards organisation are reviewed, and updated as necessary, at appropriate and regular intervals.

Recognition of standards certification schemes

- (3) For the purposes of section 272HB(3)(b) of the Act, the prescribed criteria that the Minister must be satisfied the standards certification organisation meets are as follows (but only if the organisation is responsible under the standards certification scheme concerned for assessing building products against standards):
- (a) the standards certification organisation has been accredited as meeting appropriate standards by an accreditation body that is independent of the standards certification organisation:
 - (b) the standards certification organisation has robust processes for each of the following:
 - (i) assessing whether the building products meet those standards:
 - (ii) monitoring and evaluating those assessments on an ongoing basis:
 - (iii) ensuring that persons assessing the building products act impartially:
 - (iv) ensuring that persons assessing the building products act independently from manufacturers and suppliers of those building products and independently from each other:
 - (v) ensuring that any persons who manage or control the organisation carry out that role with integrity and professionalism.

Evaluation process – groups of overseas standards

Evaluation of groups of overseas standards is conducted by MBIE against three main decision-making criteria set out in the Regulations. The Regulations specify that there is sufficient evidence that the standards organisation has:

- 1 robust and transparent processes for developing, maintaining and publishing standards**
- 2 the groups of standards are available to New Zealand users**
- 3 the groups of standards are published in English or official translations are available.**

The first part of the evaluation is assessing whether there is sufficient evidence that the standards organisation has robust and transparent processes for developing, maintaining and publishing standards. This can be demonstrated in two possible ways:

- International Organization for Standardization (ISO) or the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) **or** a full member of either organisation
- or**
- the standards organisation has robust and transparent processes for developing, maintaining, and publishing standards consistent with internationally recognised good practice (if not a full member of ISO or IEC).

Standards organisations like ISO and the IEC are internationally recognised, non-governmental international federation of national standards bodies that recognise standards organisations (also known as standard development organisations or SDOs). ISO and IEC also recognise and/or adopt standards developed by standards organisations that are approved and submitted by national standards organisations. As such, both bodies represent best practice for standardisation processes.

Full members of ISO and IEC are the foremost standards organisations in their countries. To be a full member of either organisation, a standards organisation needs (among other things):

- to be independent from government control
- have the necessary technical expertise to participate in various technical committees and contribute to standard development
- commit to actively engage in the development and adoption of international standards
- have standards systems and processes in for each national standards body that are open, transparent, inclusive, impartial, effective, relevant and coherent.

As such, if an organisation is a full member of ISO or IEC, that standards organisation abides by international standardisation best practice and therefore has robust and transparent processes for developing, maintaining, and publishing standards.

Non-members of ISO or IEC

If the standards organisation is not a full member of ISO or IEC, there must be sufficient evidence available that the organisation has robust and transparent processes for developing, maintaining, and publishing standards consistent with international best practices.

In these instances, MBIE will assess whether there is sufficient evidence that an organisation's processes are robust and transparent, including:

- ensuring that standards issued are informed by technical expertise and appropriate consultation with the relevant industry and consumers
- ensuring that individuals and organisations involved in developing standards act impartially and independently
- ensuring that standards are reviewed and updated as necessary at appropriate and regular intervals.

Most smaller standards organisations follow similar robust and well-documented processes for developing standards as ISO and IEC members. Typically, this involves industry demand, specialised committees, and multi-stage approvals through a consultation process. Larger standard-setting bodies often have committees with global members, while smaller organisations tend to have primarily local members.

Accreditation or membership of an internationally recognised forum or association can also serve as evidence the standards organisation has robust and transparent processes. Many standards development organisations are accredited by larger standards organisations, indicating that they meet specific criteria for the development and maintenance of standards, the competency of personnel (eg technical committees and subcommittees), and maintaining impartiality and independence.

Examples of accreditation or membership that may be sufficient evidence that a standard organisation has robust and transparent processes:

International Accreditation Service (IAS)

The IAS provides accreditation for standards organisations, against accreditation criteria based on national, regional, and international relevant standardisation development procedures' documents and legislation. IAS accreditation assesses that a standards organisation possesses competent personnel, organisation, experience, knowledge, procedures to develop standards in accordance to specified requirements, through a well-documented and evaluated management system.

American National Standards Institute (ANSI)

ANSI accredits the procedures of standards organisations and approves their documents as American National Standards. The organisation coordinates US standards with international standards so that American products can be used worldwide. It also accredits organisations that carry out product or personnel certification in accordance with requirements defined in international standards.

For example, ANSI accredits the American Society of Sanitary Engineering (ASSE) and the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM). This means ASSE and ASTM develop standards through a consensus-based process that meets ANSI's rigorous requirements for openness, balance, and due process. ASSE is also an ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB) accredited product certification body, which allows it to certify plumbing and mechanical products to performance standards in a manner that is impartial and rigorous.

ANSI is also a full member of ISO and IEC. The Minister for Building and Construction has recognised building and construction related standards issued by ANSI: [Minister Endorsed Overseas Building Standards – ESN-10001](#)

Membership of the European Committee for Standardization (CEN)

The European Committee for Standardization (CEN) is comprised of national standardization bodies (NSBs) from 34 European countries. CEN also has affiliates and partner standardization bodies.

Membership consists of:

- National Standardization Bodies (NSBs): The core membership consists of the NSBs from the 34 countries.
- European Union Member States: All 27 EU member states are represented
- EFTA Members: Norway, Switzerland, and Iceland are also members
- Affiliates
- Partner Standardization Bodies.

CEN provides a platform for developing European Standards and technical documents through a consensus-based approach involving all stakeholders. While CEN defines the overall processes and procedures, National Standards Bodies (NSBs) implement these processes in their respective countries. CEN collaborates with credible organisations like the European Telecommunications Standards Institute, enhancing the credibility of their standards.

The second and third parts of the evaluation process is determining whether the standards issued by the standards organisation are available for New Zealand users, and those standards are published in English, or official translations into English are available.

Availability of standards for New Zealand users means the standards can be accessed and able to be purchased and downloaded by New Zealand users.

Note: There is usually a cost associated with accessing and using building-related standards. [Standards New Zealand](#) provides information on how to purchase or subscribe to standards, as well as details on free standards.

TIP:

MBIE funds some building standards, used for Building Code compliance, for free download by the building and construction sector. You can find the list of building-related sponsored standards here: [Building-related standards :: Standards New Zealand](#)

Official translations are crucial for technical documents such as standards due to their accuracy, reliability, and legal validity. They ensure that complex technical information is conveyed precisely and consistently, minimising misunderstandings and potential errors.

Most standards are published in English or two languages including English (for convenience of their international audience). The main exception is GuoBiao (GB) standards, the national standards of the People's Republic of China, issued by the Standardization Administration of China (SAC), which are not published in English and require translation. However, official translations can be requested when ordering a GB standard, which will incur additional costs for the purchaser.

Recognition decision by the Minister for Building and Construction

Following the completion of an evaluation, MBIE may request additional peer reviews or technical input if necessary. MBIE may also seek feedback from the Building Advisory Panel, as per [section 171 of the Building Act](#).

MBIE will then prepare a recommendation briefing for the Minister for Building and Construction. Final decision sits with the Minister for Building and Construction: there can only be recognition if the Minister is satisfied that the criteria set out in Regulations are met. If all criteria are met, the briefing will recommend the recognition of groups of standards issued by the relevant standards organisation(s). MBIE may also communicate the recommendation to the relevant standards organisation.

If, after the evaluation process, the Minister for Building and Construction is satisfied that the evaluated overseas standards meet all prescribed criteria, the Minister will issue a recognition notice for that group of standards. An Endorsed Standards recognition notice is not secondary legislation.

Following a decision by the Minister to recognise groups of overseas standards, the Chief Executive of MBIE is responsible for meeting obligations set out in section 272HC of the Building Act. This includes notifying the Minister's recognition of groups of standards in the New Zealand Gazette and keeping the information relating to the notice of recognition available on MBIE's website: [Endorsed Standards | Building Performance](#)

Recognition of groups of standards will be included in matters that the Chief Executive must monitor under section 169 of the Building Act. Sections 169 and 171 of the Act will provide for the monitoring and reviewing of recognised standards and standard certification schemes.

