

Improving efficiency in the inspection process

INCREASING THE USE OF REMOTE INSPECTIONS AND ACCREDITED ORGANISATIONS

This fact sheet provides a brief summary of the discussion document: *Improving efficiency in the inspection process: Increasing the use of Remote Inspections and Accredited Organisations*. This resource will support people and organisations who want to make a submission.

The options in the discussion document aim to improve the efficiency and timeliness of building inspection processes to make it easier, cheaper and faster to build.

Background

Inspections play an important role in the building process – to check that building work is being carried out according to the consent and that buildings are healthy, safe and durable.

Conducting inspections remotely can reduce delays associated with on-site inspections, lower costs and lift efficiency by:

- › eliminating the need to travel to site, allowing inspectors to conduct more inspections per day
- › increasing flexibility in the workday of inspectors and building professionals
- › enabling inspectors to carry out inspections in other regions.

While remote inspections are already being used by some building consent authorities, uptake is low and practices vary across the country. MBIE recently published [guidance on how to conduct remote inspections](#), but further measures are needed to increase uptake and consistency of practice.

What we are consulting on:

We are seeking your feedback on a range of options to improve efficiency in the inspection process, primarily through measures to increase the uptake of remote inspections. The options are:

1. Review remote inspection guidance, address failure rates and/or publish wait times (non-regulatory)
2. Require building consent authorities to have the systems and capability to conduct remote inspections
3. Require building consent authorities to use remote inspections as the default approach to conducting inspections
4. Create a new offence to deter deceptive behaviour (stand-alone or complementary option)

In addition to these options, we also seek feedback on increasing inspection capacity and capability through greater use of Accredited Organisations (Building). These are private organisations accredited under the Building (Accreditation of Building Consent Authorities) Regulations 2006.

Timeline for consultation

This public consultation is now open and closes on 29 November 2024. Following consultation, MBIE will analyse all feedback and may publish a summary of submissions, to inform advice to the Government on next steps.



To have your say and for more information on this consultation, please visit:

mbie.govt.nz/have-your-say/consultation-on-increasing-the-use-of-remote-inspections-in-the-building-consent-process