BUILDING PERFORMANCE

Proposed amendments to Building Product Specifications

Consultation information and feedback form

December 2025 – February 2026

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) would like your feedback on a draft amendment to the Building Product Specifications, which can be viewed here:

https://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/31645-building-product-specifications-amendment-1

How to provide feedback

Please provide your feedback by **5pm, Monday 9 February 2026.**

You can provide feedback via Survey Monkey: https://www.research.net/r/building-product-specifications-2 or by following the instructions on page 3 to complete this feedback form and send it to us.

What we are seeking feedback on

Feedback is sought on the following sections of the Building Product Specifications:

- Section 3.5 – Timber (incl. wall bracing)
- Section 5.2 – Sound insulation (new)
- Section 8.3 – Closures including fire doors, smoke control doors, glazing, and dampers.

In the below sections are the proposed modifications to or standards for incorporation into the Building Product Specifications – you may respond to as many (or as few) sections as you wish. You may tick either agree, disagree or no opinion on the proposed standard (please only tick one box per standard). If you neither agree or disagree, or have no comment, please tick 'no opinion'.

We are seeking **three key pieces of feedback**:

1. Do you agree or disagree with each of the standards or reference documents proposed to be cited in the Building Product Specifications?
2. If not, for each citation you disagree with, why do you believe they are not suitable?
3. Do you have suggestions for standards or other references to be cited in future versions of the Building Product Specifications?

We appreciate your time and effort taken to respond to this consultation.

Building Product Specifications Q&As

What is the Building Product Specifications?

The Building Product Specifications is a legislative instrument that incorporates product standards by reference and sets out other specifications for the use of some building products.

The Building Product Specifications is used in conjunction with acceptable solutions and verification methods. Having a separate instrument for product standards enables currently cited standards to be updated, and new standards to be added to these compliance pathways, more regularly.

Why is this being updated?

The first edition of the Building Product Specifications was issued in July 2025. Amendments are proposed to modify specifications and incorporate further product standards. Some of the product standards proposed to be cited were suggested by submitters during consultation on the first edition.

How can the Building Product Specifications be used?

The Building Product Specifications cannot be used in isolation to demonstrate compliance with the Building Code. It can only be used to demonstrate compliance for a particular Building Code clause when referenced by an acceptable solution or verification method.

Products that comply with the Building Product Specifications must be accepted by Building Consent Authorities when the relevant section is cited by an acceptable solution or verification method. Products must be used as intended and within the scope of the relevant acceptable solution or verification method.

What is included in the Building Product Specifications?

The Building Product Specifications contains some product standards and specifications that were previously set out in acceptable solutions and verification methods. Where MBIE has determined that newer versions of standards can be cited or identified alternative standards that are broadly equivalent or better than current standards, these have been added to the Building Product Specifications.

Designers, builders and others can choose to specify products that meet these new standards in building consent applications, but there are no new or increased mandatory requirements. Standards and specifications currently referenced by acceptable solutions and verification methods will continue to be accepted, though they may now be set out in the Building Product Specifications.

When will amendments to the Building Product Specifications come into effect?

Following consultation, MBIE will review submissions and use feedback to finalise the amendments to the Building Product Specifications. The amendments will be issued by the end of April 2026.

Relevant acceptable solution and verification method documents will also be updated when the Building Product Specifications comes into effect.

Note: A transition period is not required as the current requirements are not changing.

How to submit this form

To make a submission using this form you will need to:

1. Fill out your name and email address. If you are representing an organisation, please provide a brief description of your organisation and its aims, and ensure you have the authority to represent its views.
2. Fill out your responses to the questions. You can answer any or all of these questions. Where possible, please provide us with evidence to support your views. Examples can include references to independent research or facts and figures.

When completing this submission form, it helps if you add comments and reasons explaining your choices. Your feedback is valuable as it informs decisions about incorporating material by reference in the Building Product Specifications.

MBIE needs your feedback by 5:00 pm on Monday, 9 February 2026.

- Email: building@mbie.govt.nz, with subject line Building Product Specifications consultation
- Post:
  Building Product Specifications consultation
  Building System Performance
  Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment
  PO Box 1473
  Wellington 6140

Next steps

Your feedback on this document will be collated and analysed along with all the other responses.

Following consideration of submissions, MBIE will finalise amendments to the Building Product Specifications to incorporate additional material by reference and issue the amended document.

Use of information

Release of information on MBIE website

MBIE may publish copies or excerpts of submissions. MBIE will consider you to have consented to this when you submitted your feedback unless you clearly stated otherwise in your submission.