More information:

For detail on what is in a recognition notice for groups of overseas standards, see [Appendix 3](#).
For detail on how to use a recognition notice as part of a consent application, see **Section 7: How the building consent process works**

Evaluation process – standards certification schemes

A standards certification scheme is a system where products or services are assessed against specific standards to ensure they meet certain quality, safety, or performance requirements.

Standards certification schemes are often run by standards organisations. Generally, standards organisations will develop and publish standards, which are then used by certification bodies to assess and certify compliance.

Certification bodies are independent organisations that assess and certify compliance of products and methods with standards. They may be part of or affiliated with a standards organisation, or they may be independent bodies accredited to perform certification.

MBIE will conduct evaluation of standards certification schemes against two main decision-making criteria set out in Regulation 19, which specifies that a standards certification organisation:

- 1 is accredited as meeting appropriate standards by an independent accreditation body, and;**
- 2 has robust assessment, evaluation and monitoring processes for the building products it certifies, and has processes to ensure impartiality, independence, integrity and professionalism.**

The first part of the evaluation is assessing whether there is sufficient evidence that the standards certification organisation is accredited to a suitable standard by an accreditation body that is independent of that organisation. This is because accreditation provides an independent evaluation against a recognised standard, verifying that the certification scheme operates in a competent, consistent, and impartial manner.

MBIE will not only look at the standard or standards the certification body has been accredited to but will also consider evidence relating to the independence and standing of the accreditation body itself. For example, *ISO/IEC 17011 Conformity assessment — Requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies* is the international standard establishing requirements for accreditation bodies assessing and accrediting conformity assessment bodies (see blue guidance box below)

Suitable standards can include conformity assessment standards and/or testing standards. Accreditation to ISO/IEC 17000 conformity assessment standards represent best practice and are trusted by organisations worldwide (also known as the [CASCO toolbox](#)¹). The blue guidance box below provides some examples of ISO/IEC standards that may be considered as suitable when evaluating the accreditation of standards certification schemes.

¹ [CASCO Toolbox: https://casco.iso.org/toolbox.html](https://casco.iso.org/toolbox.html)

Examples of suitable ISO/IEC 17000 standards:

ISO/IEC 17011 Conformity assessment — Requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies

Most accreditation bodies are required to meet the requirements of *ISO/IEC 17011* in order to maintain signatory status of various regional and international mutual recognition arrangements. As the international standard establishing requirements for accreditation bodies assessing and accrediting conformity assessment bodies, *ISO/IEC 17011* is used as a requirements document for peer evaluations of accreditation bodies who participate in international mutual recognition arrangements. *ISO 17011* specifies requirements for the competence, consistent operation and impartiality of accreditation bodies assessing and accrediting conformity assessment bodies.

ISO/IEC 17065 Conformity Assessment Requirements for Bodies Certifying Products, Processes, and Services

ISO/IEC 17065 is an international standard that specifies the requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services. It ensures that certification bodies operate in a competent, consistent and impartial manner. *ISO/IEC 17065* contains specific requirements for a certification body to maintain public registers of certified products and have clear and robust process for suspending or revoking certifications.

ISO/IEC 17020 Conformity assessment - Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection

ISO/IEC 17020 outlines the requirements for inspection bodies to demonstrate their competence, impartiality, and consistency in conducting inspections. It specifies the criteria for inspection bodies to operate effectively and reliably, covering aspects like organisational structure, management systems, personnel competence, inspection processes, and quality assurance practices. The *ISO/IEC 17020* standard also covers factors such as impartiality, consistency, and the technical competence of these bodies.

ISO/IEC 17025 General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories

ISO/IEC 17025 is the main standard used by testing and calibration laboratories. In most countries, *ISO/IEC 17025* is the standard for which most labs must hold accreditation in order to be deemed technically competent. *ISO 17025* accreditation proves a laboratory has an acceptable quality management system in place, and it has the ability and technical competence to test and produce technically valid results.

ISO/IEC 17067 and 17029 Conformity assessment

ISO/IEC 17067 - Conformity Assessment — Fundamentals of Product Certification and Guidelines for Product Certification Schemes, outlines best practices for certification schemes. All *ISO/IEC 17067* accredited certification schemes require an initial determination of product characteristics and the issuing of a license that attests to product conformity

ISO/IEC 17029 - Conformity assessment — General principles and requirements for validation and verification bodies is a standard that specifies the general requirements for validation and verification bodies. It provides a framework for these bodies to operate impartially, competently, and consistently.

Product testing and inspection

Some certification schemes may include initial testing or inspection and assessment of its suppliers' quality management systems, followed by surveillance and/or testing or inspection of samples from the production and the open market.

When the product to be certified is received at the testing laboratory, it should be tested in accordance with the laboratory's internal procedures and with the methods listed in the test standards specified by the certification scheme. MBIE may therefore consider (where available) the certification scheme rules or requirements for testing to ensure there is a minimum expectation for product testing and if there are specified standards the product is being tested against.

Product testing and ISO/IEC standards:

Accreditation to certain standard may be suitable evidence that a certification scheme has good processes for product testing and/or inspection.

For example, ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO/IEC 17020 can both be used as technical specifications for the provision of inspection, testing, and calibration results to be used as part of the evaluation of the product, process or service.

ISO/IEC 17065 also specifies that when conducting product testing, a certification body must meet the applicable requirements of ISO/IEC 17025.

Aside from ISO/IEC standards that specify requirements for conformity assessment, inspection and testing, a standards certification scheme may be accredited to other standards. MBIE would evaluate these on a case-by-case basis to determine if they are suitable.

The second part of the evaluation process is determining whether there is sufficient evidence that the standards certification organisation has robust processes for:

- assessing whether the building products meet those standards
- monitoring and evaluating those assessments on an ongoing basis
- ensuring that persons assessing the building products act impartially
- ensuring that persons assessing the building products act independently from manufacturers and suppliers of those building products and independently from each other
- ensuring that any persons who manage or control the organisation carry out that role with integrity and professionalism.

Note: for this part of the evaluation, MBIE will assess evidence that the scheme has robust processes, not the standards themselves or the certified products.

In most cases, these criteria can be fulfilled via accreditation to a suitable standard as described above. This is because accreditation to a suitable standard will involve the examination of the scheme (including its certification body(s)) policies, procedures, and systems for impartiality, conflict of interest management, and competence of staff.

While accreditation provides a strong guarantee of these aspects, MBIE may also consider other evidence, including information available regarding of the reputation and policies of the scheme, its accreditation body and its certification bodies.

Recognition decision by the Minister for Building and Construction

Following the completion of an evaluation, MBIE may request additional peer reviews or technical input if necessary. MBIE may also seek feedback from the Building Advisory Panel.

MBIE will then prepare a recommendation briefing for the Minister for Building and Construction. If all criteria are met, the briefing will recommend the recognition of the standards certification scheme. Final decision sits with the Minister for Building and Construction: there can only be a recognition if the Minister is satisfied that the criteria set out in Regulations are met. MBIE may also communicate the recommendation to the relevant standards certification organisation.

If, after the evaluation process, the Minister for Building and Construction is satisfied that a standards certification scheme meets all prescribed criteria, the Minister will issue a recognition notice for that scheme. An Endorsed Standards recognition notice is **not** a deemed-to-comply pathway.

Following a decision by the Minister to recognise a standards certification scheme, the Chief Executive of MBIE is responsible for meeting obligations set out in section 272HC of the Building Act. This includes notifying the Minister's recognition in the New Zealand Gazette and keeping the information relating to the notice of recognition available on MBIE's website.

Recognition of standards certification schemes is included in matters that the Chief Executive must monitor under section 169 of the Building Act. Sections 169 and 171 of the Act will provide for the monitoring and reviewing of recognised standard certification schemes.

Approved Products Certified Overseas

The Chief Executive of MBIE can recognise building products or methods certified by overseas product certification schemes. MBIE will evaluate which overseas certified building products and methods meet the criteria set out in the Regulations. Recognised products and methods will be deemed compliant with the New Zealand Building Code and must be accepted by building consent authorities, provided they are used as intended and have the necessary supporting technical information.

