

MultiProof Scheme Guidance

**GUIDANCE FOR BUILDING CONSENT AUTHORITIES
AND PRACTITIONERS ON NATIONAL MULTIPLE-USE APPROVALS**

SEPTEMBER 2024



Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE)
Hīkina Whakatutuki – Lifting to make successful

MBIE develops and delivers policy, services, advice and regulation to support economic growth and the prosperity and wellbeing of New Zealanders.

The MultiProof Scheme Guidance is produced by the Building System Performance branch.

This document is issued as guidance under section 11(e) of the Building Act 2004.

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Information, examples and answers to your questions about the topics covered here can be found on our website: www.building.govt.nz or by calling us free on **0800 24 22 43**.

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More information

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Purpose

This guidance intends to support understanding of national multiple-use approvals (MultiProof) for building consent authorities, designers, builders, consumers and MultiProof approval holders (approval holders).

It covers the relevant aspects of the *Building Act 2004* (the Building Act), the *Building (National Multiple-use Approval) Regulations 2011* (the MultiProof Regulations), the *Building (Minor Variations) Regulations 2009* (the Minor Variations Regulations) and the *Building (Minor Customisations) Regulations 2024* (the Minor Customisations Regulations).

THIS GUIDANCE SEEKS TO:

- provide information about the Building Act and the MultiProof Regulations as they relate to MultiProof approvals
- outline how MultiProof works and what a MultiProof approval entails
- explain the roles and responsibilities of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), building consent authorities, and MultiProof approval holders
- provide information on the building consent process for those using a MultiProof approval as a means of compliance
- explain the purpose and intent of MultiProof approvals and how to use them as part of a building consent
- provide definitions and explanations of key terms/concepts used in the Building Act, the MultiProof Regulations, the Minor Variations Regulations and the Minor Customisations Regulations.

Who is this guidance for?

- Building consent authorities, which must accept a MultiProof approval as establishing Building Code compliance (so long as submitted with the approved plans and specifications – this includes permitted variations approved by MBIE).
- MultiProof approval holders, which include people and relevant organisations that hold a MultiProof approval.
- People and organisations interested in applying for a MultiProof approval for their plans and specifications.
- Other users, including designers, builders and consumers.

The [Roles and responsibilities section](#) has more information on these groups.

Limitations of this guidance

This document is a general guide to support building consent authorities and others involved with MultiProof approvals. While the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) has taken great care in preparing this guide, it provides guidance only and should not be used to establish all the requirements of the Building Act and MultiProof Regulations on its own. Readers must refer to the Building Act and the MultiProof Regulations as their primary source documents, and be aware that for specific situations or problems, it may be necessary to seek independent legal advice.

Interpretation	
Building Act	Building Act 2004
Building Code	New Zealand Building Code, Schedule 1 to the Building Regulations 1992
Building consent authority	a person whose name is entered in the register referred to in section 273(1)(a)
Building (Minor Customisations) Regulations 2024	Minor Customisations Regulations
Building (Minor Variations) Regulations 2009	Minor Variations Regulations
Building (National Multiple-use Approval) Regulations 2011	MultiProof Regulations
Licensed building practitioner	a building practitioner whose name is, for the time being, entered in the register established and maintained under section 298(1). They carry out restricted building work.
Minor variation	a minor modification, addition, or variation to a building consent that is permitted by regulations made under section 402(1)(kd)
Minor customisation	in relation to an application for a building consent that incorporates plans and specifications that have national multiple-use approval, means a minor modification, addition, or variation to those plans and specifications that is permitted by regulations made under section 402(1)(kc)
National multiple-use approval	an approval issued by the Chief Executive under section 30F
Proposed plans and specifications	plans and specifications in respect of which the national multiple-use approval is sought
Restricted building work	any building work that is a kind declared by the Governor-General by Order in Council to be restricted building work or design work of a kind declared by the Governor-General by Order in Council to be restricted building work.

What is MultiProof?

A MultiProof approval is a statement by MBIE that a set of plans and specifications complies with the New Zealand Building Code (the Building Code). The approval may also include alternatives or allow for some small changes to the design.

To apply for MultiProof, the applicant must have the intention and ability to reproduce buildings based on the proposed plans and specifications at least ten times in a two-year period. The application must relate to the building as a whole, but it does not need to include site-specific features, such as foundations and drainage.

The benefits of holding a MultiProof for a design include:

- a shorter processing period (10 working days for processing a building consent instead of the usual 20)
- greater consistency of decision-making by building consent authorities throughout the country for the same design
- potential cost savings.

WHAT THE LAW SAYS

The Building Act refers to MultiProof as **national multiple-use approval** – it means an approval issued by the chief executive under [section 30F of the Building Act](#).

MultiProof approval holders (approval holders) need to apply for a building consent each time they build.

The building consent needs to include most of the information that would be normally required for a building consent, including plans and specifications.

However, when applying for a building consent, approval holders do not need to provide things such as:

- structural calculations
- bracing schedules
- CodeMark certificates
- BRANZ appraisals
- certificates of work.

The above is assessed by MBIE during the application stage to obtain a MultiProof.

Site specific components of the building, such as foundations, that are not covered by the MultiProof approval must be provided.

