

Amendments to building consent exemptions

MBIE works with the sector to make improvements and additions to the list of building work that can be undertaken without requiring a building consent. Amendments that have been made are outlined below to help users of this guidance understand when each of the regulation changes came into effect.

Exemptions are not retrospective. If you carry out unconsented building work which was not exempt at the time the work was undertaken, you will need to apply to your local council for a Certificate of Acceptance. You can only apply for a Certificate of Acceptance only if building work was carried out without a building consent from 1 July 1992 onwards, or in specific circumstances, when a code compliance certificate can't be issued. For further information, please contact your council.

Exempted building work	Effective from	Document version
All building consent exemptions	March 2014	1
Carports	June 2016	2
Means of restricting access to small heated pools – minor amendments	August 2017	3
Retaining walls – minor amendments		
Ground moisture barriers	July 2019	4
Verandas and porches – additional exemption	August 2020	5
Single-storey detached buildings – three additional exemptions		
Carports – additional exemption		
Awnings – additional exemption		
Outdoor fireplaces or ovens		
Flexible water storage bladders		
Short-span bridges on private land without public access		
Pipe supporting structures		
Ground-mounted solar panel arrays – three new exemptions		
Single-storey pole sheds and hay barns		

- with compliance with the Building Act, it is published under section 175 of the Building Act
- with a Weathertight Services claim, it is published under section 12 of the Weathertight Homes Resolution Services Act 2006.