Before providing advice to the Chief Executive, MBIE will evaluate overseas certified products and methods against the prescribed criteria for decision-making under section 18 of the Regulations.

For the evaluation of overseas certified products, MBIE will utilise specialist technical advice. Technical experts will be selected according to their area of expertise (eg in the category of products being considered for evaluation, knowledge of the relevant regulatory system), as well as their knowledge of the New Zealand building regulatory system and product certification schemes.

NOTE:

MBIE is developing an online application process for manufacturers and suppliers of overseas certified products and methods. This application process will be launched in 2026. Overseas certified products will be prioritised according to the benefit their recognition would provide for Aotearoa New Zealand. The likelihood and consequence of product failure will also be considered. Further information and guidance on the types of information that MBIE will require from applicants will be published in early 2026.

For queries on this process, please email: overseasproducts@mbie.govt.nz

Criteria for the recognition of overseas certified products and methods

Regulation 18 of the *Building (Product Certification) Amendment Regulations 2025* (now incorporated into the Building (Product Certification) Regulations 2022) specify the decision-making criteria that the Chief Executive of MBIE must be satisfied are met before recognising any overseas certified products or methods. The decision-making criteria are intended to make sure overseas building products and standards are safe, reliable, and suitable for use in Aotearoa New Zealand.

For recognition notices made under section 272HA of the Building Act, the Chief Executive of MBIE must be satisfied that:

- the product certification scheme is accredited to an appropriate standard and has robust processes for development, evaluating and monitoring the products it certifies, and has processes for maintaining impartiality, independence and professionalism; and
- the certified product or method has not been subject to warnings or bans (in New Zealand or elsewhere); and
- there is sufficient information available for New Zealand users to use the product as intended; and
- there is sufficient information available that the product would comply with the Building Code.

The next section details how MBIE will evaluate available evidence against these criteria.

Regulation 18 Criteria that the chief executive must be satisfied are met

Recognition of building products or building methods certified under an overseas product certification scheme

Criteria that the Chief Executive must be satisfied are met:

- (1) For the purposes of section 272HA(2)(a) of the Act, the prescribed criteria that the chief executive must be satisfied the building products or building methods meet are as follows:
 - (a) the products or methods are certified under the overseas product certification scheme by a person other than a person whose accreditation as a product certification body is suspended or revoked under section 264 of the Act;
 - (b) the products or methods are supported by a certificate that
 - (i) is issued under the overseas product certification scheme and has not expired or been withdrawn; and
 - (ii) is equivalent to a product certificate; and
 - (iii) is available for persons using the products or methods in New Zealand (New Zealand users); and
 - (iv) is in English or accurately translated into, and available for New Zealand users, in English;
 - (c) the products or methods are supported by any other information (if necessary in addition to the certificate referred to in paragraph (b)) that is sufficient to enable New Zealand users to understand how to use them and how they will perform for the purposes of the intended use;
 - (d) there is sufficient evidence to establish that the products or methods would comply with the building code if
 - (i) the chief executive were to recognise the products or methods under section 272HA(1) of the Act; and
 - (ii) a person using the products or methods were to comply with every relevant limitation or condition that the chief executive proposes to impose on the recognition; and
 - (iii) the person were to use the products or methods for an intended use identified in a certificate referred to in paragraph (b) (or in other information available to the chief executive) and specified in a limitation or condition that the chief executive proposes to impose on the recognition (other than any use that is excluded by any such limitation or condition);

- (e) no warning about or ban on any of the products or methods is in force under section 26 of the Act;
 - (f) no equivalent outside New Zealand to a warning or ban under section 26 of the Act applies to any of the products or methods.
- (2) For the purposes of section 272HA(2)(b) of the Act, the prescribed criterion that the chief executive must be satisfied the overseas product certification scheme meets is that, under the scheme, any organisation that is responsible for certifying the building products or building methods concerned has the relevant features.
- (3) The relevant features are that the organisation
- (a) has been accredited as meeting appropriate standards by an accreditation body that is independent of that organisation; and
 - (b) has robust processes for each of the following:
 - (i) evaluating and certifying the building products or building methods;
 - (ii) monitoring and evaluating those certifications on an ongoing basis;
 - (iii) ensuring that certifiers of the building products or building methods act impartially in certifying those products or methods;
 - (iv) ensuring that certifiers of building products act independently from manufacturers and suppliers of those products and independently from each other;
 - (v) ensuring that persons who manage or control the organisation carry out that role with integrity and professionalism.

Evaluation process – overseas certified building products and methods

Product certification is the process of certifying that a certain product has passed performance tests and quality assurance tests, and meets qualification criteria stipulated in contracts, regulations, or specifications (eg scheme rules or requirements). The certification process for a product can generally be outlined in four key steps:

1. **application** – including testing of the product
2. **evaluation** – evaluates that the test data indicate that the product meets qualification criteria
3. **decision** – including a second review/peer review of the product application concurs with the evaluation
4. **surveillance** – to ensure the product in the marketplace continues to meet qualification criteria.

The result of product certification is typically a product certificate (or its equivalent), which verifies that the product meets specific criteria and requirements. This certificate includes details about the product, the issuing certification body, and any applicable limitations or conditions. The diagram below shows the usual structure for a product certification scheme:



Figure 5: Product certification scheme framework

MBIE will conduct evaluations of both the product certification scheme itself, then of some or all of its certified products. How many products or methods MBIE may evaluate in a certification scheme may depend on if the evaluation is conducted proactively by MBIE or is triggered by an application from the certified product's manufacturer or supplier.

Part A of evaluation: product certification scheme criteria

Regulation 18 specifies that there needs to be sufficient evidence that, under a specific product certification scheme, any organisation that is responsible for certifying the building products or methods concerned:

- 1** is accredited as meeting appropriate standards by an independent accreditation body; and
- 2** has not had its accreditation as a product certification body suspended or revoked under section 264 of the Building Act (the CodeMark scheme); and
- 3** has robust assessment, certification, evaluation and monitoring processes for the building products it certifies, and has processes to ensure impartiality, independence, integrity and professionalism.

The first part of the evaluation is assessing whether there is sufficient evidence that any organisation responsible for certifying the building products or methods (ie a certification body) is accredited to a suitable standard by an independent accreditation. This is because accreditation provides an independent evaluation against a recognised standard, verifying that the certifying body operates in a competent, consistent, and impartial manner.

Suitable standards can include conformity assessment standards and/or testing standards. Accreditation to ISO/IEC conformity assessment standards represent best practice and are trusted by organisations worldwide. This includes standards the accreditation body itself has been accredited to (eg ISO/IEC 7011, which specifies requirements for the competence, consistent operation and impartiality of accreditation bodies assessing and accrediting certification bodies.) Examples of suitable standards and their applicability to Regulation 18 are detailed on **Pages 20-22** of this guidance document.

Aside from ISO/IEC standards that specify requirements for conformity assessment, inspection and testing, a product certification scheme may be accredited to other standards. MBIE would evaluate these on a case-by-case basis to determine if they are suitable.

The requirement that a product certification body in the scheme must not have had its accreditation excluded, suspended or revoked from the CodeMark product certification scheme ensures this pathway will not provide an alternate route for products that do not meet New Zealand's standards.

TIP:

Information on any product certification bodies that have had their accreditation to the CodeMark New Zealand scheme either excluded, suspended or revoked can be found on MBIE's Building Performance website: [Building Performance](#)

The second part of the evaluation process is determining whether there is sufficient evidence that any organisation that is responsible for certifying building products or methods in a scheme has robust processes for:

- evaluating and certifying the building products or building methods
- monitoring and evaluating those certifications on an ongoing basis
- ensuring that persons assessing the building products act impartially
- ensuring that certifiers of the building products act impartially in certifying those building products or methods
- ensuring that certifiers of building products act independently from manufacturers and suppliers of those products and independently from each other
- ensuring that persons who manage or control the organisation carry out that role with integrity and professionalism.

Note: for this part of the evaluation, MBIE will assess evidence that the certifying organisations in the scheme have robust processes, not the products themselves.

