

Consultation submission form

Building Code update 2022

Transition period for the energy efficiency of housing



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H1 Energy efficiency for housing and small buildings Transition period **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

How to submit this form

How to submit this form

This form is used to provide feedback extending the transition period for the implementation of insulation settings in Acceptable Solution H1/AS1 and Verification Method H1/VM1.

When completing this submission form, please provide comments and reasons explaining your choices. Your feedback provides valuable information and informs decisions about the proposals.

You can submit this form by 5pm, Tuesday 14 June 2022 by:

- › email: buildingfeedback@mbie.govt.nz, with subject line Building Code consultation 2022
- › post to: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, 15 Stout Street, Wellington 6011
or: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, PO Box 1473, Wellington 6140

Your feedback will contribute to further development of the Building Code. It will also become official information, which means it may be requested under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

The OIA specifies that information is to be made available upon request unless there are sufficient grounds for withholding it. If we receive a request, we cannot guarantee that feedback you provide us will not be made public. Any decision to withhold information requested under the OIA is reviewable by the Ombudsman.

Submitter information

Submitter information

MBIE would appreciate if you would provide some information about yourself. If you choose to provide information in the “About you” section below it will be used to help MBIE understand the impact of our proposals on different occupational groups. Any information you provide will be stored securely.

A. About you

Name: Teena Hale Pennington

Email address: thalepennington@nzia.co.nz

B. Are you happy for MBIE to contact you if we 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 tell us the title of your company/organisation.

Te Kāhui Whaihanga New Zealand Institute of Architects

D. The best way to describe your role is:

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architect | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineer (please specify below) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BCA/Building Consent Officer | <input type="checkbox"/> Residential building owner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Builder or tradesperson (please specify below) | <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial building owner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building product manufacturer or supplier
(please specify the type of product below) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify below) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Designer (please specify below) | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |

Please specify here.

Professional body supporting architects and New Zealand architecture

Submitter information

E. Privacy information

- The Privacy Act 2020 applies to submissions. Please tick the box if you do **not** wish your name or other personal information to be included in any information about submissions that MBIE may publish.
- MBIE may upload submissions or a summary of submissions received to MBIE's website at www.mbie.govt.nz. If you do **not** want your submission or a summary of your submission to be placed on our website, please tick the box and type an explanation below:

I do not want my submission placed on MBIE's website because... [insert reasoning here]

F. Confidential information

- I would like my submission (or identifiable parts of my submission) to be kept confidential and **have stated** my reasons and ground under section 9 of the Official Information Act that I believe apply, for consideration by MBIE.

If you have ticked this box, please tell us what parts of your submission are to be kept confidential.

Transition period for the energy efficiency of housing

We are proposing to extend the transition period for adopting new insulation requirements for housing in Acceptable Solution H1/AS1 and Verification Method H1/VM1. The proposed change would extend the transition period for 6 months to 1 May 2023. This proposed change considers feedback received in the 2021 consultation, changing circumstances in New Zealand's building and construction sector, and the importance of New Zealand's obligations under the Climate Change Response Act 2002.

Questions for the consultation

1-1. Do you agree with the proposed extension of 6 months to the transition time so that the previous lower insulation settings can be used until 1 May 2023?

- Yes, I support the extension of 6 months (1 May 2023)
- No, the transition period should remain the same (2 November 2022)**
- No, the extension should be longer (12 months to 1 November 2023)
- Not sure/no preference

Is there anything you would like to tell us about the reason(s) for your choice?

The original timeframe should remain. An extension further denies all New Zealanders access to the benefits of a warm, dry and affordable home to heat. The research is clear – New Zealand's current building code is well below international comparisons and the urgency of these changes is health related.