[MBIE has published a guide on how to apply for a building consent.](#)

Once the building consent application is received, the building consent authority should check that the plans and specifications submitted as part of the building consent application match those in the MultiProof approval.

If they match, the building consent authority must accept the MultiProof as a means of compliance with the Building Code and must process the building consent application within the statutory 10 working days.

History of MultiProof

The Building Amendment Act 2009 introduced several sections of legislation that modified the Building Act.

To bring more efficiency into the building consent process, the Amendment Act introduced:

- **MultiProof approvals** – a statement from MBIE’s Chief Executive that if building work were properly completed in accordance with the plans and specifications of a whole building, that building work would comply with the Building Code.
- **Minor variations** – a minor modification, addition or variation to a building consent that doesn’t deviate significantly from the approved plans and specifications to which the building consent relates.

When MultiProof was first introduced in 2009, approvals were only available for standalone outbuildings (garages, sheds, farm buildings) and standalone or semi-detached houses of up to two storeys. However, the MultiProof Regulations were changed in May 2011, removing restrictions on building type or use.

On 30 September 2024, the Building (Minor Customisations) Regulations 2024 commence, defining minor customisations made to a MultiProof approved building design before submitting for a building consent to be issued.



MultiProof regulatory framework

MultiProof operates under the legislative framework provided by the *Building Act 2004* and *Building (National Multiple-use Approval) Regulations 2011*.

MULTIPROOF REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

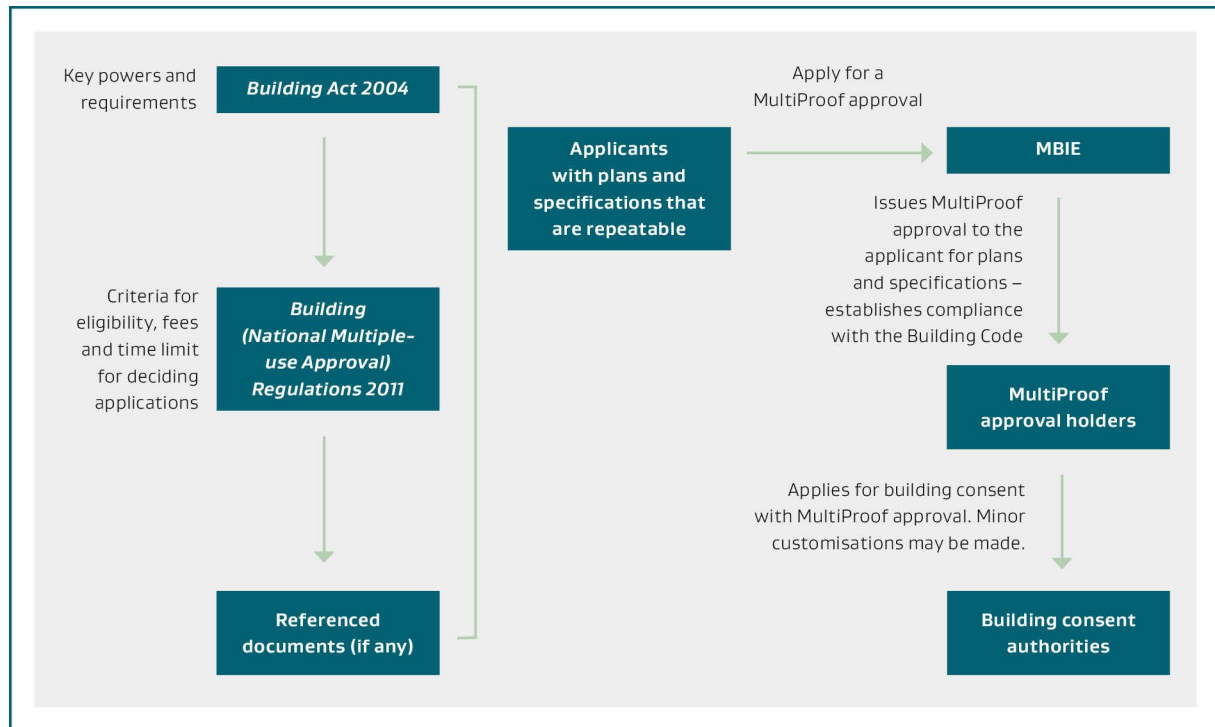


Figure 1: The system for managing national multiple-use approvals

Deemed to comply pathways

The building consent is the foundation document for any significant building project. It provides formal recognition that the building work, if built in accordance with the plans and specifications, meets the performance requirements of the Building Code.

There are different pathways to comply with the Building Code, including **alternative solutions** and **deemed to comply** methods. Deemed to comply methods are the easiest ways to ensure building work meets the performance requirements set out in the Building Code.

To issue a building consent, a building consent authority must accept deemed to comply pathways as evidence of compliance with the Building Code.

Building consent authorities must accept deemed to comply pathways as evidence that the work complies with the Building Code. However, note that the work must follow the requirements set out in that deemed to comply pathway.

Note: deemed to comply pathways are not defined as such in the Building Act. However, this is the language different public and private agencies use to call evidence that building consent authorities must accept as establishing compliance with the Building Code.



