

# Removing barriers to using overseas products

MAY 2024

## Purpose of this resource

This resource provides information about upcoming changes that the Government announced, to make it easier to use building products from overseas, by providing assurance that they will be accepted by building consent authorities as complying with the Building Code.

The government committed to these changes in the 100-point economic plan, and announced the decisions in April 2024. These changes will need to go through the parliamentary process, which is planned for late-2024.

This resource is intended for the manufacturers, importers, and suppliers of building products, industry advocates, building consent authorities, consumers, and designers that specify building products for building work.

## Background

Aotearoa/New Zealand imports about 90 per cent of all building products (or components) sold in the country.

The Commerce Commission's market study into residential building supplies found that competition for

the supply and acquisition of key building supplies is not working as well as it could, and that it is too slow and costly to get overseas building products accepted for general use.

The Commerce Commission recommended that the building regulatory system needed to create clear compliance pathways for key building supplies and make it easier for designers to show that the products they have chosen comply with the Building Code.

View the **Commerce Commission's market study into residential building supplies**  
[www.comcom.govt.nz/about-us/our-role/competition-studies/market-study-into-residential-building-supplies](http://www.comcom.govt.nz/about-us/our-role/competition-studies/market-study-into-residential-building-supplies)

## What's changing and how will it be achieved?

Changes to the Building Act 2004 will be made and are intended to deliver the greatest benefit for Kiwis through improved competition and lowered costs of building, ensuring our homes and buildings are safe and durable. This will be achieved by:

# 01

**Recognising certain overseas standards organisations:** Using robust criteria, the Government will recognise certain overseas standards organisations and standards certification schemes. This will provide assurance to designers and manufacturers that the product standards that their product has been manufactured to is from a recognised standards organisation.

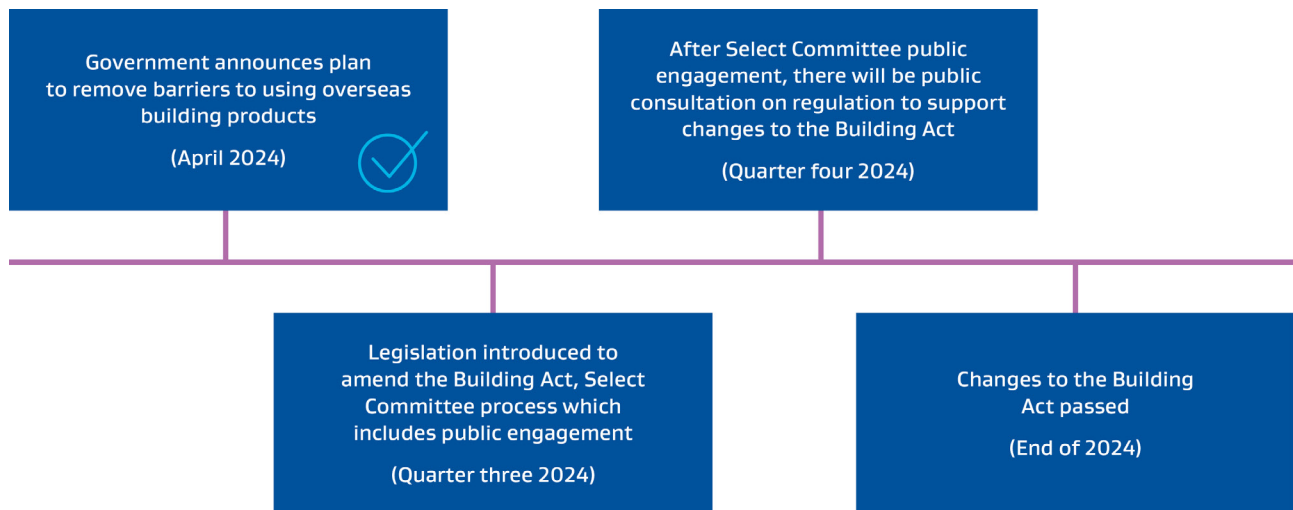
# 02

**Streamlining the citing of international standards:** Product manufacturing and testing standards currently in Acceptable Solutions and Verification Methods will be moved into the building product specification (a new regulatory instrument). This will provide more options for the product standards that can be used with Acceptable Solutions and Verification Methods to comply with the Building Code.

# 03

**Mandating the acceptance of products certified overseas:** Using robust criteria, the Government will specify certain products from certain overseas certification schemes that building consent authorities must accept as complying with the Building Code.

## Timeline



## Consumer protections

The Building Act has consumer protections that apply to overseas building products that are used in building work. These include:

- › implied warranties to protect residential building work which are automatic and cover almost all aspects of building work from compliance with the Building Code.
- › a 12-month defect repair period. If any defects in the building work emerge within 12 months of the completed build date, the builder has an obligation to fix them.

In addition, the Building Product Information Requirements will require manufacturers and importers to provide publicly accessible and accurate information about their products online.



For more information, visit:  
[www.building.govt.nz/overseasproducts](http://www.building.govt.nz/overseasproducts)