

Fact Sheet 2

PRODUCT INFORMATION

24 MARCH 2020

A Bill to amend the Building Act 2004 has been introduced to Parliament and may be passed as law later in 2020. This fact sheet helps you understand the proposed amendments and what they mean.

Current state

Building products are central to safe and durable buildings, yet information about products is not required and they are only regulated through the consenting process by how they are specified and used in building work.

Building Consent Authorities (BCAs) frequently need to request information about specified products to ensure compliance with building code requirements. This creates costly delays for building owners.

There is also an increasing range and complexity of building products and methods, and cheaper alternatives available, increasing the risk of not meeting building code requirements from using an unsafe product.

What's changing

The Bill introduces the power to prescribe minimum requirements for information about building products that are available to the New Zealand market. This will need to be provided by product manufacturers and suppliers. It will give people the information they need to make good decisions about products, use them as intended, and will provide clarity on who can be held accountable if something goes wrong.

The information required will be set by regulations which are still to be developed. It proposed that they include:

- › a description of the product
- › details of the supplier, including contact information
- › information on the scope and limitations of use for the product
- › design and installation requirements, and maintenance requirements
- › a declaration of whether the product is subject to a warning or ban.

What this means for you

- › Product manufacturers, suppliers, importers and distributors will need to:
 - › make a minimum set of information about building products publicly available
 - › provide evidence for any product claims made to ensure accurate information
 - › ensure product information is not false or misleading, and false representations are not made.
- › Designers and builders will be able to use better product information to make good decisions on products, and use them as intended. Responsibilities will be clearer so builders can be held to account for sub-standard work. This will lead to higher quality builds and less rework.
- › BCAs may be able to make building decisions more quickly, informed by better product information, leading to more efficient consenting.
- › Building owners will benefit from better quality building work, saving time and money on less rework and more efficient consenting. Maintenance requirements of building products to ensure durability will be clearer.

Keep up-to-date with progress on the building law reforms at www.building.govt.nz.