[Section 19](#) of the Building Act specifies that a building consent authority must accept any or all of the following as establishing compliance with the Building Code:

- a current MultiProof approval issued under [section 30F](#), if every relevant condition in that MultiProof approval is met
- compliance with regulations referred to in [section 20](#) of the Building Act
- compliance with an acceptable solution
- compliance with a verification method
- a determination by the MBIE's Chief Executive (where there may have been a dispute about building work)
- current registered product certificate (CodeMark) if every relevant condition in that product certificate is met
- a current manufacturer's certificate issued by a registered manufacturer certified to design and manufacture (BuiltReady)
- an energy works certificate issued under the regulations made under the [Electricity Act 1992](#) or the [Gas Act 1992](#) to show that that completed building work complies with the Building Code.

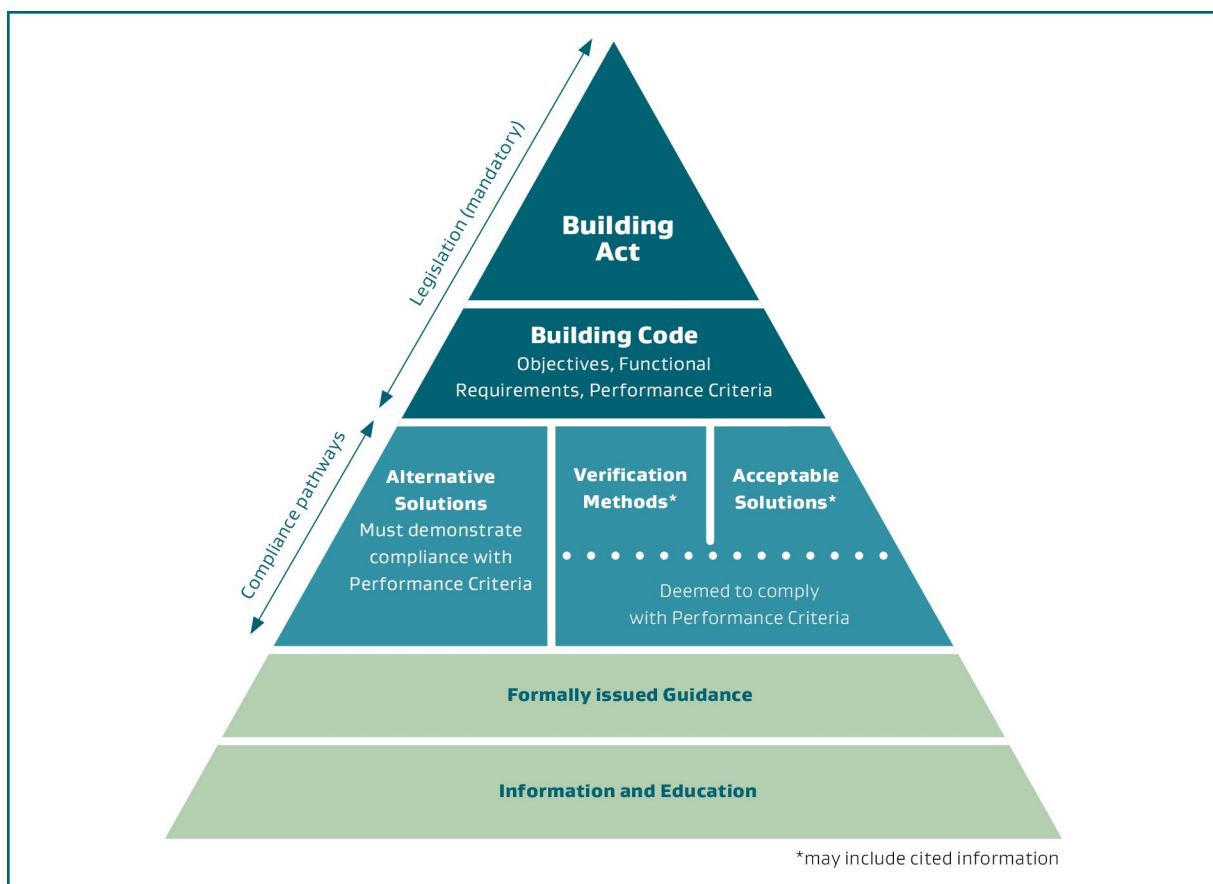


Figure 2: Compliance triangle explaining the building regulatory system

Roles and responsibilities

The Building Act and the MultiProof Regulations outline the roles and responsibilities in regards to MultiProof approvals.

MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND EMPLOYMENT (MBIE)

MBIE is the central regulator of the building regulatory system. It is the administering agency for the Building Act, associated regulations, and certain secondary legislation (such as scheme rules for [CodeMark](#), the product certification scheme, and [BuiltReady](#), the modular component manufacturer scheme).

As the administrator and owner of MultiProof, MBIE (through its Chief Executive):

- processes MultiProof approvals
- issues MultiProof approvals
- suspends or revokes MultiProof approvals
- oversees and manages the performance of MultiProof approvals
- maintains the [MultiProof register](#).



MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND EMPLOYMENT'S CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MBIE's Chief Executive has a range of roles and responsibilities under the Building Act regarding MultiProof. The Chief Executive has delegated their role and responsibilities for these functions through to certain positions of MBIE that work in the building regulatory system. For the purposes of this guidance document, we refer to "MBIE's Chief Executive".

