Consultation submission form

Building Code update 2021  
Building Code operating protocols

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# How to submit this form

This form is used to provide feedback on proposals found within the consultation documents:

› Building Code update 2021 – Issuing and amending acceptable solutions and verification methods

› Building Code operating protocols – Referencing standards and a tier framework to support standards in the Building Code system

When completing this submission form, please provide comments and reasons explaining your choices. Your feedback provides valuable information and informs decisions about the proposals.

You can submit this form by 5pm, Friday 28 May 2021 by:

› email: buildingfeedback@mbie.govt.nz, with subject line Building Code consultation 2021

› post to: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, 15 Stout Street, Wellington 6011

or: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, PO Box 1473, Wellington 6140

Your feedback will contribute to further development of the Building Code. It will also become official information, which means it may be requested under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

The OIA specifies that information is to be made available upon request unless there are sufficient grounds for withholding it. If we receive a request, we cannot guarantee that feedback you provide us will not be made public. Any decision to withhold information requested under the OIA is reviewable by the Ombudsman.

# Submitter information

MBIE would appreciate if you would provide some information about yourself. If you choose to provide information in the “About you” section below it will be used to help MBIE understand the impact of our proposals on different occupational groups. Any information you provide will be stored securely.

1. About you

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| Name: |  |

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| Email address: |  |

1. Are you happy for MBIE to contact you if we have questions about your submission?

Yes  No

1. Are you making this submission on behalf of a business or organisation??

Yes  No

If yes, please tell us the title of your company/organisation.

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1. The best way to describe your role is:

Architect  Engineer (please specify below)

BCA/Building Consent Officer  Residential building owner

Builder or tradesperson (please specify below)  Commercial building owner

Building product manufacturer or supplier  Other (please specify below)   
(please specify the type of product below)

Designer (please specify below)  Prefer not to say

Please specify here.

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# Proposal 1. Energy efficiency for housing and small buildings

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| To make buildings warmer, drier, healthier and more energy efficient, we are considering options to increase the minimum insulation levels for roof, windows, walls and floors for new housing and small buildings. The options for minimum insulation levels vary across the country so that homes in the coldest parts of New Zealand will need more insulation than those in the warmest parts. As part of this, we are proposing to issue new editions of Acceptable Solution H1/AS1 and Verification Method H1/VM1 for housing and small buildings. |

## Questions for the consultation

**1-1.** Which option do you prefer? (Please select one)

Status quo

Option 1. Halfway to international standards

Option 2. Comparable to international standards

Option 3. Going further than international standards

Is there anything you would like to tell us about the reason(s) for your choice?

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**1-2.** For your preferred option, how quickly should this change come into effect?  
(Please select one)

12 months  24 months  36 months or more **o/** Not sure/No preference

Is there anything you would like to tell us about the reason(s) for your choice?

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**1-3.** If there arefactors we should consider to progressively phase in your preferred option, please tell us below.

These factors may include material availability or affordability, regional differences in the requirements, different building typologies or other considerations.

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**1-4.** Do you support issuing the new editions of H1/AS1 and H1/VM1 as proposed?

H1/AS1:  Yes, I support it  No, I don’t support it  Not sure/no preference

H1/VM1:  Yes, I support it  No, I don’t support it  Not sure/no preference

Is there anything you would like to tell us about the reason(s) for your choice?

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**1-5.** What impacts would you expect on you or your business from the proposed options?These impacts may be economic/financial, environmental, health and wellbeing, or other areas.

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**1-6.** Is there any support that you or your business would need to implement the proposed changes if introduced?

Yes  No  Not sure/no preference

Is there anything you would like to tell us about the reason(s) for your choice?

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# Proposal 2. Energy efficiency for large buildings

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| To make buildings warmer, drier, healthier and more energy efficient, we are proposing to increase the minimum insulation levels for roof, windows, walls and floors for large buildings. The proposed minimum insulation levels will vary so that buildings in the coldest parts of New Zealand will need more insulation than those in the warmest parts. As part of this, we are proposing to issue a new Acceptable Solution H1/AS2 and Verification Method H1/VM2 for large buildings. |

## Questions for the consultation

**2-1.** Which option do you prefer? (Please select one)

Status quo

Option 1. 10% reduction in energy use for heating and cooling

Option 2. 20% reduction in energy use for heating and cooling

Option 3. 25% reduction in energy use for heating and cooling Is there anything you would like to tell us about the reason(s) for your choice?

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**2-2.** For your preferred option, how quickly should this change come into effect?  
(Please select one)

12 months  24 months  36 months or more **Not sure/** No preference

Is there anything you would like to tell us about the reason(s) for your choice?

