



# codewords

## Faster, better weathertightness service on the way

Leaky home claims will be resolved faster and repairs undertaken sooner under a shake-up of the Weathertight Homes Resolution Service (WHRS) announced by the Minister for Building Issues, Hon Clayton Cosgrove.

The changes follow a comprehensive review of the WHRS by the Department of Building and Housing and will be supported by government investment totalling \$30.5 million over 4 years.

'The review clearly showed the need for real improvements and that is what these changes are designed to bring about,' Mr Cosgrove said.

'It is all about ensuring that New Zealanders have confidence in the quality of their homes and these changes are part of wide-ranging reforms across the building and housing sector. This includes

the announcement last month of a licensed building practitioner regime.

'One major change following the review is that the scope of assessments of leaky homes will be widened to cover probable and not just actual damage,' said Mr Cosgrove.

'This means that future problems that may occur can be quantified, making the whole assessment process more realistic in terms of the issues faced by owners of leaky homes.

'As a result, assessments will now more clearly identify the full extent of property damage and the likely causes – and (without determining liability) it will identify those who might have contributed to the causes of damage.

'This will bring all parties to the table faster, lead to quicker resolutions and earlier, effective repairs,' Mr Cosgrove explained.

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Other key changes to the assessment process, funded by the Government to the tune of \$18.2 million over the next 4 years, will be a new class action approach to multi-unit claims, and better information and advice services.

The changes will allow for class actions by unit owners in apartment blocks, which account for 70 percent of the claims received to date.

Bodies corporate will be able to lodge a single claim for common property and damage to any units, with the agreement of those unit owners. Currently, individual owners have to each lodge separate claims.

WHRS case managers will also offer claimants more comprehensive information and assistance on their property damage assessment report, and guidance regarding the negotiation, mediation and adjudication options open to them.

Comprehensive re-assessments can be requested by existing WHRS claimants. An adjudicator will consider each request and decide whether, and to what extent, additional assessment may be warranted.

A key finding from the review is the need for a more timely and authoritative dispute resolution process, including a defined timeframe to be set for mediation. The improvements deliver this.

'Mediation has often taken longer than is necessary, leading to mounting costs for all parties and further damage to properties,' Mr Cosgrove said.

'Essentially, this will be speeded up with a new pre-hearing phase,

overseen by an adjudicator, who will set ground rules and decide the parties who should be involved.

'This process will also allow for site visits where they can help bring about early resolution,' he said.

Where mediation cannot resolve the dispute within a specified timeframe, the matter will automatically move to adjudication where a determination will be made.

'Again, this is about getting issues resolved and not leaving anyone in limbo,' Mr Cosgrove said.

Under the new ground rules, adjudicators will be able to make greater use of their investigative powers to identify, refine and determine the issues in dispute.

Resolving disputes quickly will enable affected homes to be repaired as early as possible.

This will be helped by the introduction of an abbreviated dispute resolution process for lower-value claims, enabling parties to come together to resolve the problem more informally.

Additional adjudicators will be recruited to help deliver the \$9.6 million dispute resolution package over 4 years.

The Government will provide lending assistance to some WHRS claimants who cannot fund early repairs themselves and cannot access finance from a private lender (such as a bank).

Housing New Zealand Corporation will receive an extra \$7.1 million in capital for lending assistance for the 2-year pilot, to be repaid by borrowers at market rates of interest.

The Government intends to offer two products:

- loans through the Corporation at market interest rates for claimants declined finance from their lender
- a guarantee on private bank loans at market rates.

The scheme effectively provides bridging finance so people can begin repairing their homes early. The eligibility criteria will be finalised over the coming months.

In other changes:

- \$1 million will be spent on a consumer education campaign over the next 2 years, aimed at ensuring that affected homeowners have access to reliable information, and empowering home-buyers to make informed purchase decisions
- \$200,000 will be spent on research and information/technical advice for builders and designers to make sure leaky homes are properly repaired
- \$500,000 will go into a study to examine the feasibility of introducing home warranty and professional indemnity insurance.