In most cases, these criteria can be fulfilled via accreditation to a suitable standard as described above. This is because accreditation to a suitable standard will involve the examination of the scheme (including its certification body(s)) policies, procedures, and systems for impartiality, conflict of interest management, and competence of staff.

While accreditation provides a strong guarantee of these aspects, MBIE may also consider other evidence, including information available regarding the reputation and policies of the scheme (for example scheme rules or requirements), its accreditation body and its certification bodies.

Part B of evaluation: certified building products and methods criteria

Regulation 18 specifies that there needs to be sufficient evidence that:

- 1 product certificates are current and any associated information for the product(s) or method(s) are accessible and contain enough technical detail so New Zealand users can understand how the product or method will perform in relation to its intended use**
- 2 there is no warning or ban in place for the certified product or method**
- 3 the product or method would comply with the Building Code when used as intended (including any conditions or limitations of recognition).**

Availability of product certificates and associated information

A product certificate or equivalent certificate as formal evidence that the product meets the specific standards, regulations, and performance criteria set by the certification scheme. Product certificates typically include details such as the manufacturer, product scope, limitations of use, and conditions of certification, which are essential for auditing, product recalls, or compliance checks.

Product certificates should be available either on product certification scheme website, the product certification body's website or upon request from the product certification body.

MBIE will assess whether there is sufficient information either on the product certificate or supporting information that allows users in New Zealand to understand how that building product or method should be used, including how that product will perform for the purposes of the intended use.

In the context of building product certificates, 'intended use' specifies the particular purpose or function for which the product or method is designed and approved for use in a building. This ensures that the product is applied in a manner consistent with its testing.

A product certificate or supporting information should specify, where required, if there are any conditions or limitations on the use of the product. The intended use description should detail the scope of applications for which the product is suitable and any restrictions on its usage. Additionally, a product certificate may outline specific design considerations, installation requirements, or maintenance procedures necessary for the product to function as intended. For some products or methods, the certificate may mandate that installation be performed only by a trained or approved installer.

Conditions or limitations of use information may include:

- details of any conditions or limitations of conformity for each performance requirement, where performance requirements are specified for a product or method
- information on where a product or method must be used as part of a system
- specific requirements relating to installation
- any known or demonstrated circumstances where the product or method should not be used.

NOTE:

For certificates issued in languages other than English, an official translation must be provided. Official translations are crucial for technical documents like standards due to their accuracy, reliability, and legal validity. They ensure that complex technical information is conveyed precisely and consistently, minimising misunderstandings and potential errors.

Supporting technical literature and installation information

Aside from the product certificate, MBIE will also evaluate if there is sufficient supporting information available that allows New Zealand users of that product or method to be able to use and install that product or method correctly. This information could be linked on the product certificate, available on the certificate holder or supplier's website, or be made available by request. Such information could include:

- installation instructions or requirements (this is particularly important if a qualified or accredited installer is required for the product or method)
- relevant documentation relied on for certification, or used to prove compliance (eg relevant test protocols, standards etc)
- health and safety and/or maintenance requirements.

Warnings and bans

Overseas certified products or methods that have been subject to enforcement actions or bans in New Zealand or in other countries could indicate a current increased risk of failure for that product.

Example: Warnings and bans in New Zealand

The [Building Performance website](#) lists all current warnings and bans issued under the Building Act.

The *Building (Building Product Information Requirements) Regulations 2022* specify that the supplier of an overseas product must disclose if the building product is subject to a warning or ban under section 26 of the Building Act and provide a description of the warning or ban.

Sufficient evidence that the product or method would comply with the Building Code

As overseas certified building products or methods recognised under this pathway will be deemed to comply with the Building Code, MBIE needs to evaluate whether there is sufficient evidence available to determine whether and how the product or method would comply with the New Zealand Building Code.

There are four main steps that MBIE and its technical experts will take to evaluate whether an overseas certified product or method would comply or contribute to compliance with the Building Code:

- 1** identification of the relevant Code Clauses that would apply to the product or method in the New Zealand context, and any limitations or exclusions that may apply. The clauses a product or method needs to comply with will depend on the product itself and its intended use.
- 2** evaluation of the available evidence that could provide details on how the product or method would comply with the Building Code.
- 3** consideration of any additional information that is relevant to the New Zealand context, for example, specific product testing, history of use in New Zealand, or comparable building regulatory environments.
- 4** identification of any conditions or limitations need to be applied to recognition. For example, if there are specific requirements for use based on the New Zealand context.

NOTE:

For the evaluative work to identify relevant Building Code clauses and whether there is sufficient evidence that the product meets the performance requirements, MBIE will utilise technical expertise to ensure the evaluation process is robust and the products are suitable for use in New Zealand.

Identification of relevant Building Code clauses

Information that would be useful for MBIE to identify any relevant Building Code clauses for that product and then evaluate whether that product meets or exceed those requirements could come from a variety of sources. These include (but are not limited to):

- product certificates. For example, if a product certificate specifies what standard or specification that product has been certified against is a standard or specification cited in current acceptable solutions, verification methods or the [Building Product Specifications](#)
- product technical specifications or appraisals
- a determination issued by the Chief Executive of MBIE that establishes a product's compliance with the Building Code.

- information published under the *Building (Building Product Information Requirements) Regulations 2022* may also provide a starting point for determining what Building Code clauses may apply to that product.

TIP:

MBIE will look to assess the product certificate (or equivalent) as the first port of call when determining what New Zealand Building Code clauses may apply to that product. This is because the product certificate is the outcome of the certification process and will contain key information relating to the certification scheme's assessment of that product, including the product's intended use, performance, compliance with relevant building codes or regulations, design considerations, installation requirements etc.

The Building Code is organised around key thematic areas such as external walls, the thermal envelope, building elements, walls and roofs, and entire buildings. Individual products typically constitute only a portion of these broader subjects. Therefore, it is essential to evaluate the role each product plays in contributing to these subjects and the extent to which it supports compliance with the relevant clauses of the Building Code. The applicable Building Code clauses for a product or method will depend on its intended use, such as its location within a building, the type of building it will be used in, or the building's location.

Example: a cladding system and the Building Code clauses that may apply

A cladding system must comply with several New Zealand Building Code clauses, including:

- E2 – External Moisture: Ensuring the cladding prevents water ingress.
- B1 – Structure: Primarily its ability to withstand wind loads acting on the cladding. If used as bracing, it must also withstand seismic loads and overall building wind loads.
- B2 – Durability: The cladding must have a durability of at least 50 years if it contributes to bracing.

Additionally, the cladding system may need to meet requirements related to the spread of fire (clause C), depending on the building's proximity to boundaries and its height. The specific performance requirements for compliance with clauses B1, B2, E2, and C will vary based on factors such as building height, wind and seismic zones, environmental zones (e.g., coastal or volcanic areas), the building's importance level, and the fire risk group.

It is also important to note that while a cladding product must meet performance requirements under clause E2 – External Moisture, determining which of the seven performance sub-clauses within clause E2 applies depends heavily on the scope of use. For instance, considerations include whether the cladding forms part of a cavity and if it comes into contact with the ground.