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**2-3.** If there arefactors we should consider to progressively phase in your preferred option, please tell us below.

These factors may include material availability or affordability, regional differences in the requirements, different building typologies or other considerations.

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**2-4.** Do you support issuing the new editions of H1/AS2 and H1/VM2 as proposed?

H1/AS2:  Yes, I support it  No, I don’t support it  Not sure/no preference

H1/VM2:  Yes, I support it  No, I don’t support it  Not sure/no preference

Is there anything you would like to tell us about the reason(s) for your choice?

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**2-5.** What impacts would you expect on you or your business from the proposed options?These impacts may be economic/financial, environmental, health and wellbeing, or other areas.

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**2-6.** Is there any support that you or your business would need to implement the proposed changes if introduced?

Yes  No  Not sure/no preference

Is there anything you would like to tell us about the reason(s) for your choice?

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# Proposal 3. Energy efficiency for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems in commercial buildings

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| Currently, there is no acceptable solution or verification method issued for the energy efficiency of heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems in commercial buildings (Clause H1.3.6 of the Building Code). We are proposing to issue a new Verification Method H1/VM3 will establish a baseline and standardised procedures that will help building designers and building consent authorities demonstrate and verify the compliance of this clause. |

## Questions for the consultation

**3-1.** Do you support issuing the new edition of H1/VM3 as proposed?

Yes, I support it  No, I don’t support it  Not sure/no preference

Is there anything you would like to tell us about the reason(s) for your choice?

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**3-2.** Do you think the proposed Verification Method H1/VM3 covers all important aspects of energy efficiency of HVAC systems in commercial buildings?

Yes  No  Not sure/no preference

If there are aspects that you think should be included, please tell us below.

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**3-3.** What impacts would you expect on you or your business from the new H1/VM3?These impacts may be economic/financial, environmental, health and wellbeing, or other areas.

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**3-4.** Do you agree with the proposed transition time of 12 months for the new Verification Method H1/VM3 to take effect?

Yes, it is about right  No, it should be shorter (less than 12 months)

No, it should be longer (24 months or more)  Not sure/no preference

Is there anything you would like to tell us about the reason(s) for your choice?

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# Proposal 4. Natural light for higher-density housing

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| We are proposing toissue new acceptable solutions and verification methods for G7 Natural Light toadopt new compliance pathways for higher-density housing. The new pathways are more suitable for these types of buildings. As a consequence of the change, the scope of the existing documents are proposed to be limited. |

## Questions

**4-1.** Do you support issuing the new G7/AS1, G7/AS2, G7/VM2 as proposed?

G7/AS1:  Yes, I support it  No, I don’t support it  Not sure/no preference

G7/AS2:  Yes, I support it  No, I don’t support it  Not sure/no preference

G7/VM2:  Yes, I support it  No, I don’t support it  Not sure/no preference

Is there anything you would like to tell us about the reason(s) for your choice?

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**4-2.** What approach do you think we should take for G7/VM1?

It should be revoked  It should remain as is

It should be amended  Not sure/no preference

Is there anything you would like to tell us about the reason(s) for your choice?

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**4-3.** What impacts would you expect on you or your business from the new editions of G7/AS1, G7/AS2, G7/VM1, and G7/VM2?These impacts may be economic/financial, environmental, health and wellbeing, or other areas.

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**4-4.** Do you agree with the proposed transition time of 12 months for the new G7/AS1, G7/AS2, G7/VM1, and G7/VM2 to take effect?

Yes, it is about right  No, it should be shorter (less than 12 months)

No, it should be longer (24 months or more)  Not sure/no preference

Is there anything you would like to tell us about the reason(s) for your choice?

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# Proposal 5. Weathertightness testing for higher-density housing

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| We are proposing to issue a new edition of E2/VM2 to reference BRANZ Evaluation Method EM7 Performance of mid-rise cladding systems (version 3, June 2020). This update version of EM7 is easier for test laboratories, cladding system suppliers, and building designers to use than the previous version. The new version does not significantly change the minimum performance requirements of the test method, and existing tested cladding systems will not need to be retested. |

## Questions for the consultation

**5-1.** Do you support issuing the new edition of E2/VM2 as proposed to cite BRANZ EM7 version 3?

Yes, I support it  No, I don’t support it  Not sure/no preference

Is there anything you would like to tell us about the reason(s) for your choice?

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**5-2.** What impacts would you expect on you or your business from the new edition of E2/VM2?These impacts may be economic/financial, environmental, health and wellbeing, or other areas.