The changes to the WHRS will require legislative amendments and it is planned that the improvements will be in place in early 2007.

**STOP PRESS:**  
**Minister Cosgrove makes further announcements.**  
**For details, see**  
**📄 <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentID=26570>**

# Registered Master Builders Launches Building Book

The Registered Master Builders Federation recently announced the publication of a new book for its members and sub-contractors '*Business Best Practice – Residential and Commercial Construction*'.

This book offers advice on the best practices on building regulations, employment, finances, health and safety.

The 10 key chapters cover:

- Running your Business;
- Employment;
- Health and Safety;
- Contracts and Specifications;
- Master Build Guarantee;
- The Building Act and Licensing;
- The Construction Contracts Act;
- Handling Disputes;
- Tax; and,
- Where to get help.



**\$39.95**

(excl. GST & postage and handling).

The book will be of assistance to those running or involved in a residential or commercial building business. It is written in layman's terms and provides practical commonsense advice, and above all, it will help builders run their businesses better.

Each chapter ends with a handy checklist so you can readily self-audit where you might be at against industry best practice. The book also references a wide variety of websites for further information, forms, and documents. The website references will ensure readers always draw on the most up-to-date information available.

For a copy of this book please contact: Call Kathy on 0800 762 328 or email [mbf@masterbuilder.org.nz](mailto:mbf@masterbuilder.org.nz).



**0800 269 119**

or visit [www.masterbuilder.org.nz](http://www.masterbuilder.org.nz)

# Grade 500E reinforcing steel

## INTRODUCTION OF GRADE 500E

The joint Standard AS/NZS 4671: 2001 Steel Reinforcing Materials was published in 2001 and introduced Grade 500E reinforcing to replace Grade 430.

As Grade 500E became more widely used, some 'failures' were reported on sites and concern about the new material grew among members of the building industry, especially design engineers. In 2003 the University of Auckland reported a failure of Grade 500E reinforcing in a laboratory test and this crystallised these concerns.

## INVESTIGATION OF GRADE 500E

The Department of Building and Housing launched an investigation into the concerns about Grade 500E in August 2003 including:

- asking ACENZ members to report any problems with Grade 500E steel
- reviewing available data on specimens that had been referred to the manufacturer Pacific Steel
- commissioning a report from Beca Consultants on the adequacy and compatibility of the various Standards covering the manufacture, design, welding and handling of Grade 500E steel
- commissioning a series of tests by Auckland testing laboratory, SGS, on bars nominally sold as Grade 500E, both locally manufactured and selected imported products, to determine their physical properties

- investigating the parameters that govern allowable bend diameters.

Results of the investigation into these issues in general terms were as follows.

- Very few problems were reported by ACENZ members.
- Most site problems referred to Pacific Steel, or separately reported to the Department, were the result of mishandling the bars and not following the relevant Standards.
- Beca Consultants reported no serious incompatibilities or inadequacies of the various reinforcing Standards. This report did, however, highlight the need for research into safe bend diameters for Grade 500E, as referred to below.
- Results of the SGS testing were generally satisfactory, but there were a small number of individual tests that did not reach specified Standards. These anomalies have been referred to the specific suppliers.

## REPORT ON GRADE 500E STEEL REINFORCEMENT

The Department's investigation resulted in a report published in July 2005. In fact action addressing the problems identified in the report, and its recommendations, was initiated by the Department and other industry organisations in the 18 months before publication. These actions are outlined in the following sections.

The investigation indicated that the industry's knowledge and understanding of Grade 500E was limited because:

- alternative methods of manufacture were being used; microalloy (MA) and quench and tempered (QT)
- steel manufactured locally, and imported, was being marketed as Grade 500E
- the properties and limitations of handling, or fabrication, including bending, re-bending, welding, galvanising and threading were poorly understood.

Consequently, the report recommended the following actions.

