

ADVISORY NOTE FOR NZS 3604:2011 AND SNZ HB 3604:2011

On 1 August 2011, the Department of Building and Housing announced changes to the B1 Structure and E2 External Moisture Building Code documents. This announcement was made in the Building Controls Update Bulletin No. 116. The changes to the Structure documents include the referencing of NZS 3604:2011 *Timber-framed buildings*, which was published in February 2011.

These changes took effect immediately with a transition period through to 31 January 2012. During the transition period, both NZS 3604:1999 and NZS 3604:2011 will be Acceptable Solutions. From 1 February 2012, only NZS 3604:2011 will apply.

The Department also announced the following modifications to its referencing of NZS 3604:2011.

- **Modifications for the Canterbury earthquake region**

On 19 May 2011, the Department made changes to Acceptable Solution B1/AS1, which applies to the Canterbury earthquake region. These changes took effect immediately. The definition of 'good ground' was changed to exclude ground subject to liquefaction and/or lateral spread, and stronger foundations were required for that region. These modifications to the referencing of NZS 3604:1999 have been carried forward to the referencing of NZS 3604:2011.

The changes for Canterbury were made to allow homeowners in the region to quickly progress with their repairs or rebuilding. Details on the changes for Canterbury can be found in the Department's information sheet.

- **Modifications for all New Zealand for concrete slab floors and foundations**

On 1 August 2011 the Department extended the requirement for stronger foundations to the rest of New Zealand. The Department modified its referencing of NZS 3604:2011 to exclude unreinforced slabs. All concrete floor slabs on 'good ground' are required to have reinforcing steel mesh and all perimeter foundations are required to be tied to the concrete slab with reinforcing steel.

This modification has been made to provide the rest of New Zealand with the same readily administered, effective, and robust Acceptable Solution requirements for foundations as those already made in the Canterbury earthquake region.

To read the Building Controls Update Bulletin No. 116 and the Department's questions and answers on the changes, please go to the Department's website – www.dbh.govt.nz/bc-update-116.

It is important to review the modifications to the referencing of NZS 3604:2011 when using the Standard as the basis of compliance with the New Zealand Building Code.

If you have any questions about the Department's modifications, please contact the Department on 0800 242 243 or email info@dbh.govt.nz.

This Advisory Note was issued by Standards New Zealand on 6 October 2011.