MBIE's Chief Executive can also suspend MultiProof approvals if they're satisfied of any of the below:

- the approval was obtained by fraud, misrepresentation or the concealment of facts
- the approval no longer meets the prescribed eligibility criteria
- building work properly completed according to the approval will no longer comply with the Building Code due to a Building Code amendment.

If successful, MBIE will issue a MultiProof approval with any permitted variations. Once the approval is on the MultiProof register, building consent authorities must accept the MultiProof approval as establishing compliance with the Building Code, so long as it is submitted with the approved plans and specifications.

WHAT THE LAW SAYS

[Section 11](#) of the Building Act specifies the responsibilities of MBIE's Chief Executive – this includes determining applications for MultiProof approvals.

MBIE's Chief Executive also has the following powers under the Building Act:

- section 30D – deciding whether to accept a MultiProof approval for processing
- section 30E – processing an application for a MultiProof approval
- section 30F – issuing a MultiProof approval
- section 30G – refusing to issue a MultiProof approval
- section 30H – suspending or revoking a MultiProof approval.

Delegating statutory powers and functions given to MBIE's Chief Executive is given through Schedule 6 of the Public Service Act 2020. MBIE's framework for these statutory delegations means the relevant Deputy Chief Executive may sub-delegate powers or functions where appropriate to named positions.

BUILDING CONSENT AUTHORITIES

Building consent authorities are responsible for performing certain building control functions under the Building Act.

Building consent authorities:

- assess whether a building consent application complies with the Building Code
- inspect building work
- check that completed building work has been carried out in accordance with the building consent for that work
- issue building consents and code compliance certificates.

Building consent authorities must accept a MultiProof approval as establishing compliance with the Building Code, provided the approval is current and valid, as well as used in accordance with the terms of the approval itself. This is a deemed to comply pathway.

WHAT THE LAW SAYS

The roles and responsibilities of building consent authorities are summarised in sections [12](#) and [14F](#) of the Building Act.

12 Role of building consent authority and territorial authority

(1) Under this Act, a building consent authority—

- (a) issues building consents, but not if a building consent is required to be subject to a waiver or modification of the building code; and*
- (b) inspects building work for which it has granted a building consent; and*
- (c) issues notices to fix; and*
- (d) issues code compliance certificates; and*
- (e) issues compliance schedules.*

14F Responsibilities of building consent authority

A building consent authority is responsible for—

- (a) checking, in accordance with the requirements of this Act for each type of building consent, to ensure that—*
 - (i) an application for a building consent complies with the building code;*
 - (ii) building work has been carried out in accordance with the building consent for that work;*
- (b) issuing building consents and certificates in accordance with the requirements of this Act.*

APPLYING FOR A MULTIPROOF APPROVAL

Like MBIE's other voluntary deemed to comply pathways, CodeMark (the product certification scheme) and BuiltReady (the modular component manufacturer scheme), MultiProof offers a deemed to comply pathway for whole building designs. However, its point of difference is that unlike CodeMark and BuiltReady, it is not a certification scheme. This means it is neither administered by a third party nor governed by scheme rules.

MBIE both owns and administers MultiProof approvals – this means prospective MultiProof approval holders must apply through MBIE.

The MultiProof Regulations set out different legal requirements for issuing MultiProof approvals.

WHAT THE LAW SAYS

The *Building (National Multiple-use Approval) Regulations 2011* set out the legal requirements that MBIE must follow. This includes things such as:

- eligibility criteria for MultiProof
- the time limit for deciding applications
- fees
- revocation and transitional provisions.

Applicants for MultiProof must:

- provide evidence that their plans and specifications for a whole building comply with the Building Code
- intend and be able to build an approved design at least ten times over two years
- provide evidence they can replicate the design
- include plans, specifications and supporting material related to:
 - wind zone
 - earthquake zone
 - exposure zone
 - snow zone or snow loading
 - climate zone
 - type of ground condition if including foundation design
- include all possible design alternatives that may be used.

The Building Performance website includes information on how to approach [MultiProof design compliance](#).

To find out more in-depth information on what to include in a MultiProof application, visit the [Building Performance website](#) or email MultiProof@mbie.govt.nz

USING MULTIPROOF WHEN APPLYING FOR BUILDING CONSENT

APPROVAL HOLDERS STILL NEED TO APPLY FOR A BUILDING CONSENT

Once the MultiProof approval has been issued by MBIE, approval holders still need to apply for a building consent every time they wish to build their approved design. This is so the building consent authority can confirm:

- the plans and specifications included in the building consent application, along with any permitted variations, are the same as that shown in the plans and specifications approved as part of the MultiProof approval
- the MultiProof approval conditions will be met for the proposed site, such as wind zones and climate zones
- any site-specific features of the design comply with the Building Code, such as foundations and plumbing
- and establish the inspections required.



However, because the design has MultiProof approval, the building consent authority must process the building consent application within 10 working days instead of the usual 20.

Approval holders can only rely on a MultiProof approval if they build the design MBIE approved, including any design alternatives (permitted variations) shown on the approval.