- General education of the industry on the properties of Grade 500E and its limitations and benefits
- Advice and alerts to industry about limitations and benefits of the product and the variation to be expected in manufacturing process, suppliers, bar markings and weldability
- Research to provide better information on key issues
- Specific advice to fabricators, constructors and designers on the need for care in handling or fabricating Grade 500E
- Amendments to New Zealand Standards, including information about the limitations regarding Grade 500E steel

## GRADE 500E, NEW ZEALAND STANDARDS AND B1/VM1

During the investigation the Department worked closely with Standards New Zealand and in March 2004 they published amendments to concrete Standards NZS 3101: Part 1: 1995 The Design of Concrete Structures and NZS 3109: 1997 Concrete Construction.

These amendments introduced the joint Standard AS/NZS 4671: 2001 Steel Reinforcing Material. AS/NZS 4671 replaced NZS 3402: 1989 Steel Bars for the Reinforcement of Concrete, NZS 3421: 1975 Specification for Hard Drawn Mild Steel Wire for Concrete Reinforcement, and NZS 3422: 1975 Specification for Welded Fabric of Drawn Steel Wire for Concrete Reinforcement. These amendments identified Grade 500E MA and QT steels and specifically covered the handling limitations (bending, re-bending, welding, galvanising and threading) of these two types of steel.

In March 2005 the Department cited the above amendments to the concrete Standards in Verification Method B1/VM1 of the B1 Compliance Document.

## **PUBLICITY ABOUT GRADE 500E**

The investigation highlighted the need to publicise the benefits and limitations of Grade 500E steel. Since initiating the investigation the Department has issued the following documents for general guidance.

- *Practice Advisory 1: Bend the bar not the rules* was issued in December 2004 and amended and re-issued in June 2005.
- *Practice Advisory 7: Use with care, Grade 500E reinforcing steel in New Zealand* was issued in July 2005.
- A wallchart *Reinforcing Steel in New Zealand – A quick guide for designers, building consent authorities and contractors* was issued in June 2005. Most of the

information on this chart relates to Grade 500E. A minor amendment to this wallchart was issued in March 2006.

- The *Report on Grade 500E Steel Reinforcement* was published in August 2005 and posted on the Department's website. It was also notified via the Department's email service Building Controls Update.

The Department, in association with the Cement and Concrete Association of New Zealand (CCANZ), has produced and distributed over 6000 bendometers since March 2006. These are a set of plastic discs that allow bend diameters to be checked on site for compliance with NZS 3101 and 3109. Many 'failures' of Grade 500E reported have resulted from bars being bent to diameters less than those specified by NZS 3101 and 3109. The bendometers are a simple device developed by the Department to promote the correct bending of reinforcement and an awareness of its importance.

Following a series of seminars in September 2003, CCANZ issued an Information Bulletin IB79 *Recommended Industry Practice on Bending and Re-bending of Reinforcing Bars* in December 2004. The seminars and bulletin did much to inform the industry about Grade 500E steel.

The Structural Engineering Society New Zealand (SESOC) has been active in the investigation and debate about Grade 500E reinforcing. Articles on Grade 500E have been published in its Journals of April 2001, April 2002, April 2004 and September 2005.

The Department is pleased to acknowledge the cooperation it has received from many sections of the industry and is confident that the appreciation of the types, properties and handling limitations of Grade 500E reinforcing is significantly improved as a result of this investigation, debate and publicity.

## **RECENT AND CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS**

The Department has commissioned research into safe bend diameters for Grade 500E steel following the recommendations in the *Report on Grade 500E Steel Reinforcement*. It is anticipated this research will be completed early in 2007.

Pacific Steel started manufacturing and marketing Grade 500E QT steel in April 2006. They continue to supply Grade 500E MA steel.

Three companies in Auckland have been importing significant quantities of Grade 500E steel from Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand in recent years. These steels have generally been manufactured by the QT method.

It is important for designers, contractors and building officials to ensure steel suppliers have well documented and adequate quality assurance processes in place so that there can be certainty that reinforcing steel incorporated into buildings complies with AS/NZS 4671 and therefore meets the requirements of the Building Code.