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**5-3.** Do you agree with the proposed transition time of 12 months for the new Verification Method E2/VM2 to take effect?

Yes, it is about right  No, it should be shorter (less than 12 months)

No, it should be longer (24 months or more)  Not sure/no preference

Is there anything you would like to tell us about the reason(s) for your choice?

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# Proposal 6. Standards referenced in B1 Structure

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| We are proposing to amend referenced standards in the acceptable solutions and verification methods for clause B1 Structure. The amended references include new versions of AS/NZS 4671, AS/NZS 5131, AS/NZS 2327, the NZGS document “Field Description of Soil and Rock – Guideline for the field descriptions of soils and rocks in engineering purposes“. Previous versions of these documents are currently referenced by the acceptable solutions and verification methods. |

## Questions for the consultation

**6-1.** Do you support the amendment of B1/AS1, B1/AS3 and B1/VM1 as proposed to include the following referenced standards and document?

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| AS/NZS 4671: 2019 Steel for the reinforcement of concrete: | Yes, I support it  No, I don’t support it  Not sure/no preference |
| AS/NZS 5131: 2016 Structural Steelwork – Fabrication and Erection: | Yes, I support it  No, I don’t support it  Not sure/no preference |
| AS/NZS 2327: 2017 Composite structures – Composite steel-concrete construction in buildings Amendment 1: | Yes, I support it  No, I don’t support it  Not sure/no preference |
| Field Description of Soil and Rock – Guideline for the field descriptions of soils and rocks in engineering purposes, New Zealand Geotechnical Society Inc., December 2005: | Yes, I support it  No, I don’t support it  Not sure/no preference |

Is there anything you would like to tell us about the reason(s) for your choice?

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**6-2.** What impacts would you expect on you or your business from the referencing of these standards and document?These impacts may be economic/financial, environmental, health and wellbeing, or other areas.

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**6-3.** Do you agree with the proposed transition time of 12 months for the new Acceptable Solutions B1/AS1 and B1/AS3 and Verification Method B1/VM1 to take effect?

Yes, it is about right  No, it should be shorter (less than 12 months)

No, it should be longer (24 months or more)  Not sure/no preference

Is there anything you would like to tell us about the reason(s) for your choice?

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# Proposal 7. Editorial changes to Acceptable Solution B1/AS1

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| We are proposing to amend text within Acceptable Solution B1/AS1 to make editorial changes in regards to geotechnical requirements. Editorial changes may include obvious errors in the text, typos, spelling mistakes, incorrect cross-references, changes in the formatting, minor clarifications of text with minor to no impact, or other items related to current document drafting practices. |

## Questions for the consultation

**7-1.** Do you support the amendment of B1/AS1 to address the editorial changes to geotechnical requirements as proposed?

Yes, I support it  No, I don’t support it  Not sure/no preference

Is there anything you would like to tell us about the reason(s) for your choice?

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# Building Code operating protocols

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| We are seeking feedback on two draft operating protocols that are intended to provide transparency and certainty around the work MBIE does as the building and construction regulator. The two operating protocols for this consultation are:  › Referencing standards in the Building Code system  › Tier framework to support standards in the Building Code system |

## Questions for the consultation

**1.** Do you agree with the proposed criteria for referencing a standard in the Building Code system?  
These proposed criteria include: alignment to the Building Code, in scope, clear, specific, implementable in New Zealand and available.

Yes, I support them  No, I don’t support them  Not sure/no preference

Is there anything you would like to tell us about the reason(s) for your choice?

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**2.** Do you agree with the proposed criteria for deciding the tier status of standards?

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| Risk severity: | Yes, I agree with the criteria  No, I don’t agree  Not sure/no preference |
| Contribution to the Building Code: | Yes, I agree with the criteria  No, I don’t agree  Not sure/no preference |
| Design focus: | Yes, I agree with the criteria  No, I don’t agree  Not sure/no preference |

Is there anything you would like to tell us about the reason(s) for your choice?

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**3.** Which standard(s) and their proposed tier status particularly impact you and why?

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**4.** Is there anything else you would like to tell us about these protocols for the use of standards in the Building Code system?

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# New look for Building Code documents

**1.** Is there anything you would like to tell us about the new look of acceptable solution and verification methods?

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# Thank you

Thanks for your feedback, we really appreciate your insight because it helps us keep pace with modern construction methods, the needs of New Zealanders and ensure buildings are safe, warm, dry, healthy and durable.

To help us continue to improve our Building Code update programme, we would appreciate any suggestions or comments you may have on what’s working and how we can do better.

Please leave your feedback below:

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