If an approval holder applies for building consent and wants to make design changes that have not been specifically approved by MBIE, the building consent authority will need to assess the whole design for Building Code compliance. The normal processing period of 20 working days will apply.

Once the building consent has been issued, the building work must comply with the building consent as with other projects.

What to provide to the building consent authority

 Checklist: Using MultiProof with an application for building consent 	
Identify that the application is for a design which has a MultiProof approval and provide the certificate number on the form.	
Provide plans and specifications for the proposed building, so the building consent authority can compare the building consent application plans and specifications to the approved documents held online.	
Identify any permitted variations that have been chosen.	
Provide information about the site conditions so that the building consent authority can check whether the site meets the conditions of the approved design (if applicable).	
Include a statement that confirms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the design complies with the MultiProof number issued by MBIE, and no changes have been made outside those permitted in approved design, or details of any proposed minor customisations of the approved design, and the consent application meets all the conditions of the MultiProof for the proposed site. 	
State plans and specifications for any site-specific building work (like foundations and site services) not covered by the MultiProof.	
Provide certificates of design work from any design LBPs involved in the design of any site-specific restricted building work (like for the foundations) and for any parameter-based variations. ¹	
List the trade LBPs who will be constructing the restricted building work (for the foundations and building work that relates to the external moisture management system).	

Building consent applicants that hold a MultiProof do not need to provide the building consent authority with the information provided to support the MultiProof application (such as calculations and certificates of design work). This information is held by MBIE and does not need to be viewed by the building consent authorities.

If the applicant is not able to provide the information required under [section 45 of the Building Act](#), including any information reasonably requested, then the building consent authority may decline to receive the building consent application.

1. For more about parameter-based MultiProof variations, [view Building Performance's MultiProof case study](#).

BUILDING CONSENT AUTHORITIES

HOW TO PROCESS A BUILDING CONSENT APPLICATION THAT USES MULTIPROOF

- Check the applicant has sent in all the right information (refer to our Checklist: building consent application for building consent authorities). This should include full plans and specifications in your building consent, any approved alternatives and notice of any departure from these.
- Make sure the design and any alternatives are within the terms of the MultiProof approval (check MBIE's [MultiProof register](#) for details).
- Use the MultiProof approval as evidence of compliance that the building work will comply with the Building Code.
- Check any site-specific details that aren't covered by the MultiProof (like drainage), certificates of work for site-specific restricted building work and any other approval conditions (like wind or climate zone limitations) in the usual way.
- Issue the building consent within **10 working days**.

WHAT THE LAW SAYS

[Section 392](#) of the Building Act covers instances where building consent authorities are not liable. Regarding MultiProof, section 392(1)(ca) states:

No civil proceedings may be brought against a building consent authority for anything done or omitted to be done in good faith in reliance on any of the following documents:

...

(ca) a current national multiple-use approval issued under section 30F (including, in any particular case, any minor customisations permitted by regulations made under section 402(1)(kc)).

The liability lies with the MultiProof approval holder.



Checklist: building consent application for building consent authorities



Confirm the application is complete.	
Ensure the application is current and within the terms of the MultiProof on the MultiProof register .	
Assess the Building Code compliance of any building work not covered by the MultiProof (like site specific features, such as drainage) as usual.	
Check the certificates of design work for site specific restricted building work includes necessary information.	
Ensure the proposed site meets all approved conditions (such as wind or climate zone limitations).	
Ensure any other approval conditions are met.	
Grant the building consent within 10 working days , provided all above requirements are met.	
Advise the building consent applicant of any: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inspection requirements• Documentation that must be supplied before the code compliance certificate will be issued, such as:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– an energy work certificate– records of building work from all trade LBPs involved in constructing restricted building work.	



MINOR VARIATIONS, PERMITTED VARIATIONS AND MINOR CUSTOMISATIONS

Minor variations, permitted variations, and minor customisations are terms building consent authorities deal with in relation to building consents and their applications. However, while similar sounding, there are some key differences between them.

What are the differences between minor variations, permitted variations, and minor customisations?		
Minor variations	Permitted variations	Minor customisations
<p>Minor variations are a change to the design in the consented plans after the building consent has been issued.</p> <p>So long as the changes are small enough and do not affect Building Code compliance, it's at the discretion of the building consent authority as to whether it is significant enough to require an amendment to the building consent.</p> <p>Minor variations can apply to all building consent applications and is not restricted to MultiProof approvals.</p>	<p>Permitted variations are design alternatives for a MultiProof approval that have been assessed and approved by MBIE.</p> <p>The permitted variations will be listed on the MultiProof approval, and a building consent authority can assess the plans and specifications included in the building consent application with the approved plans and specifications MBIE has on file.</p>	<p>Minor customisations are a change to the design before the building consent with a MultiProof approval has been granted that is permitted by regulations. The minor customisation does not include anything that is a permitted variation listed on the MultiProof approval.</p>
Minor variations are set out in the Building Act 2004 and the Building (Minor Variations) Regulations 2009.	Permitted variations are not set out in either the Building Act or in any related building regulations. It is the term listed on the MultiProof approval for the approved design alternatives.	Minor customisations are set out in the Building Act 2004, and the Building (Minor Customisations) Regulations 2024.