# Determinations issued

## DETERMINATION 2006/50

### Disposal of free water overflow

#### *The matter for determination*

The application arose from a dispute about the means of disposing of free water overflow from kitchen sinks in an apartment complex.

The Acceptable Solution, E3/AS1, requires containment and a floor waste. The owner proposed not to install floor wastes and associated pipework in the apartment kitchens, but instead to provide kitchen sinks with internal overflows designed to deliver any high-level water back into the outlet pipe and so prevent the water from overtopping the rim of the sink. Accordingly, the plans submitted for building consent were annotated: 'All kitchen sinks shall have integral overflows built into the inserts.'

The territorial authority refused to grant the building consent, saying: 'Alternative solutions will only be accepted after a positive peer review of supporting documentation/tests or a positive determination issued by the DBH.'

The owner, acting through a firm of hydraulics consultants, applied for the determination.

### The submissions

The owner's submissions to the Chief Executive said:

'Our solution is to match the capacity of the fixture outflow against the faucet inflow. If necessary, we would install ... water flow regulators that guarantee water delivery from the faucet will not exceed [the rate that] the overflow outlet can accommodate.

'[Table 3 of G12/AS1] suggests that an **acceptable** flow rate (not maximum or minimum) for a sink could be 0.2 litres per second, or 12 litres per minute.

'Most territorial authorities and water providers would suggest that in these days of water and energy conservation, this flow rate is too high...

'... a sink fixture flow rate of 9.0 litres per minute would be more than sufficient... and we would specify installation of flow regulating devices that guarantee that level of performance. We would then request that the fixture overflow be capable of accepting that flow rate continuously.'

The territorial authority's submissions said:

'The [owner] needs to provide, the amount of free space/orifice size of the overflow protection aperture in the fixture, the size of the overflow discharge pipe and the exact location and size of the connection to the fixture discharge pipe.'

### The draft determination

The Chief Executive sent the parties a draft determination to the effect that:

- in Clause E3.3.2 of the Building Code, the term 'accidental overflow' when applied to a kitchen sink means an overflow caused by a plug-hole blockage as distinct from a blockage further downstream such as might be caused by lack of maintenance
- in the absence of any justification for the proposed faucet flow rate of 9 l/min, particularly as to the effect on amenity, the faucet flow rate should be 11 l/min as specified in G12/AS1
- the annotation on the plans, even when supplemented by the owner's submissions, was not sufficient for building consent purposes. Both the builder and the territorial authority were entitled to know exactly what was to be installed, including details of the sink overflows and the flow regulators, including regulator settings
- those details should be supported by hydraulic calculations to establish, for each kitchen, that the maximum flow delivered when both faucets (with regulators if necessary) are fully open was less than the maximum rate of overflow that the sink can accommodate.

In response to the draft, the owner supplied the following for inclusion in the plans and specifications.

- Specific requirements for the installation of either of two proprietary integral overflows supported by manufacturers' data as to the capacity of those overflows.
- Specific requirements for pressure-limiting valves supported by a manufacturer's guarantee as to the inflow rate to the sinks.

#### **The final determination**

There was some further discussion between the owner and the territorial authority, but in the end the Chief Executive considered that:

- in this case, the manufacturers' data and guarantee were adequate to establish overflow capacity and inflow limitations
- it was sufficient for the overflow to have no less capacity than the maximum likely inflow
- the amendments to the plans and specifications, supported by the information supplied by the owner, complied with the requirement of Clause E3.3.2 of the Building Code for overflows to dispose of 'accidental overflow... in a way that avoids loss of amenity or damage...'

Accordingly, subject to the proposed amendments being made to the plans and specifications submitted for building consent, the Chief Executive reversed the territorial authority's decision not to grant the building consent.

## **DETERMINATION 2006/51**

### **Access and facilities for use by people with disabilities in a residential building development associated with rest home and hospital facilities**

#### *The matter for determination*

The application arose from a dispute about whether a development of up to 90 residential buildings, on the same overall site as a rest home and hospital facility operated by the same owner, was required to comply with the provisions of the Building Code for access and facilities for use by people with disabilities.

