

NEWSLETTER

Brought to you by the
Hauraki District Council, Building Control Authority



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BUILDING CONSENT AUTHORITY (BCA) ACCREDITATION AND REGISTRATION

The Building Act 2004 requires that territorial authorities (TAs), regional authorities (RAs) and private bodies carrying out regulatory building control work must be accredited and registered as **Building Consent Authorities** (BCAs).

The introduction of accreditation and registration for organizations undertaking building control work is a key mechanism for achieving the aims of the Act. These aims are;

- More clarity on the standards we expect buildings to meet
- More guidance on how those standards can be met
- More certainly that capable that capable and competent people are undertaking the work
- More scrutiny in the building consent and inspection process

What is accreditation?

Accreditation is a system used by professions to help ensure that organizations and individuals are competent, and can perform their duties to a particular standard. Under the Building Act 2004, accreditation involves an independent accreditation body examining and verifying an organization's performance, systems, processes, technical competency and ability to fully discharge their statutory responsibilities. An accredited body can process and approve building consents, undertake building inspections, and issue Code Compliance Certificates to the standards required by the Act.

Why do we need accreditation?

The Building Act 2004 aims to strengthen New Zealand's regulatory building sector. Accreditation is one method of helping achieve this objective. Accreditation will:

- Help assure the public of the quality of building controls.
- Enable the DBH to monitor and gather information on regulatory building consent practices and issues
- Provide ongoing information to the DBH on which it can base regulatory activity
- Promote consistent and ongoing good practice in building control
- Identify good building control practices and share this information to interested parties
- Foster continuous improvement in building controls

What is a Building Consent Authority?

A BCA is a territorial authority, regional authority or a private body that has been assessed by the Building Consent Accreditation body, and has demonstrated that the necessary processes and systems are in place to meet the standards for BCAs.

Regional authorities will need to be accredited and registered BCAs to issue building consents. After 30 November 2007, only registered BCAs will be able to legally carry out regulatory building work in New Zealand. Organizations that are not accredited and registered will no longer be able to do regulatory building control work after that date.

The Building Consent Authority performs the following functions;

- Issues building consents (except consents subject to a waiver or modification)
- Inspects building work for which it has granted a building consent
- Issues Notices to Fix
- Issues Code Compliance Certificates
- Issues Compliance Schedules

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Council sent out letters last week to advise owners of public buildings that Building Consents issued after July 1992 must be signed off by Council (Code Compliance Certificate, to comply with the Building Act 2004. Failure to do this could mean public access being denied.

Building Consent processing timeframes are extended to 20 working days as from the 31 March 2005

Next Issue..... Territorial Authority functions within the Building Act 2004

Informative Websites

BRANZ	www.branz.co.nz
DBH	www.dbh.govt.nz
Building Controls	www.building.govt.nz
Consumer Building	www.consumerbuild.org.nz

EMAIL

We would appreciate your email if you have one so Council can communicate with you electronically the latest newsletters and bulletins.

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