WHAT THE LAW SAYS

The [Building Act 2004](#) defines a minor variation as “a minor variation means a minor modification, addition, or variation to a building consent that is permitted by regulations made under section 402(1)(kd)”.

The [Building Act 2004](#) defines minor customisation as “in relation to an application for a building consent that incorporates plans and specifications that have national multiple-use approval, means a minor modification, addition, or variation to those plans and specifications that is permitted by regulations made under section 402(1)(kc)”.

Examples from the Minor Variations Regulations

While the Building Act defines minor variations, it does not give specifics. Specific examples of minor variations are laid out in the [Building \(Minor Variations\) Regulations 2009](#). This isn't an exhaustive list.

WHAT THE LAW SAYS

Regulation 3 of the [Building \(Minor Variations\) Regulations 2009](#) lays out some specific examples of what some minor variations are. [The Building \(Minor Variations\) Amendment Regulations 2024](#), which were made on 29 July 2024, commencing on 30 September 2024, further clarified the definition of a minor variation.

3 Minor variation defined

- (1) A **minor variation** is a minor modification, addition, or variation to a building consent that does not deviate significantly from the plans and specifications to which the building consent relates.
- (1A) The substitution of a comparable product is a minor variation if—
 - (a) the product achieves an equivalent level of performance, having regard to its design, installation, intended use, and maintenance; and
 - (b) it is not likely to affect the compliance of other parts of the building work with the building code; and
 - (c) the consequences of a building failure due to the product substitution would not be significantly worse than a building failure caused by the failure of the original product.
- (2) The following are examples of minor variations and do not constitute an exhaustive list:
 - (a) substituting comparable products (for example, substituting one internal lining for a similar internal lining);
 - (b) minor wall bracing changes;
 - (c) a minor construction change (for example, changing the framing method used around a window);
 - (d) changing a room's layout (for example, changing the position of fixtures in a bathroom or kitchen).
- (3) The examples in subclause (2) are only illustrative of subclauses (1) and (1A), and do not limit them. If an example conflicts with subclause (1) or (1A), that subclause prevails over the example.
- (4) To avoid doubt, a minor variation does not include any building work in respect of which compliance with the building code is not required by the [Building Act 2004](#).

Dealing with permitted variations (design alternatives)

MultiProof approvals can include a range of alternatives to the core design. This gives designers flexibility to cater for local conditions (like wind and earthquake zones) and to offer their clients options for creating a personalised home. Some examples are different cladding types, window locations, floor plans, insulation or bracing levels.

All alternatives MBIE has considered and approved will be listed on the MultiProof certificate as **permitted variations**. If you receive a building consent application that uses a MultiProof, it should identify any approved alternatives that will be used (like if weatherboards will be used instead of brick veneer). **Building consent authorities must accept these as part of the MultiProof design.**

If there are permitted variations, the building consent applicant must make it clear as to which of these they are using in the application for building consent. When the approval is issued, the approval holder receives a template from MBIE – this is a statement from MBIE that the application for building consent complies with the conditions of the approval and lists any variations.

Once building work has begun, building consent authorities should assess any variations or amendments to the building consent (like a material substitution or design change) in the same way as for any other consent.

Building consent authorities have no grounds to refuse an application for an amendment to a building consent because a MultiProof does not apply.

If the changes are not permitted by the MultiProof, the building consent authority must make its own assessment of the compliance of the plans and specifications with the requirements of the Building Code.

In addition to the above, work not covered by the MultiProof approval goes through the building consent authority's usual process (for example, site specific works like plumbing and drainage).

MultiProof

Approval no: A10537
Original issue date: 14 July 2022

Approval holder
Moore Plans NZ Limited
1 Queens Drive Allenton
ASHBURTON 7700
Company number: 8289346
NZBN: 9429050215065
Approval number: A10537

Issued by
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment
PO Box 1473, Wellington 6140
www.building.govt.nz/multiproof
multiproof@mbie.govt.nz

Restricted Building Work
Certificates of Work received from:
Jonathan Moore LBP 100567
• Primary Structure
• External Moisture Management Systems

Classified Use (Building Code Clause A1)
Housing: Detached dwelling

MultiProof Approval
Schedule for approval number A10537

Permitted Variations

Foundations
Reinforced concrete floor slab with footing options 1, or 2, or 3, or 4, can be replaced with Allied Concrete Ready Floor

Cladding
Bevel back timber weatherboard on a cavity can be replaced with Enviro brand timber weatherboard on a cavity or, Eurowood aluminium slatting on a cavity or, James Hardie Linea weatherboard on a cavity or, Health Based Building Term Magnum Board weatherboard on a cavity or, BSC Nuline Plus fibre cement weatherboard on a cavity

Roofing
Corrugated profile metal roofing can be replaced with trapezoidal profile metal roofing

Building Design Reference to Drawings
Refer to the Ministry's website www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/product-assurance-and-multiproof/multiproof/multiproof-register/a10537/ for the approved drawings and documents. Check for current version of drawings and documents.

