

Fact Sheet 1

PRODUCT CERTIFICATION (CODEMARK)

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

MBIE has a voluntary building product certification scheme, known as CodeMark. Building Consent Authorities (BCAs) must accept that building products with a CodeMark certificate comply with the building code, if they are installed correctly. This can lead to more efficient consenting.

However, the Building Act does not empower MBIE to set expectations or to intervene when these expectations are not met. This means that MBIE needs to strengthen its oversight of the scheme.

What's changing

The Bill gives MBIE's Chief Executive the power to set scheme rules for CodeMark. If a Product Certification Body (PCB) doesn't comply with the rules, their ability to certify products may be suspended or revoked. If a Certificate Holder doesn't comply with the rules, their product certificates may be suspended or revoked.

The Bill also strengthens MBIE's oversight of the scheme by introducing registration requirements. MBIE will be able to directly audit a PCB or product certificate, and suspend its registration if appropriate.

The Bill introduces new offences for a person who falsely claims to be a PCB or have CodeMark certification for their products. BCAs, industry and building owners will have greater assurance that products labelled with a CodeMark certificate can be used safely in building work.

What this means for you

The changes will result in a more robust product certification scheme that BCAs, industry and homeowners can be confident in. MBIE will use its increased oversight to more effectively regulate the scheme. It will be harder for poorly performing PCBs and products to enter the scheme, and it will be easier to address any quality issues that may arise.

- › Existing PCBs will have clearer rules to follow.
- › Certificate holders will have greater confidence that their products are being certified by high performing PCBs and their certificates will be of a high quality.
- › BCAs can have greater confidence that product certificates are high quality, more consistent, and being issued by high performing PCBs.
- › Building owners will have greater confidence in safe and durable buildings that use certified products and methods, and benefit from more efficient consenting.

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