Technical evaluation of compliance with the Building Code

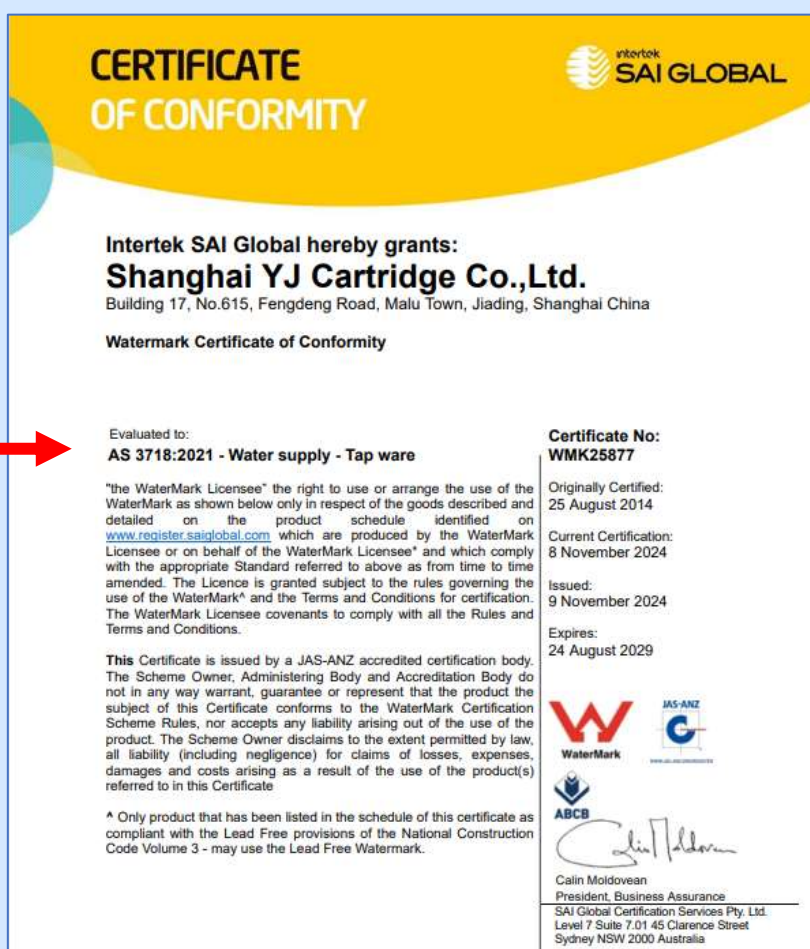
Once the relevant Building Code clauses that apply to the building product or method have been identified, MBIE and its technical experts will evaluate the available evidence to ascertain how the product or method may comply with the identified clauses.

For example, in the WaterMark scheme for Australian plumbing and drainage products, products are certified usually against a product, testing standard, or a WaterMark Technical Specification (WMTS). Evaluation of these products would consider whether and how that standard or specification is equivalent to, or better, than New Zealand performance requirements for the identified Code clauses.

Example: evidence of compliance using a WaterMark product certificate

The WaterMark scheme is a certification scheme is administered by the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) on behalf of the Australian Federal Government. It is a mandatory certification scheme for certain plumbing and drainage products to ensure they are fit for purpose and appropriately authorised for use. The scheme covers 200,000 plumbing and drainage products.

In this example for a WaterMark product certificate for tapware, the product certificate will specify the applicable standard specification the product has been certified against. In this example, the relevant standard is AS 3718 – Water supply-tap ware:



In New Zealand, tapware must comply with Building Code Clause G12, which covers water supplies. For this WaterMark example, the standard AS 3718 is referenced AS/NZS 3500.1, which provides the rules for installing cold water and non-drinking water services from the supply point to the discharge points. AS/NZS 3500.1 is referenced within Acceptable Solution G12/AS3. The product therefore complies with G12 of the Building Code.

In addition, the minimum warranty requirement for this product is 5 years, which meets/exceeds the required durability period specified in B2 (Durability) of the Building Code.

The recognition notice for this type of product would indicate that the product complies with clauses F2, G12 and B2:

Building Act 2004, section 272HA

Schedule 1

List of WaterMark certificates with recognised building products

Standard	Standard Title	AS/NZS 3500 series link	Building Code clause
AS 3718:2021	Water supply – Tap ware	AS/NZS 3718 ref in AS/NZS 3500.1, AS 3718 superseded AS/NZS 3718, AS/NZS 3500.4	B2, F2, G12



Conditions and limitations of recognition

The building products recognised by this notice must be installed according to the conditions and limitations specified in the product certificate for the relevant building product, as set out in Schedule 1 of this notice.

So long as the user complies with the requirements in the product certificate (if any), the standard it is certified against (if any), and the relevant technical installation information from the manufacturer, the building products listed comply under the relevant clauses listed in this table.

The certified intended uses of the building products in this table are laid out in the WaterMark Schedule of Products – Tapware, listed in clause 5 of this notice.

Certificates recognised as meeting AS 3718:2021

1.	Conformity assessment body	Certificate number	Expiry date
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Evaluation of any additional information that may be relevant or transferable to the New Zealand context

Aotearoa New Zealand has some specific climatic and environmental conditions that may need to be considered depending on the type of product or method under evaluation. MBIE may need to access and evaluate additional evidence that a product or method meets New Zealand specific requirements, which may be different to other jurisdictions. These include seismic, UV and durability requirements. Some examples or products that may require additional information are detailed in the table below:

UV requirements
Examples: • uPVC windows - these products may need specific formulations with a higher level of ‘sunscreen’ (like Titanium Dioxide) to protect against degradation. • Polymeric materials - New Zealand's climatic variables, such as UV radiation, temperature, humidity and sea spray, significantly affect the durability of polymeric materials and application of suitable UV stabilisers made be required to meet performance requirements. Sealants, coatings and external building components - Clause E2 of the Building Code addresses weathertightness, which includes protection against moisture ingress and the effects of weather. This includes managing UV exposure as it can degrade materials like sealants, coatings, and other building components. To meet New Zealand weathertightness and durability requirements, the effects of UV exposure may need to be considered for some products or methods. For uPVC durability, compliance with clause B2 can be demonstrated through the ‘Laboratory testing’ method. In lieu of the availability of specific New Zealand standards, there are international standards that define the classification and test methods for uPVC profiles used in the manufacture of windows and doors. The standards most commonly referred to are: • <i>EN 12608:2003 Unplasticised polyvinylchloride (uPVC) profiles for the fabrication of windows and doors - Classification, requirements and test methods.</i> EN 12608 sets out the requirements of uPVC profiles in order to classify the climates in which they can be used. There are a number of classifications, climate zone (Moderate or Severe), resistance to impact (Class I or II), and wall thickness of main profiles (Class A, B, C). However, Annex C describes the calculation method for the radiation dose and exposure time used for artificial weathering. • <i>EN 513:2018 Plastics - polyvinylchloride (PVC) based profiles - Determination of the resistance to artificial weathering.</i> • <i>ASTM D4726-09 Standard specification for rigid polyvinylchloride (PVC) exterior profiles used for assembled windows and doors.</i> D4726 is the American Standard Test Method for testing and measuring the weatherability of PVC profiles and is similar to a combined version of the two European standards above.²
Durability
Clause B2 of the New Zealand Building Code sets performance requirements for building elements. These are: the life of the building (but not less than 50 years) for: • structural elements like floors, walls, bracing or structural fixings • items difficult to access or replace • building elements where failure would go undetected during normal maintenance of the building.

² Window & Glass Association: Industry Standard Durability for uPVC Windows & Doors: [WG-45109.23-2025-Industry-Standard-for-the-Durability-of-uPVC-Windows-Doors-17.02.25.pdf](#)

not less than 15 years for:

- moderately difficult to replace or access building elements, including the building envelope, exposed plumbing in subfloors and inbuilt chimneys and flues
- building elements where failure would go undetected during normal use but would be detected during normal maintenance, like wall claddings, exterior doors/windows.

not less than 5 years for:

- easy to replace building elements, including services and linings and renewable protective coatings
- building elements where failure would be easily detected during normal use, like exterior gutters, surface-mounted plumbing fixtures (taps).

Identification of any conditions or limitations of recognition

Building products or methods are sometimes used in New Zealand differently from overseas, often due to our climate, seismic activity, and traditional construction methods. This means there may not be sufficient evidence available that determines how a product or method complies in ways that are commonly used in New Zealand. Because a recognised product or method is deemed to comply with the Building Code, additional conditions or limitation of recognition many need to be applied to ensure the product is recognised for use in ways that complies with the Code.

Conditions and limitations of recognition may also be specified to state that recognised products must be used according to their certified intended use. Additional conditions and limitations listed in a recognition notice may be additional requirements specific to a product certificate or certificates to ensure compliance with the Building Code.