In effect, the owner disputed the territorial authority's decision that the buildings came within the classified use of Community Service as defined in Clause A1 of the Building Code, and that therefore a certain proportion of the units should have features to permit use by people with disabilities ('be accessible').

The Chief Executive took the view that the matter for determination was whether section 118 applied to the development, so that at least some of the buildings were required to be accessible.

The Department consulted with the Ministry of Social Development, the department responsible for disability issues in terms of section 170(b).

#### **The buildings**

The 'license to occupy' buildings were intended for '55-70 year age bracket... people who are in good health and with good mobility' and had been designed to facilitate future alterations that would make them fully accessible if the occupiers so desired.

#### **The draft determination**

The Chief Executive prepared a draft determination which was to the effect that:

- whether section 118 applied depends on the use to which the buildings were put, not on the legal arrangement under which they were occupied
- residents would not purchase a licence to occupy the building to be given nursing care but in order to live in a private home
- in terms of section 118, therefore, the buildings were private homes and not buildings to which the public were to be admitted
- the buildings did not come within any of the paragraphs of Schedule 2.

The territorial authority and the owner accepted the draft subject to certain non-contentious amendments.

The Ministry took the view that, contrary to what was said in the draft, the development was 'directly covered by paragraph (j) of Schedule 2...[as] "a group of pensioner flats"'.  
*Continued on page 08*

### The final determination


The final determination took account of the non-contentious amendments requested by the owner, and expanded on the reasons why the Chief Executive took the view that the development did not come within paragraph (j) of Schedule 2, in particular:

- before the Building Act 1991, the term 'pensioner flats' had been used in building bylaws based on NZS 1900, but the term no longer had a generally accepted meaning
- in this case, there was no provision to the effect that only pensioners could purchase a licence to occupy a building, nor that at least one occupant must be a pensioner
- in paragraph (j), the term 'providing accommodation for the public' implied short-term occupation rather than permanent residence.

The Chief Executive therefore determined that section 118 did not apply to the development and that therefore none of the buildings were required to be accessible.

The Chief Executive also recorded that the owner had taken a commendable approach to good design by facilitating future alterations to make the buildings fully accessible.

To read all the Determinations in summary or in full, go to:

 [www.dbh.govt.nz/e/publish/determinations\\_issued.shtml](http://www.dbh.govt.nz/e/publish/determinations_issued.shtml)

# Timber treatment

## H3.1 AND H3.2 TREATED TIMBER – IDENTIFICATION AND USE

In 2004, Acceptable Solution B2/AS1 was amended to cite NZS 3602: 2003 Timber and Wood-based Products for Use in Building. The Standard introduced a number of changes including the introduction of two new hazard classes for treated timber – H3.1 and H3.2.

Although both H3.1 and H3.2 can be used for timber exposed to exterior conditions not in ground contact, there are important differences between them. This article is a fresh reminder of their relative uses and how to identify them on site.

### USES FOR H3.1

Where H3.1 is used outside it is only suitable for non-structural applications such as weatherboards, fascias etc – members requiring a minimum of 15 years durability, and it must **always have paint protection**. See Table 1 opposite.

Paint protection must be applied to protected faces and cut ends (before fixing) in the form of one coat of priming. The paint protection to exposed faces must be at least a primer coat and two further coats of alkyd or 100 percent acrylic (refer NZS 3602 clause 111.2) H3.1 can be used structurally (minimum 50-year durability) where it is protected from the weather but with a risk of moisture penetration such as framing in some high-risk wall locations.

When used in framing, H3.1 treated timber does not require paint protection, as it is not permanently exposed to the weather.

### USES FOR H3.2

Where timber is used structurally outside and not in ground contact – such as for pergolas, fences, verandah posts, beams etc, use H3.2 as a minimum treatment level. H3.2 does not require painting when used externally. See Table 1 opposite.

### IDENTIFICATION ON SITE

Both H3.1 and H3.2 can be identified by colour coding of the timber and/or branding showing the treatment plant number, the preservative code number and the Hazard class, for example 665 62 H3.1. Branding may also carry a quality control trademark.