It was not until 25 November 1977¹ that the government made insulation in new homes compulsory. Since 1977, the R-value has only increased to an R-value of 3.3 in New Zealand's coldest zone despite this early research and the impact of damp, mouldy and poorly ventilated homes on the respiratory health of many New Zealanders

Given the immense pressures on the NZ health system, including current structural reforms, it is incredibly disappointing to see the construction sector regulator contemplating trading off the health and wellbeing of New Zealanders by supporting the transfer of known and avoidable costs to the health system. Last year, a study estimated that damp or mouldy housing conditions and associated hospitalisations cost the health system approximately \$141 million².

The H1 changes have been clearly signalled to industry. Sure, there is more MBIE can do to support industry implementation, however, nothing can be assumed to be more certain or better in six months or 12 months' time. The effects of implementation initially are on paper, building consent documentation. The needs and demands on manufacturers products, will most likely be seen in the first quarter of 2023 (which is optimistic given current work in progress).

Pressures on the construction industry from increasing demand and supply chain issues is no excuse to defer our collective responsibility to reduce emissions and increase wellbeing by making our homes warmer, drier, and more affordable to heat. The construction industry has proved in the last two years that it can quickly adapt to change. Changes to the Building Code are no exception.

¹ Nigel Isaacs, 'Thermal insulation required in New Zealand homes' (New Zealand History, 1 April 1978) <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/page/thermal-insulation-required-nz-homes> accessed 24 May 2021.

² 2021 Population Association of New Zealand, "The Effects of Housing on Health and Well-Being in Aotearoa New Zealand", Phillipa Howden-Chapman, et al., New Zealand Population Review, Issue 47, pp 16-32, https://www.healthyhousing.org.nz/sites/default/files/2021-11/HowdenChapman_et_al_Housing_Health_Wellbeing.pdf accessed 31 May 2022

Transition period for the energy efficiency of housing

There is no denying that the industry and its people are under pressure, operating in an environment of uncertainty and in a race to retain and attract talent. These pressures are real, and COVID-19 has certainly been a sustained 'shock' to the system. However, the challenges being experienced from are not unique. The industry has a long history of navigating regulatory, market and economic shocks.

The Construction Sector Accord offers an opportunity for the industry and government to work positively on implementing the proposed changes. We've seen throughout the last two years that Accord has mobilised quickly and effected change, in an uncertain and disrupted environment.

1-2. What impacts would you expect on you or your business from the proposed change to the transition period?