Example: Identified conditions and limitations in a WaterMark recognition notice

Below is a WaterMark recognition notice that clearly states the general conditions and limitations of recognition for all product certificates listed in the notice. It also contains additional conditions and limitations identified by MBIE and its technical experts during evaluation:

Conditions and limitations of recognition				
The building products recognised by this notice must be installed according to the conditions and limitations specified in the product certificate for the relevant building product, as set out in Schedule 1 of this notice. So long as the user complies with the requirements in the product certificate (if any), the standard it is certified against (if any), and the relevant technical installation information from the manufacturer, the building products listed are deemed to comply under the relevant clause listed in this table. The <i>Additional conditions and limitations</i> in this schedule are additional requirements imposed by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. The certified intended use of the building products in this table are laid out in the WaterMark Schedule of Products – Devices and controllers, listed in clause 5 of this notice.				
Certificates recognised as meeting AS/NZS 3497:2021				
	Conformity assessment body	Certificate number	Expiry date	Additional conditions and limitations
1.	Pro-Switch Pty Ltd	PRO 23247	20281003	To be installed in accordance with plumbing code Australia
4.	Pro-Switch Pty Ltd	PRO 23466	20290215	4 – 4°C – Operating pressure 300 – 1600kPa
5.	Pro-Switch Pty Ltd	WM 23355	20271227	Maximum operating temperature: 40°C

Recognition decision by the Chief Executive of MBIE

Following the completion of an evaluation, MBIE may request additional peer reviews or further technical input if necessary. MBIE may also seek feedback from the Building Advisory Panel.

MBIE will prepare a recommendation memo for the Chief Executive or the person who has the delegated authority from the Chief Executive. If all criteria are met, the memo will recommend the recognition of the evaluated overseas certified products or methods. MBIE may also communicate the recommendation to the relevant product certification scheme.

If, after the evaluation process, the Chief Executive, or someone acting on their behalf, is satisfied that the overseas certified products or methods meet all prescribed criteria, they will issue a recognition notice. The recognition notice will detail the provisions of the New Zealand Building Code that the product or method complies with, as well as any conditions or limitations of the recognition.

As recognition notices are secondary legislation, they must meet specific legal and publication requirements. The *Legislation Act 2019* specifies that the making of secondary legislation must be notified in the *New Zealand Gazette*.

Recognition of overseas certified products are also included in matters that the Chief Executive must monitor under section 169 of the Building Act. Sections 169 and 171 of the Act will provide for the monitoring and reviewing of recognised overseas certified products.

What the law says:

Delegation of statutory powers and functions imposed or given to MBIE's Chief Executive is achieved pursuant to section 41 of the *State Sector Act 1988*. The MBIE framework for these statutory delegations means that the Chief Executive may sub delegate powers or functions where appropriate to named positions.

Recognition notices

MBIE publishes all recognition notices at www.building.govt.nz. Before publication, MBIE will notify the making of any recognition notice in the *New Zealand Gazette*.

Endorsed Standards

If, after the evaluation process, the Minister for Building and Construction is satisfied that groups of overseas standards and/or standards certification schemes meet all prescribed criteria, they can issue a recognition notice for that group of standards or standards certification scheme.

An Endorsed Standards recognition notice is **not** secondary legislation.

Endorsed Standards recognition notices include:

- name of number/ID of notice (eg *Building (Overseas Standards Recognition) Notice: ESN-10001*)
- what part of the Building Act the notice is published under, and what date the notice commences. For Endorsed Standards, the relevant section is 272HB of the Act.
- A list of the standards organisations that issue the groups of building and construction related standards that have been recognised.

An Endorsed Standards recognition notice can be found here: [Minister Endorsed Overseas Building Standards – ESN-10001](#)

Approved Products Certified Overseas

If, after the evaluation process, the Chief Executive of MBIE is satisfied that an overseas certified product or method meets all prescribed criteria, they can issue a recognition notice for that product or products. The recognition notice will detail the provisions of the New Zealand Building Code that the product or method complies with, as well as any conditions or limitations of the recognition.

As recognition notices are secondary legislation, they must meet specific legal and publication requirements including:

- public consultation on any material incorporated by reference into a recognition notice. Such material would include product certificates and any cited standards.
- notification of the making of secondary legislation (eg recognition notices) in the *New Zealand Gazette*
- presentation of recognition notices by the Minister for Building and Construction to the House of Representatives (Parliament). This is a requirement for secondary legislation and needs to be done

within 20 working days, according to the *Legislation Act 2019*. This allows parliamentary oversight and potential review by the Regulations Review Committee.

TIP:

Gazette notices published on www.gazette.govt.nz are different than recognition notices.

MBIE will host all recognition notices on www.building.govt.nz until 2026, where they will migrate to the Te Pae register: <https://tepae.building.govt.nz/>

Approved Products Certified Overseas recognition notices include:

- name/ID of notice (eg *Building (Product Recognition WaterMark Drinking Water Treatment Systems) Notice 2025: RN-10002*)
- what part of the Building Act the notice is published under, and what date the notice commences as secondary legislation. For Approved Products, the relevant section is 272HA of the Act.
- the certified intended use of the recognised product
- what products certified overseas are recognised. The relevant product certificates will be listed in Schedule 1 of each notice.
- the standard or specification that the product has been certified to
- the Building Code clauses that apply to the recognised product
- any conditions or limitations of recognition. If any are conditions or limitations, they will be listed in Schedule 1 of each notice.
- product certificate numbers and the name of the issuing certification body for the recognised product, including expiry dates for each listed certificate.

A sample Approved Products Certified Overseas recognition notices can be found here: [RN-10001 - Showers - Product recognition notice](#)

TIP:

Recognition notices can form part of a building consent application. For more information, see **Section 7: How the building consent process works**

6. Roles and responsibilities

MBIE

MBIE provides stewardship of the building regulatory system, including monitoring its effectiveness. As the central regulator, it manages the rules, procedures and other key functions for regulating building work.

MBIE's role in relation to overseas products and standards is:

- processing and prioritising applications for recognition of overseas products (2026 onwards)
- leading the evaluation of overseas products and standards for possible recognition (including coordination with external technical expertise where required)
- issue recognition notices for overseas products and standards that meet the criteria set in regulations
- monitor recognised products and standards on a regular basis to ensure recognition notices remain accurate and fit for purpose
amend and revoke recognition notices when required.

MBIE may seek feedback from external experts and from the Building Advisory Panel where required.

Designers, specifiers and architects

A designer, specifier or architect is responsible for ensuring that their plans and specifications comply with the Building Code. This means they must ensure that the products they specify are suitable for their intended use and meet the performance requirements of the Building Code.

When specifying either an Approved Product Certified Overseas or an Endorsed Standard, the recognition notice for that product or standard must be attached to the consent application. Specifiers must ensure that the products they specify are suitable for their intended use, meet the performance requirements of the Building Code and have been specified according to the conditions and limitations set out in the recognition notice.

Building consent authorities

A building consent authority is responsible for checking that an application for a building consent complies with the Building Code, and that the building work has been carried out in accordance with the building consent.

For Endorsed Standards, a building consent authority may consider the recognition of an overseas standard when assessing a consent application as supporting evidence of compliance. It is not a deemed-to-comply pathway.

Building consent authorities must:

- confirm the overseas standard has been issued by a standards organisation that has been recognised, by checking the recognition notices published on www.building.govt.nz
- assess the proposed product, its evidence of compliance and any other relevant supporting information and its use in the building work to ensure it complies with the Building Code. This is the same as the assessment of compliance for an alternative solution.

- ensure the product is used for its stated purpose and that the overall design meets relevant performance requirements.

For Approved Products Certified Overseas, products recognised under this pathway are deemed to comply with the Building Code if used as intended, including any conditions or limitations stated in the recognition notice.

Building consent authorities must:

- verify the validity of the recognition notice published on www.building.govt.nz and the associated product certificate.
- ensure the product is used within the scope and limitations of its recognition.
- consider the product's use in the context of the overall compliance of the building work.
- check that other Building Code requirements relevant to the product's use (ie those not covered by the recognition notice) have been appropriately assessed and evidence has been provided to support a reasonable grounds decision to be made.

A sample checklist for building consent authorities to assess recognised WaterMark certified plumbing and drainage products can be found in [Appendix 2](#).

Limited liability for building consent authorities

The Amendment Act has added liability protection for building consent authorities for anything done or omitted to be done in good faith regarding a recognition notice for an overseas certified product or method and for products that have been manufactured in accordance with a standard recognised by the Minister and is also certified as meeting that standard under a recognised standards certification scheme.