- Plans – Moore Plans NZ – Construction Set – MP100w Sheets A.01 & A.02 (to be assessed by BCA), A.03 to A.20
- Project Specification – Moore Plans NZ
- Product Specification (Lists alternative products) – Moore Plans NZ

This National Multiple-Use Approval is subject to the following conditions:

- This National Multiple-Use Approval includes the Permitted Variations set out in this Schedule.
- Subject to the Permitted Variations, this National Multiple-Use Approval may only be used in its entirety and does not apply to any one part of the plans and specifications.
- If there are any changes to the approved plans and specifications this National Multiple-Use Approval does not apply.
- Minor variations to the design as defined in the Building (Minor Variations) Regulations 2009 are permitted; and must be assessed at the building consent stage.
- Mirror images of the floor plan are permitted.
- The building must not be located within 1m of a relevant boundary.
- The building must be connected to a sewer or foul water disposal system and connected to a potable water supply
- This National Multiple-Use Approval can only be used where the following conditions apply:
 - Wind zones: Limited to sites up to and including Very High wind zone as defined in NZS 3604:2011.
 - Seismic zones: Limited to sites up to and including Earthquake zone 3 in all subsoil classes as defined in NZS 3604:2011.
 - Climate zones: Up to and including Zone 6 as defined in H1/AS1
 - Exposure zone: Up to and including Zone C (NZS 3604:2011). Except where adverse microclimatic factors (e.g. geothermal areas)
 - Snow Loading: Limited to a maximum 1.5kPa ground snow load as defined in NZS 3604:2011.
 - Ground bearing capacity: Good ground as defined in B1 Structure Compliance Document

Note: Inspection procedures including any construction monitoring to be confirmed at the time of the application for building consent.

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Figure 3: Permitted variations on a MultiProof approval (page two of a MultiProof approval)

USING THE MULTIPROOF REGISTER

The MultiProof register records the names and contact details of each approval holder, as well as a name and brief description of each approved design. MultiProof approvals are listed publicly on MBIE's [MultiProof register](#). This is hosted on the Building Performance website.

Building consent authorities must check the MultiProof approval is current and on the register – the approved plans, specifications and permitted variations are available through the MultiProof Shared workspace.

Building control officials need to request an invite from MultiProof@mbie.govt.nz to access the MultiProof Shared Workspace.

Visit the [Building Performance website](#) for a guide on how to access the shared workspace and additional information on processing MultiProof approvals for building consent authorities.

Public access is also provided to the MultiProof approval, which MBIE can provide through the design and options summary and document index.



Figure 4: Page one of example MultiProof approval

AMENDMENTS TO BUILDING CONSENTS WITH MULTIPROOF

The Building Act currently allows changes to be made to the plans and specifications issued under the MultiProof approval in the following two circumstances:

1. Changes permitted under the terms of the MultiProof approval
2. Changes permitted under the Building (Minor Customisations) Regulations 2024

The Building (Minor Customisations) Regulations 2024, which were made on 29 July 2024 and commence on 30 September 2024, create more flexibility for the MultiProof scheme. If an approval holder would like to make a minor change to their MultiProof, they may do so at the building consent application stage.

Minor customisations are governed by the same principles and rules covered by a minor variation. The key difference is that minor customisations are assessed during the building consent application stage, whereas minor variations are assessed after a building consent is issued.

WHAT THE LAW SAYS

The [Building \(Minor Customisations\) Regulations 2024](#) were made on 29 July 2024, commencing on 30 September 2024.

3 Minor customisation defined

- (1) A **minor customisation** is a minor modification, addition, or variation to plans or specifications for which a national multiple-use approval has been issued that does not deviate significantly from the plans and specifications—
 - (a) on its own; or
 - (b) in combination with—
 - (i) any other proposed minor customisations; and
 - (ii) in the case of an application for an amendment to a building consent, any existing minor customisations.
- (2) The substitution of a comparable product is a minor customisation if—
 - (a) the product achieves an equivalent level of performance, having regard to its design, installation, intended use, and maintenance; and
 - (b) it is not likely to affect the compliance of other parts of the building work with the building code—
 - (i) on its own; or
 - (ii) in combination with any other proposed or (in the case of an application for an amendment to a building consent) existing minor customisations; and
 - (c) the consequences of a building failure due to the product substitution would not be significantly worse than a building failure caused by the failure of the original product.
- (3) The following are examples of minor customisations and do not constitute an exhaustive list:
 - (a) substituting comparable products (for example, substituting one internal lining for a similar internal lining);
 - (b) minor wall bracing changes;
 - (c) changing a room's layout (for example, changing a door to a window);
 - (d) changing a building's layout (for example, mirror imaging).
- (4) The examples in subclause (3) are only illustrative of subclauses (1) and (2), and do not limit them. If an example conflicts with subclause (1) or (2), that subclause prevails over the example.
- (5) To avoid doubt, a minor customisation does not include any building work in respect of which compliance with the building code is not required by the Act.

WHAT THE LAW SAYS

Building Act 2004

[Section 45B Changes to plans and specifications that have national multiple-use approval](#) outlines the instances where changes to the MultiProof approval is allowed.