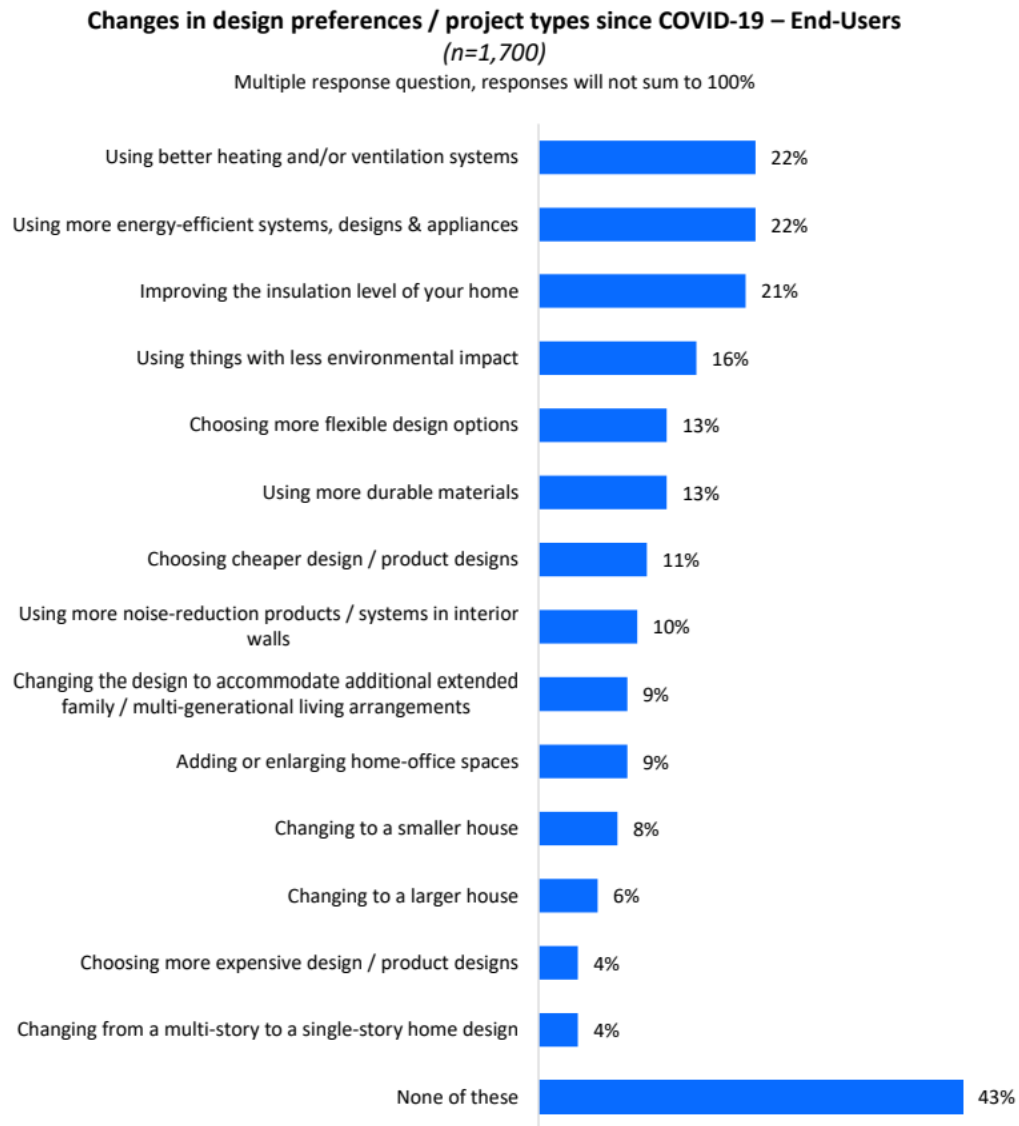
These impacts may be economic/financial, environmental, health and wellbeing, or other areas.

There is growing public awareness of the importance of environmentally responsible design (e.g., energy efficiency, carbon zero, etc.). MBIE's own research³ supports changes being made since COVID-19 prioritising using better heating, improving the insulation level of your home, using things with less environmental impact.

³ Ipsos (2021). The COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on building system actors. Summary Report September 2021. <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/17754-summary-report-covid-19-pandemic-and-its-impact-on-building-system-actors-research> accessed 12 June 2022, Wellington: MBIE

Transition period for the energy efficiency of housing

Figure 4: Changes in design preferences / project types – End-Users



Delaying the proposed implementation of H1 will only exacerbate the industry challenges ahead when implementing future Building Code changes (for example ventilation) and Building for Climate Change (targets and caps for energy use and carbon emissions).

It would be a reasonable expectation of the building for climate change programme that the H1 improvements (originally proposed for implementation 2 November 2022) are understood and operative in the system as early as possible.

Transition period for the energy efficiency of housing

1-3. What support would you or your business need to implement the changes by 1 May 2023 if introduced?

- Information about what the insulation changes are or what buildings they apply to
- Education material on how the new documents can be used to comply with the Building Code
- Webinars from MBIE technical experts
- Other types of support** (please specify below)

If there anything else you would like to tell us about the reason for your choice(s)?

This response is for MBIE to **implement the original timeframe of 2 November 2022.**

There is an urgent need for the regulator MBIE to work collaboratively with BCAs and the design community to ensure that consent documentation, includes reasonable expectations on specification detailing and efficient processes for approving substitutions as will be required from the changes to H1.

This is seen to be more than an 'education' need. It is regulator guidance and direction to ensure the consenting system operates efficiently and with certainty.