What the law says:

Section 392: Building consent authority not liable

- (1) No civil proceedings may be brought against a building consent authority for anything done or omitted to be done in good faith in reliance on any of the following documents:
 - (a) an acceptable solution or a verification method:
 - (aa) any building product specifications
 - (b) a determination made by the chief executive under subpart 1 of Part 3:
 - (c) a current registered product certificate:
 - (caa) a current manufacturer's certificate for a modular component:
 - (ca) a current national multiple use approval issued under section 30F (including, in any particular case, any minor customisations permitted by regulations made under section 402(1)(kc)):
 - (d) a code compliance certificate issued under section 95:
 - (da) a notice issued by the chief executive under 272HA:
 - (e) a certificate issued under any regulations made under the Electricity Act 1992 or the Gas Act 1992.
- (5) No civil proceedings may be brought against a building consent authority for anything done or omitted to be done in good faith in reliance on a claim made by a manufacturer, importer, retailer, or wholesaler given under Part 4B that the relevant building product has been
 - (a) manufactured in accordance with a standard, or performs or will perform in accordance with a standard, that the Minister has recognised under section 272HB; and

(b) certified as meeting the standard referred to in paragraph (a) under a standards certification scheme that the Minister has recognised under section 272HB.

Product manufacturers, suppliers, wholesalers and retailers

There are no new responsibilities for product manufacturers, suppliers and retailers. Section 14G of the Building Act still applies to any overseas certified building products and methods. This section specifies that a product importer or supplier is responsible for ensuring that the product will, if installed in accordance with the technical data, plans, specifications, and advice prescribed by the manufacturer, comply with the relevant provisions of the New Zealand Building Code.

The Building Product Information Requirements (BPIR) regulations also still apply to any recognised overseas certified product. A BPIR self-disclosure is required when a building product is made or imported into Aotearoa New Zealand. For more information on the BPIR requirements, see: [Information requirements](#) | [Building Performance](#)

What the law says:

Section 14G: Responsibilities of product manufacturer or supplier

- (1) In subsection (2), product manufacturer or supplier means a person who manufactures or supplies a building product and who states that the product will, if installed in accordance with the technical data, plans, specifications, and advice prescribed by the manufacturer, comply with the relevant provisions of the [building code](#).
- (2) A product manufacturer or supplier is responsible for ensuring that the product will, if installed in accordance with the technical data, plans, specifications, and advice prescribed by the manufacturer, comply with the relevant provisions of the [building code](#).
- (3) A person who supplies a building product is responsible for ensuring that the person complies with [Part 4B](#) (building product information requirements).

7. How the building consent process works using recognised products and standards

Endorsed Standards

Where a designer/specifier has specified a product manufactured to an overseas product standard that has been recognised as an Endorsed Standard, the product will form part of an alternative solution.

A consent application will need:

- the recognition notice for the standard that is specified. Recognition notices are published at www.building.govt.nz
- other information required for an alternative solution. This should include:
 - a definition of the specific parts of the building design or construction method that differ from acceptable solutions or verification methods.
 - identification of the specific performance requirements of the Building Code that the alternative solution must meet.
 - evidence of compliance with the identified performance requirements. A recognition notice may form part of this evidence, along with other documents (eg producer statements, appraisals, product certificates etc).

Processing a building consent

The building consent authority may refer to the list of Endorsed Standards published at www.building.govt.nz to verify whether a product standard has been recognised, and to understand any associated conditions. The proposed building work must still be assessed to ensure that the building work complies with the Building Code.

Approved Products Certified Overseas

Where a designer/specifier has specified a recognised overseas certified product, the product will form part of a deemed-to-comply pathway when used as intended and within the conditions and limitations of its recognition.

Building consent application

A building consent application will need:

- the recognition notice for the specified product or method. Recognition notices are published at www.building.govt.nz
- the product certificate for that product. Product certificates should be accessible either on the product certification scheme's website, or on the product certification body's website. Each recognition notice provides product certificate details including the responsible product certification body and the certificate number.

- for other products used in the building design, evidence to show the overall building design complies with the Building Code.

Processing a building consent

When a building consent authority receives a building consent application that contains a recognition notice and the relevant product certificate for that product, they will check that the recognition and product certificate is current, the product is specified in accordance with its intended use and scope of conditions or limitations of the recognition. Any conditions or limitations of recognition will be specified in the recognition notice.

If these checks show that the recognition notice and product certificate are both current and the product is specified according to its intended use, and within the scope of any conditions or limitations of the recognition, then the building consent authority must accept the recognised product as compliant with the Building Code.

If the product is used outside the scope of the recognition notice, it is not a deemed-to-comply pathway and the BCA will need further evidence of compliance with the Building Code.

A step-by-step guide to the consenting process for Endorsed Standards and Approved Products Certified Overseas can be found here: [Resources on the new overseas products pathways | Building Performance](#)

A sample checklist for building consent authorities can be found in [Appendix 2](#).



8. Appendices

Appendix 1: Key terms

Key term	Definition
Accreditation body	A body that formally assesses and recognises the competence and reliability of another organization, such as a certification body or a laboratory, to carry out specific tasks or functions.
Building consent authority (BCA)	Councils or private organisations who are accredited and registered to undertake building control functions under the Building Act.
Building method (for the purposes of this document, we just refer to 'method')	As per section 9B of the Building Act means a method— (a) for using 1 or more products or things as part of building work; or (b) for carrying out building work that is declared by the Governor-General by Order in Council to be a building method.
Building product (for the purposes of this document, we just refer to 'product')	As per section 9A of the Building Act means a product that— (a) could reasonably be expected to be used as a component of a building; or (b) is declared by the Governor-General by Order in Council to be a building product.
Overseas product certificate	means a certificate issued by an overseas product certification scheme in relation to a building product or building method. The purpose of the certificate is to be used as evidence that a product or method meets the certification requirements set by a certification scheme.
Overseas standards organisation	As per section 7 of the Building Act means an international, national, or regional organisation with functions similar to the NZ Standards Organisation.
Product certification scheme	Product certification is the provision of assessment and impartial third-party attestation that a product fulfils specified requirements. A scheme is a structured framework that defines the requirements, processes, and outcomes for conformity assessment activities.
Standard	As per section 2 of the Standards Act 1988 means a specification relating to goods, services, processes, or practices approved or adopted by the NZ Standards Council or another standards organisation and includes modifications to any such specification.
Standards certification scheme	As per section 7 of the Building Act means a scheme under which a building product is assessed against a standard
Standards certification organisation	As per section 7 of the Building Act means an organisation that administers or operates under a standards certification scheme.

	A standards certification scheme is a system where products or services are assessed against specific standards to ensure they meet certain quality, safety, or performance requirements.
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Appendix 2: Sample building consent authority checklist for a recognised WaterMark product (Approved Products Certified Overseas)

Step	Action	Details
1. Confirm recognition	Check that the WaterMark product is listed on MBIE's official list of recognised overseas-certified products.	MBIE will publish recognition notices on its website (www.building.govt.nz). These notices are secondary legislation and must be accepted by BCAs as meeting the identified building code clauses.
2. Verify certificate authenticity	Ensure the WaterMark certificate is current.	Use the licence number and product details to cross-check against the ABCB WaterMark register or the Conformity Assessment Body (CAB).
3. Check intended use	Confirm that the product is being used in accordance with its recognised scope.	The recognition notice will specify the Building Code clauses the product complies with, and any conditions or limitations of use.
4. Review supporting documentation	Ensure the consent application includes all required technical documentation.	This may include installation instructions, test reports, and the WaterMark certificate itself.
5. Apply good faith acceptance	Accept the product as deemed to comply with the Building Code clauses referenced on the recognition, provided all conditions are met.	BCAs are protected from liability under the Building Act when acting in good faith on MBIE's recognition.
6. Record and file	Note the use of a recognised WaterMark product in the consent file.	This supports transparency and future auditing.

Appendix 3: Building Act requirements

The following sections were incorporated into the Building Act by the *Building (Overseas Building Products, Standards, and Certification Schemes) Amendment Act 2025*, which commenced 8 April 2025.

