
Securing parapets and facades on unreinforced masonry buildings

Guidance

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<https://www.building.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/building-code-compliance/b-stability/b1-structure/guidance-securing-parapets-facades.pdf>

About this document

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Hurunui District Council, Council heritage advisors, Marlborough District Council, Building owners, Hutt City Council, Licensed building practitioners, Wellington City Council, Architects, Chartered professional engineers

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Introduction

The guidance provides advice for building owners, councils and engineers who are required to secure the street-facing parapets and facades of unreinforced masonry (URM) buildings.

Contents

On 28 February 2017 the government introduced a requirement for owners of certain unreinforced masonry (URM) buildings to secure street-facing parapets and/or facades, in response to the 2016 Hurunui/Kaikōura

earthquakes.

The requirement applies to street-facing URM buildings, with unsecured or unstrengthened parapets and/or facades, on listed streets in Wellington, Lower Hutt, Marlborough and Hurunui.

It was expected there would be an increased risk of earthquakes in these areas, following the Hurunui/Kaikōura earthquakes on 14 November 2016, and this increases the risk that unsecured URM parapets and/or facades could fall and threaten people's safety.

Owners of URM buildings in those areas were notified by the council if they are required to secure the street-facing parapets and/or facades on their buildings within 12 months of the date of the notice to reduce the risk of falling masonry.

In recognition of the public and private benefits of securing URM parapets and facades, the government and affected councils established a \$4.5 million Unreinforced Masonry Buildings Securing Fund to support building owners required to do this work.

The guidance includes:

- a section outlining the changes that have occurred since the securing requirement was introduced
- a section outlining the provisions of the Order in Council, including the modifications to the Building Act and Resource Management Act
- advice for building owners who get a notice requiring them to secure the parapet and/or facade of their street-facing URM building
- advice for affected councils who issued notices under section 124 of the Building Act, as modified by the Order in Council
- advice for chartered professional engineers who will be designing solutions to secure parapets and/or facades.

For more information, see [Securing unreinforced masonry building parapets and facades \(https://www.building.govt.nz/managing-buildings/unreinforced-masonry/\)](https://www.building.govt.nz/managing-buildings/unreinforced-masonry/).

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