The requirements for colour coding and branding are set out in NZS 3640 Chemical Preservation of Round and Sawn Timber, and are summarised in the Table opposite.

For more information on the uses of treated timber and its identification, you can refer to NZS 3602 and NZS 3640, or contact the Department of Building and Housing for a copy of their booklet *Timber Treatment Requirements – Notes for builders*, a copy of which can also be downloaded from the Department's website, free of charge at [www.dbh.govt.nz](http://www.dbh.govt.nz)

**TABLE GIVING USES AND IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR H3.1 AND H3.2 TREATED TIMBER**

<b>A. Uses as given in NZS 3602</b>			
	<b>Cladding, minimum 15-year durability</b>	<b>Structural framing protected from weather but with risk of moisture penetration, minimum 50-year durability</b>	<b>Structural uses outside, not in ground contact, minimum 50-year durability</b>
<b>H3.1</b>	Yes Paint protection required, including priming of all faces and cut ends	Yes Refer to NZS 3602 for specific applications	No
<b>H3.2</b>	Yes (Exceeds minimum requirements)	Yes (Exceeds minimum requirements)	Yes

<b>B. Colour coding and branding for H3.1 and H3.2 treated timber to NZS 3640</b>	
<b>H3.1</b>	Colour coding <b>green</b> that is distinctly different from the green of the H3.2 preservative treatment colour, plus end branding or continuous face branding, or  No colour coding but must have continuous branding repetitively along the length at 1500 mm centres on its face or one edge.
<b>H3.2</b>	<b>No colour coding required.</b> Can be identified from the distinctive 'green' of the copper-based treatment, plus end branding or continuous face branding.

# Fire alarm installations must be certified

Consent officers, building inspectors and others involved in building compliance should note that new fire alarm systems are required to be certified – a producer statement on its own is not enough.

New provisions in C/AS1 and NZS 4512 mean that the installation of fire alarm systems must be certified by an accredited inspection body\*.

These changes bring fire alarm systems in line with long-standing fire sprinkler requirements.

Building consent authorities should not issue a code compliance certificate for any project including a new Type 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7 system until certification has been completed. Installers and project managers should book their certifier early and ensure they allow enough time in their construction programme for inspections and certification.

The new requirements come from an update of C/AS1 in late 2005 to cite the latest New Zealand Standard for fire alarm systems, namely NZS 4512: 2003 Fire Detection and Fire Alarm Systems in Buildings.

If you receive a producer statement from a fire alarm contractor, we recommend that you confirm that certification has been completed. The contractor should be able to provide you with a copy of the certification.

Requirements for alterations to existing alarm systems and for alternative solutions can differ. Proposals need to be submitted to and approved by the building consent authority at building consent stage.

For further information, contact the Building Controls helpdesk on 0800 242 243.

\* At the time of writing, accredited fire alarm inspection bodies are:

- Fire Protection Inspection Services Ltd (FPIS)
- Building and Fire Safety Ltd.

For an up-to-date list, visit [www.ianz.govt.nz](http://www.ianz.govt.nz), click on 'directory' then search for 'NZS4512'.

# Operations group work in progress

## THE PUBLICATION PROCESS FOR:

### BUILDING CODE CLAUSES

1. Identify need for Clause change

2. Departmental analysis of options for change

3. Prepare proposal for public consultation

4. Public consultation

5. Consider comments received from consultation

6. Prepare Cabinet paper seeking approval of proposed change including consultation with other relevant government departments

7. Prepare drafting instructions for Parliamentary Counsel to draft regulations to make the change

8. Submit draft regulations to Cabinet for approval

9. Regulations made by Governor-General

### COMPLIANCE DOCUMENTS

1. Identify need for change to Compliance Document

2. Appoint project manager and/or establish working group

3. Prepare information for public consultation

4. Public consultation

5. Consider comments received from consultation

6. Prepare draft for Chief Executive's approval

7. Publication

#### Clause B1, Structure, Concrete Standards

Stage: prepare information for public comment

Proposed citation of revised concrete Standard NZS 3101: 2006.