45B Changes to plans and specifications that have national multiple-use approval

- (1) When applying for a building consent in reliance on plans and specifications for which a national multiple-use approval has been issued, or for an amendment to such a building consent under section 45(4), changes may be made to those plans and specifications if—*
 - (a) the changes are permitted under the terms of the national multiple-use approval; or*
 - (b) the changes are minor customisations permitted by regulations made under section 402(1)(kc).*
- (2) If any other changes are made to the plans and specifications referred to in subsection (1), the national multiple-use approval does not apply.*

Changes can only be made (including minor changes) to MultiProof approved plans and specifications – and for the MultiProof approval to apply – if those changes are permitted under the terms of the MultiProof approval.

Any changes made would be assessed either when the application for the building consent is being made, or when an application for an amendment of the building consent is made, depending on the point when the change is sought. The relevant processes and timelines for such applications would apply.

If the MultiProof approval holder has time, the building consent authority may advise the applicant that they should apply for changes and add more permitted variations under the MultiProof approval from MBIE.

However, MBIE advises this would only be if the change was going to occur often.

For completeness, an amendment to the MultiProof approval itself would need to be done by way of application in the same way that an application would be made for a MultiProof approval (see section 30B(2) of the *Building Act*).

Building consent authorities can read the [Guidance to building consent amendments on the Building Performance website](#). The guidance is meant to be used together with the [Minor variations to building consents guidance](#) and is aimed at building consent authorities, licensed building practitioners and designers.

DEALING WITH RESTRICTED BUILDING WORK

As part of the MultiProof approval process, MBIE reviews certificates of work from each licensed building practitioner (LBP) involved in any design work covered by the MultiProof application that is restricted building work.

This means that the building consent applicant only needs to provide building consent authorities with both:

- certificates of work for any site-specific design work classified as restricted building work and not covered by the MultiProof application
- a list of trade LBPs carrying out or supervising the restricted building work for the project.

Visit the Building Performance website for more [information on MultiProof for building consent authorities](#).

MultiProof: top tips for building consent authorities

- **A MultiProof approval is a statement by the Ministry** that if building work were completed in accordance with a set of building plans and specifications, that building work complies with the Building Code.
- **MultiProof applies to designs for entire buildings**, including those with several joined units such as motels and townhouses, which applicants intend to build at least ten times in two years.
- **It can cover multiple alternatives to a standard design**, (like different floor plans, wall claddings, roof pitch or bracing levels) as long as these are included in the original MultiProof approval.
- **A MultiProof lasts indefinitely** unless there are changes to the Building Code affecting the design's compliance (MBIE will advise the MultiProof holder if so and update the MultiProof register to reflect the change).
- **Building consents are still required**, but building consent authorities must take a MultiProof design as establishing building code compliance and process an application using a MultiProof within 10 working days.

Appendix 1: Glossary

Glossary	
Acceptable Solution	specific construction details, often for commonly used building materials, systems and methods. Designs based on them must be accepted by building consent authorities as demonstrating compliance with the Building Code.
Alternative solution	all or part of a building design that demonstrates compliance with the Building Code, but differs completely or partially from the Acceptable Solutions or Verification Methods.
Building Act	Building Act 2004.
Building Code	The New Zealand Building Code, which is Schedule 1 of the Building Regulations 1992, made under section 400 of the Act.
Building consent authorities	local regulators that process building consent applications.
Deemed to comply	as per section 19 of the Building Act, how compliance with the New Zealand Building Code is established. A national multiple-use approval issued by MBIE must be accepted by a building consent authority as establishing compliance with the Building Code.
MultiProof Regulations	Building (National Multiple-use Approval) Regulations.
Section	section of the Building Act 2004 unless otherwise specified.
Licensed building practitioner	a building practitioner that carries out restricted building work.
Minor customisations	a change to the design before the building consent with a MultiProof approval has been granted that is permitted by regulations.
Minor variations	a change to the design in the consented plans after the building consent has been issued.
MultiProof register	a central register maintained by MBIE (available at www.building.govt.nz) of the MultiProof approvals issued.
National multiple-use approval	the name for MultiProof under the Building Act.
Parameter-based variations	a customisation to a MultiProof approval during the building consent stage concerning design parameters. High-level design parameters include things such as wind zones, earthquake zones, and sub-soil zones.
Permitted variations	design alternatives for a MultiProof approval that have been assessed and approved by MBIE.
Restricted building work	work critical to make a home structurally sound and weathertight.

Appendix 2: The MultiProof scheme framework

Appendix 2 provides more detail of the legislative framework for the MultiProof scheme (known under the Building Act as *national multiple-use approval*). It lists sections of the Building Act relating to MultiProof approvals relating to issuing and revoking, as well as the relevant MultiProof Regulations.

Building Act 2004	Building (National Multiple-use Approval) Regulations
Deciding to accept for processing a national multiple-use approval	
30D Chief executive must decide whether to accept, for processing, application for national multiple-use approval	
Processing a national multiple-use approval application	
30E Processing application for national multiple-use approval	Reg. 3 Eligibility criterion for national multiple-use approvals
	Reg. 4 Time limit for deciding applications
	Reg. 5 Fees
30F Issue of a national multiple-use approval	
30G Refusal to issue national multiple-use approval	
Suspending or revoking a national multiple-use approval	
30H Suspension or revocation of national multiple-use approval	
Changing plans and specifications with national multiple-use approval	
45B Changes to plans and specifications that have national multiple-use approval	
402 Regulations: general [minor customisations in development]	



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