Recognition of building products or building methods certified under overseas product certification scheme

Section 272 HA Recognition of building products or building methods certified under overseas product certification scheme

- (1) The chief executive may, by notice, recognise 1 or more, or 1 or more groups of, building products or building methods that are certified under an overseas product certification scheme.
- (2) Subsection (1) applies only if the chief executive is satisfied that—
 - (a) the building products or building methods meet any criteria prescribed for the purposes of this paragraph; and
 - (b) the overseas product certification scheme meets any criteria prescribed for the purposes of this paragraph.
- (3) A person who uses building products or building methods that are (or are in a group that is) recognised under subsection (1) must, for the purposes of this Act, be treated as having complied with all provisions of the building code that are relevant to the intended use.
- (4) Subsection (3) applies only to the extent that the person complies with any limitations or conditions of the recognition that are set out in the notice.
- (5) A notice under subsection (1) is secondary legislation (see [Part 3](#) of the Legislation Act 2019 for publication requirements).

Recognition of standards issued by overseas standards organisations, and standards certification schemes

Section 272HB Recognition of overseas standards and of standards certification schemes

- (1) The Minister may, by notice, recognise, in whole or in part, any—
 - (a) groups of standards issued by an overseas standards organisation; or
 - (b) standards certification schemes that a standards certification organisation that is based in New Zealand or overseas administers or operates under.
- (2) Subsection (1)(a) applies only if the Minister is satisfied that—
 - (a) the groups of standards or the part concerned meet any criteria prescribed for the purposes of this paragraph; and
 - (b) the overseas standards organisation meets any criteria prescribed for the purposes of this paragraph.
- (3) Subsection (1)(b) applies only if the Minister is satisfied that—
 - (a) the standards certification schemes or the part concerned meet any criteria prescribed for the purposes of this paragraph; and

(b) the standards certification organisation meets any criteria prescribed for the purposes of this paragraph.

(4) The Minister may at any time, by notice, amend or revoke a notice of recognition made under subsection (1).

Section 272HC Public notification and availability

(1) The chief executive must ensure that, promptly after a notice is made under [section 272HB\(1\) or \(4\)](#), notice of its making is published in the *Gazette*.

(2) The notice must include the following information:

(a) a statement that a notice was made under [section 272HB\(1\) or \(4\)](#) (as applicable) by the Minister:

(b) the title of the notice made under [section 272HB\(1\) or \(4\)](#):

(c) the date on which the notice under [section 272HB\(1\) or \(4\)](#) was made:

(d) the Ministry's Internet site where the notice made under [section 272HB\(1\) or \(4\)](#), and the related notice of recognition, are published.

(3) The chief executive must also ensure that,—

(a) promptly after a notice of recognition is made under [section 272HB\(1\)](#), that notice is made publicly available on the Ministry's Internet site; and

(b) even after a notice of recognition is amended or revoked, a digital copy of it in its original form continues to be publicly available on the Ministry's Internet site; and

(c) promptly after a notice of recognition is amended, each of the following is publicly available on the Ministry's Internet site:

(i) a digital copy of the amendment:

(ii) a digital copy of the notice of recognition in its up-to-date form.

Appendix 4: Building (Product Certification) Regulations

The following sections were incorporated into the Building (Product Certification) Regulations by the *Building (Product Certification) Amendment Regulations 2025*, which commenced 8 August 2025.

Part 2 Overseas product certification schemes, etc: sections 272HA to 272HC of Act

Recognition of building products or building methods certified under overseas product certification scheme

18 Criteria that chief executive must be satisfied are met

(1) For the purposes of section 272HA(2)(a) of the Act, the prescribed criteria that the chief executive must be satisfied the building products or building methods meet are as follows:

- (a) the products or methods are certified under the overseas product certification scheme by a person other than a person whose accreditation as a product certification body is suspended or revoked under section 264 of the Act:
- (b) the products or methods are supported by a certificate that—
 - (i) is issued under the overseas product certification scheme and has not expired or been withdrawn; and
 - (ii) is equivalent to a product certificate; and
 - (iii) is available for persons using the products or methods in New Zealand (**New Zealand users**); and
 - (iv) is in English or accurately translated into, and available for New Zealand users, in English:
- (c) the products or methods are supported by any other information (if necessary in addition to the certificate referred to in paragraph (b)) that is sufficient to enable New Zealand users to understand how to use them and how they will perform for the purposes of the intended use:
- (d) there is sufficient evidence to establish that the products or methods would comply with the building code if—
 - (i) the chief executive were to recognise the products or methods under section 272HA(1) of the Act; and
 - (ii) a person using the products or methods were to comply with every relevant limitation or condition that the chief executive proposes to impose on the recognition; and
 - (iii) the person were to use the products or methods for an intended use identified in a certificate referred to in paragraph (b) (or in other information available to the chief executive) and specified in a limitation or condition that the chief executive proposes to impose on the recognition (other than any use that is excluded by any such limitation or condition):
- (e) no warning about or ban on any of the products or methods is in force under section 26 of the Act:
- (f) no equivalent outside New Zealand to a warning or ban under section 26 of the Act applies to any of the products or methods.

(2) For the purposes of section 272HA(2)(b) of the Act, the prescribed criterion that the chief executive must be satisfied the overseas product certification scheme meets is that, under the scheme, any organisation

that is responsible for certifying the building products or building methods concerned has the relevant features.

(3) The **relevant features** are that the organisation—

- (a) has been accredited as meeting appropriate standards by an accreditation body that is independent of that organisation; and
- (b) has robust processes for each of the following:
 - (i) evaluating and certifying the building products or building methods:
 - (ii) monitoring and evaluating those certifications on an ongoing basis:
 - (iii) ensuring that certifiers of the building products or building methods act impartially in certifying those products or methods:
 - (iv) ensuring that certifiers of building products act independently from manufacturers and suppliers of those products and independently from each other:
 - (v) ensuring that persons who manage or control the organisation carry out that role with integrity and professionalism.

Recognition of standards issued by overseas standards organisations, and standards certification schemes

19 Criteria that Minister must be satisfied are met

Recognition of groups of standards issued by overseas standards organisations

(1) For the purposes of section 272HB(2)(a) of the Act, the prescribed criteria that the Minister must be satisfied the groups of standards or the part concerned meets are as follows:

- (a) the groups of standards or the part concerned is available, or can be made available, to users in New Zealand:
- (b) the groups of standards or the part concerned—
 - (i) is in English; or
 - (ii) is accurately translated into, and published by the overseas standards organisation in, English.

(2) For the purposes of section 272HB(2)(b) of the Act, the prescribed criterion that the Minister must be satisfied the overseas standards organisation meets is that—

- (a) the overseas standards organisation—
 - (i) is the International Organization for Standardization; or
 - (ii) is the International Electrotechnical Commission; or
 - (iii) is a full member of the International Organization for Standardization or of the International Electrotechnical Commission; or
- (b) the overseas standards organisation has robust and transparent processes for developing, maintaining, and publishing standards, and those processes are consistent with internationally recognised good practice relating to standards and include the following:

- (i) processes for ensuring that standards issued by the overseas standards organisation are informed by technical expertise and appropriate consultation with the industry concerned and consumers:
- (ii) processes for ensuring that any persons and organisations engaged in developing standards issued by the overseas standards organisation act impartially and independently:
- (iii) processes for ensuring that standards issued by the overseas standards organisation are reviewed, and updated as necessary, at appropriate and regular intervals.

Recognition of standards certification schemes

(3) For the purposes of section 272HB(3)(b) of the Act, the prescribed criteria that the Minister must be satisfied the standards certification organisation meets are as follows (but only if the organisation is responsible under the standards certification scheme concerned for assessing building products against standards):

- (a) the standards certification organisation has been accredited as meeting appropriate standards by an accreditation body that is independent of the standards certification organisation:
- (b) the standards certification organisation has robust processes for each of the following:
 - (i) assessing whether the building products meet those standards:
 - (ii) monitoring and evaluating those assessments on an ongoing basis:
 - (iii) ensuring that persons assessing the building products act impartially:
 - (iv) ensuring that persons assessing the building products act independently from manufacturers and suppliers of those building products and independently from each other:
 - (v) ensuring that any persons who manage or control the organisation carry out that role with integrity and professionalism.



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