Stage: prepare for publication

Citation of Amendment 1 to NZS 3109.

#### Clause B1, Structure, Timber Standards

Stage: analyse public comment

Proposed citation of Amendment 2 to the timber framing Standard NZS 3604 and Amendment 4 to the timber structures Standard NZS 3603.

#### Clause B1, Structure, Loadings Standards

Stage: prepare information for public comment

Proposed citation of new loading Standards (AS/NZS 1170 Parts 0, 1, 2 and 3, and NZS 1170 Part 5).

#### Clause C, Fire Safety – single means of escape

Stage: prepare proposal

Concerning the design requirements for multi-storey buildings with single means of escape from fire.

#### Clause C, Fire Safety – Type 4 and 5 alarms

Stage: prepare proposal

Concerning the design requirements in relation to alarm systems for certain buildings.

#### Clause C, Fire Safety – Amendment to C/AS1

Stage: analyse public comment

Joint public consultation with Standards New Zealand to reference NZS 4541: 2006 Automatic Fire Sprinkler Systems.

#### Clause F3, Hazardous Substances and Processes

Stage: prepare information for public comment

Amendment to Compliance Document to comply with the HSNO Act covering the storage of hazardous liquids and gases in buildings.

#### Clause F4, Safety from Falling

Stage: prepare for public comment on implementation date

Amendments to Acceptable Solution F4/AS1 for publication including barrier heights.

#### Clause F6, Lighting for Emergency

Stage: Prepare Cabinet paper

Amendments to the Code Clause and its Compliance Document.

#### Clause G6, Airborne and Impact Sound

Stage: analyse public comment in parallel with re-drafting the Code Clause and Compliance Document to align with the Building Code Review project 8-tiered hierarchy format

A complete review of the Code Clause and its Compliance Document. Proposals contain new methods for measuring sound and new criteria for protection from environmental sound.

#### Clause G6, Airborne and Impact Sound – classroom acoustics

Stage: awaiting Code review of main Clause G6, on hold until above is resolved  
Amendments to the Code Clause and its Compliance Document.

#### Clause G14, Industrial Liquid Waste

Stage: prepare Cabinet paper

Amendments to Code Clause and Compliance Document: G14/AS1 and G14/VM1 altered, and a new Verification Method G14/VM2 for Foul Water: On-site disposal.

#### Clause H1, Energy Efficiency

Stage: prepare for consultation on revised Compliance Document

Amendments include referencing AS/NZS 4859.1 for insulation materials.

#### Clause E2, External Moisture

#### Clause G1, Personal Hygiene

#### Clause G4, Ventilation

#### Clause G9, Electricity

#### Clause G10, Piped Services

#### Clause G11, Gas as an Energy Source

#### Clause G12, Water Supplies

#### Clause G13, Foul Water

Stage: prepare for public consultation

Amendments to the above list of Compliance Documents to update publications referenced and amend G1/AS1 for toilet numbers and line of sight provisions.

# Learning curve



**Wellington Institute of Technology**  
Te Whare Wānanga o Aotearoa

Endorsed as the preferred provider of national qualifications for building officials by the Department of Building and Housing

## Building Controls Legislation module now available



WelTec is currently offering a short module titled 'Building Controls Legislation'. The module will be delivered in distance learning mode with a 1-day seminar being run in eight regions around New Zealand.

Suited to existing and new building officials, the module will cover the principles and provisions of the Building Act 2004, the legal system as it pertains to local government, health and safety in the workplace, and the powers of a compliance officer. In particular you will learn how to:

- interpret the Building Act and Regulations and apply them to given projects
- understand the components of the building controls framework and their hierarchical position
- determine the criteria that will ensure construction methods comply with the intent of the Building Code
- identify the factors that influence the safety and health of building occupants
- outline the aims of the Resource Management Act in relation to building and land use.

Post-course assessments successfully completed will give credits towards the WelTec Diploma in Building Surveying (2005) and the new National Diploma in Building Controls when it becomes available.