If your submission contains any information that is confidential which you do not want published, please:

- state this at the start of your submission, with any confidential information clearly marked within your feedback text
- provide a separate version, with your confidential information removed, for publication on the MBIE website.

Release of information under the Official Information Act

Once submitted, your feedback becomes official information and can be requested under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

An OIA request asks for information to be made available unless there are sufficient grounds for withholding it. If some or all of your submission falls within the scope of any request for information received by MBIE, they cannot guarantee that your feedback will not be made public. Any decision to withhold information requested under the OIA is reviewable by the Ombudsman.

Get help from the ombudsman – Ombudsman New Zealand

If you do not want your submission feedback released as part of an OIA request, please say so in your submission feedback together with the reasons why (for example, privacy or commercial sensitivity).

MBIE will take your reasons into account when responding to OIA requests.

Personal information

The Privacy Act 2020 contains principles on how various agencies, including MBIE, collect, use and disclose information provided by individuals.

Any personal information you supply to MBIE in the course of providing your submission feedback is only:

- used for the purpose of assisting in the development of advice in relation to this consultation, or
- for contacting you about your submission.

MBIE may also use your personal information for other reasons permitted under the Privacy Act 2020 (for example, with your consent, for a directly related purpose, or where the law permits or requires it).

Please state clearly in your submission feedback if you do not want your name, or other personal information, included in any summary of submissions that MBIE may publish.

MBIE will only keep your personal information for as long as it is needed for the purposes for which the information may lawfully be used.

Where any information provided (which may include personal information) constitutes public records, it will be kept to the extent required by the Public Records Act 2005.

MBIE may also be required to disclose information under the Official Information Act 1982, to a Parliamentary Select Committee or Parliament in response to a Parliamentary Question.

You have rights of access to, and correction of, your personal information.

Go to MBIE's privacy web page for more information: Privacy | Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment

Your information

MBIE would appreciate it if you would provide some information about yourself. This helps MBIE understand the impact their proposals may have on different occupational groups. Any information you provide will be stored securely.

A. About you

Name:	Dr Chris Litten
Email address:	Chris.Litten@branz.co.nz

B. Can MBIE contact you if they have questions about your submission?

☒ Yes ☐ No

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

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please add the name of your company or organisation.

BRANZ (Building Research Association of New Zealand)

D. Select your role or the best way to describe your organisation:

☐ Architect

☐ BCA / TA / Building Consent Officer

☐ Builder or tradesperson (please specify below)

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

☐ Building resident, occupant or user (please specify below)

☐ Commercial building owner

☐ Designer (please specify below)

☐ Engineer (please specify below)

☐ Engineering Associate (please specify below)

☐ Residential building owner

☒ Other (please specify below)

☐ Prefer not to say

Independent research association

E. Personal information

The Privacy Act 2020 applies to feedback provided in all submissions.

☐ Please tick the box if you do **not** want your name or other personal information included in any information that MBIE may publish.

F. Publishing information

☐ MBIE may upload submissions, parts of submissions, or a summary of submissions received to its website. If you do **not** want part or all of your submission uploaded, please tick the box and say what you do not want uploaded and why below.

If you have ticked this box, please tell us what part(s) of your submission you do not want uploaded on MBIE's website and why.

[Please specify here]

G. Official information

The Official Information Act 1982 applies to all submissions received by MBIE.

☐ If you would like your submission (or parts of your submission) kept confidential please tick the box and **state** your reasons and ground(s) under sections 6, 7 and/or 9 of the Official Information Act that you believe apply, for consideration by MBIE.

If you have ticked this box, please tell us what parts of your submission you would like to be kept confidential, your reasons for this, and any grounds under the Official Information Act that you believe apply.

[Please specify here]

Section 3.5 Timber (including wall bracing elements) (please go to the next section if you do not have feedback on this)

1. Do you agree or disagree with the proposed amendments to Paragraph 3.5.3.3 of the Building Specifications?

Paragraph 3.5.3.3 of the Building Product Specifications is proposed to be modified so that, when gypsum plasterboard is used as wall bracing, the bracing rating shall be 25 bracing units per meter (25 BU/m) on each wall face covered by gypsum plasterboard.	☐ Agree ☒ Disagree ☐ No opinion

2. If you **do not** agree with the proposed amendments to the specification for gypsum plasterboard, please explain the reason for your choice:

In general, we 'agree' with the proposed amendment. It is a feasible approach to provide generic bracing ratings to plasterboard manufactured according to the listed standards because of the low risk profile (i.e. buildings within scope of NZS 3604) and the conservative approach taken (25 BU/m).