### Fee:

\$731 including GST

Discount may apply to cohort enrolments

### For further information contact

Weltec

**0800 935 832**



## BRANZ CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING ENTERPRISE (CITE)

### Study Skills

This 1-day course provides research, study and report-writing skills, learning and assessment techniques and an understanding of learning styles. It is suited to those who have not participated in formal learning since leaving school or tertiary study.

Date	Location
29 August	Dunedin

Cost \$281.25 including GST

### Building Controls

This 10-day course will provide knowledge and understanding of the building controls regime, legislative background, duties and responsibilities and knowledge of processes involved. Particularly relevant for building officials, those with limited experience, and those wanting to enter the building controls profession.

Date	Location
Week 1: 2-6 October	
Week 2: 30 October – 3 November	Wellington

Costs \$3,937.50 including GST

# Learning curve *continued*

## Plumbing Inspection

This 10-day course will extend plumbing inspection skills and provide the skills necessary to carry out plumbing design checks and on-site inspections for compliance with the Building Code. It also provides skills related to using Clauses G1, G2, G3, G10, G12 and G13 of the New Zealand Building Code. It will suit building officials, clerks of works, building information officers, plumbers, builders, or those with a construction background who are already in, or wanting to enter, the building controls industry and need plumbing inspection skills.

Date	Location
Week 1: 21-25 August	
Week 2: 18-22 September	Christchurch

Cost \$2,812.50 including GST

Register for both the Building Controls and Plumbing Inspection courses for \$5,625 inc. GST, and save \$1,000.

Early-bird discounts are available on all courses. They may not be used in conjunction with other offers.

For more information about courses:

🌐 [www.branz.co.nz](http://www.branz.co.nz) (CITE Industry Training)

✉ [branzcite@branz.co.nz](mailto:branzcite@branz.co.nz)

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(CITE Manager Student Resources)

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## BARRIER FREE NEW ZEALAND TRUST – 2006 TRAINING SEMINARS

### Reasons to attend

These 2-day seminars are designed to raise people's awareness and understanding of the issues for people with disabilities. They provide up-to-date information about building legislation in New Zealand and the access requirements for people with disabilities.

The courses are aimed at building control officers, building certifiers, IQPs, Barrier Free Advisors, architects, designers, developers, building owners or property managers, and those seeking qualifications as a Barrier Free Advisor (BFA).

Duration	Location	Date 2006
1-day refresher course for Wellington accredited BFAs and participants of earlier seminars	Brentwood Hotel	18 August
2 days	Oamaru	7-8 September
2 days	Hastings /Gisborne	9-10 October
2 days	North Shore	9-10 November

Costs include copy of Barrier Free New Zealand Trust Resource Handbook for Barrier Free Environments.

	Cost (excl) GST	Cost (incl) GST
2-day course	\$300.00	\$337.50
Specialist 1- or 2-day course	Rate negotiable with any interested organisation/company	
1-day refresher course	\$150.00	\$168.75

### Enquiries to:

Administrator – Barrier Free  
New Zealand Trust, PO Box 25064,  
Panama Street, Wellington

☎ (04) 915 5848 or (04) 499 0725

Fax: (04) 915 5849

✉ [seminar@barrierfreenz.org.nz](mailto:seminar@barrierfreenz.org.nz)



**Barrier Free  
NEW ZEALAND  
TRUST**

### Important changes to BIA website

The content previously available on the Building Industry Authority website ([www.bia.govt.nz](http://www.bia.govt.nz)) is now located within the Department of Building and Housing website:

🌐 [www.dbh.govt.nz](http://www.dbh.govt.nz)

### Legality of Department of Building and Housing interpretations

Only the courts can issue binding interpretations of the Building Act 1991 and Building Act 2004 and Regulations. Indications and guidelines issued by the Department of Building and Housing, either in *Codewords* or other communications, are provided with the intention of helping people to understand the legislation. They are, however, offered on a 'no-liability' basis and, in any particular case, those concerned should consult their own legal advisers.

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