However, we have ticked the 'disagree' box so that the points below are also considered in this submission. These are points that should be part of the decision-making process both currently and for future editions of the BPS.

Points of consideration:

1) While the BPS refers to Acceptable Solutions it doesn't mention *NZS 3604 Timber-framed buildings* anywhere. It is important to specify that bracing ratings, which are only able to be developed using the P21 test method, are only applicable to buildings within the scope of NZS 3604. Bracing ratings are not to be used with any other design methods and are not to be confused with Specific Engineering Design (SED) methods that could potentially be used for Verification Methods. There already exists significant confusion about using P21 rated bracing systems for the design of buildings outside the scope of NZS 3604 and any amendments should seek to clarify these limitations and not create further confusion. This confusion in the design and engineering fields has been documented by Engineering New Zealand and SESOC in presentations and articles, for example:
https://d2rjvl4n5h2b61.cloudfront.net/media/documents/BracingUnits-SEDStructures.pdf
https://www.sesoc.org.nz/static/Documents/Conference/2023/SESOC2023-0010-Pratchett-10-43-Pratchett-Martin-10-43-Pratchett-Martin.pdf

2) It appears that the like for like of 'any' plasterboard has been taken directly from the GIB literature for 400 mm long walls and stipulates that wall segments must be 1200 mm or longer. This suggests that if the plasterboard used is somewhat comparable to GIB standard plasterboard, then 25 BU/m would be a conservative rating.
However, it should be noted that Winstone Wallboards has been refining their GIB plasterboard formulations for many decades in efforts to maximise bracing performance. It is not clear what aspects of plasterboard production Winstone Wallboards have adjusted to achieve this performance, including edge hardness, density and fibre content. While imported plasterboards may be able to achieve minimum standard requirements, the question remains as to whether or not they are suitable as bracing for buildings.

3) We recommend stipulating that 25 BU/m is for both wind and earthquake bracing ratings. Both are required for systems designed as bracing elements according to NZS 3604.

4) Including an option for nailing plasterboard seems like an historical approach since no current construction would use anything other than screws for fixing plasterboard to timber framing.

5) For older houses built with single and double lined plasterboard using older bracing methods (and presumably, with less concentrated fixing patterns), BRANZ research and guidance (https://www.branz.co.nz/pubs/research-reports/sr305/) provides generic numbers for bracing (rather than proprietary ones). This allows renovators and assessors of older buildings to reasonably evaluate these buildings within the current NZS 3604 environment.

6) Although the proposed amendment to the specification is conservative, at 25 BU/m, there is still the question whether any P21 testing is being conducted on imported plasterboard manufactured to the specified international standards. P21 testing is needed to verify that the product has comparable bracing performance to plasterboard manufactured according to the New Zealand standard. New Zealand is unique in using plasterboard as a main lateral load resisting system for buildings and is the only known jurisdiction to test for this. There could potentially be unknown/untested differences in overseas products that are primarily used for linings and not structural elements.

Section 5.2 Sound insulation (please go to the next section if you do not have feedback on this)

3. Do you agree or disagree with the citation of the following references in the Building Product Specifications?

ASTM E336-90* Method for measurement of airborne sound insulation in buildings	☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☒ No opinion
ASTM E336-25 Standard Test Method for Measurement of Airborne Sound Attenuation between Rooms in Buildings	☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☒ No opinion
Error! Reference source not found. Acoustics – Field measurement of sound insulation in buildings and of building elements Part 1: Airborne sound insulation	☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☒ No opinion
ASTM E413-1987* Classification for Rating Sound Insulation	☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☒ No opinion
ASTM E413-22 Classification for Rating Sound Insulation	☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☒ No opinion
ISO 140/VII:1978* Acoustics — Measurement of sound insulation in buildings and of building elements — Part VII: Field measurements of impact sound insulation of floors	☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☒ No opinion
ASTM E1007-25 Standard Test Method for Field Measurement of Tapping Machine Impact Sound Transmission Through Floor-Ceiling Assemblies and Associated Support Structures	☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☒ No opinion
Error! Reference source not found. Acoustics – Field measurement of sound insulation in buildings and of building elements Part 2: Impact sound insulation	☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☒ No opinion
Error! Reference source not found.* Standard classification for determination of impact insulation class (IIC)	☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☒ No opinion
ASTM E989-21 Standard Classification for Determination of Single-Number Metrics for Impact Noise	☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☒ No opinion
ASTM E989-18 Standard Classification for Determination of Single-Number Metrics for Impact Noise	☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☒ No opinion
ASTM E989-06(2012) Standard Classification for Determination of Impact Insulation Class (IIC)	☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☒ No opinion

*ASTM E336-90, ASTM E413-87, ISO 140-7:1978 and ASTM E989-89 are currently cited in verification methods and acceptable solutions. This proposal is to migrate these into the building product specifications.

4. If you **do not** agree with the citation of any of the above references, please explain the reason for your choice:

[Please explain here]

Section 8.3 Closures including fire doors, smoke control doors, glazing, and dampers (please go to the next section if you do not have feedback on this)

5. Do you agree or disagree with the citation of the following references for in the Building Product Specifications?

AS 1905.1:2015 Components for the protection of openings in fire-resistant walls – Part 1: Fire-resistant doorsets	☐ Agree ☒ Disagree ☐ No opinion
BS EN 1634-1:2014+A1:2018 Fire resistance and smoke control tests for door and shutter assemblies, openable windows and elements of building hardware - Fire resistance test for door and shutter assemblies and openable windows	☐ Agree ☒ Disagree ☐ No opinion
CAN/ULC S104:2015 Standard Method for Fire Tests of Door Assemblies	☐ Agree ☒ Disagree ☐ No opinion
NFPA 252:2022 Standard Methods of Fire Tests of Door Assemblies	☐ Agree ☒ Disagree ☐ No opinion
UL 10B:2020 Standard for Fire Tests of Door Assemblies	☐ Agree ☒ Disagree ☐ No opinion
UL 10C:2021 Positive Pressure Fire Tests of Door Assemblies	☐ Agree ☒ Disagree ☐ No opinion
ISO 3009:2003 Fire-resistance tests — Elements of building construction — Glazed elements	☒ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ No opinion
ASTM E119-20 Standard Test Methods for Fire Tests of Building Construction and Materials	☐ Agree ☒ Disagree ☐ No opinion
UL 263:2011 Fire Tests of Building Construction and Materials	☐ Agree ☒ Disagree ☐ No opinion
NFPA 257:2022 Standard on Fire Test for Window and Glass Block Assemblies	☐ Agree ☒ Disagree ☐ No opinion
UL 9:2009 Standard for Fire Tests of Window Assemblies	☐ Agree ☒ Disagree ☐ No opinion

6. If you **do not** agree with the citation of any of the above references, please explain the reason for your choice:

All comments stating "less onerous" is in reference to the status quo of the current Building Code Acceptable Solutions or Building Product Specifications

AS 1905-1:2015 – not an equivalent standard, it doesn't have NZS 4520:2010 requirements

BS EN 1634-1:2014+A1:2018 – not an equivalent standard, INTEGRITY (no latching and radiation requirement, less onerous), INSULATION (frame insulation criteria, less onerous), RADIATION (less onerous)

CAN/ULC S104:2015 – not an equivalent standard, exposure conditions, (negative furnace pressure across the whole specimen, less onerous), INTEGRITY (less onerous), INSULATION (less onerous), RADIATION (less onerous)

NFPA 252:2022 - not an equivalent standard, exposure conditions, (variable furnace pressure across the whole specimen, less onerous), INTEGRITY (less onerous), INSULATION (less onerous), RADIATION (less onerous)

UL10B – 2020 - not an equivalent standard, exposure conditions, (negative furnace pressure across the whole specimen, less onerous), INTEGRITY (less onerous), INSULATION (less onerous), RADIATION (less onerous)

UL 10C:2021 - not an equivalent standard, exposure conditions, (lower furnace pressure, less onerous), INTEGRITY (less onerous), INSULATION (less onerous), RADIATION (less onerous)

[ISO 3009-2003 – agree as equivalent]

ASTM E119-20 – not applicable standard, does not cover doors, smoke control doors, glazing or dampers

UL 263:2011 - not applicable standard, does not cover doors, smoke control doors, glazing or dampers

NFPA 257:2022 - not an equivalent standard, exposure conditions, (lower furnace pressure, less onerous), INTEGRITY (less onerous)

UL 9:2009 - not an equivalent standard, exposure conditions, (lower furnace pressure, less onerous), INTEGRITY (less onerous)

Lastly, do you have any suggestions for future Building Product Specifications or other comments?

7. If you would like to suggest any other standards or reference documents that should be cited in future versions of the Building Product Specifications, please tell us what they are and why you think they should be incorporated.

Standard/reference document(s):

[Please add names of standards/reference documents here]

Why should these be incorporated:

[Please include detail on what product(s), acceptable solutions and verification methods these relate to, and how they are equivalent to or better than current standards]

8. If you have any other comments on the Building Product Specifications, please provide these here:

[Comments]

Thank you for your feedback, we really appreciate your insights.