

Ways to ensure a product complies with the Building Code?

In New Zealand practitioners are responsible for ensuring the products that they install meet NZBC requirements. This means that a plumber installing an owner supplied sink mixer could be held accountable if the sink mixer they install does not meet NZBC requirements.

Practitioners can usually be confident that a product meets the NZBC when purchasing a reputable product from a reputable supplier. However, in order to allow for innovation in building materials there are several ways to ensure a product's compliance.

A common way that practitioners check a plumbing or drainlaying product is compliant is if it has the Australian WaterMark. However, WaterMark is an Australian requirement – not a New Zealand requirement. WaterMark shows that an independent assessor has assessed the product and certifies that it meets Australian Building Code requirements. Even though WaterMark is not a New Zealand requirement if a product has WaterMark it will likely also meet NZBC requirements.

Although NZ does not have a mandatory certification scheme like WaterMark, it does have the 'CodeMark' scheme. CodeMark is a voluntary certification scheme that is administered by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. CodeMark helps to assure installers and Building Consent Authorities (BCAs) that the product meets certain NZBC requirements. The CodeMark is particularly useful for new and innovative products; this is because a BCA must accept a product or building material as meeting NZBC requirements if it has the CodeMark.

Some products may have no marking to make it clear to the installer that it meets NZBC requirements. If a practitioner is installing a product or material that they are unsure is compliant they may want to get the technical information on the product to confirm that it does comply. The practitioner could get this by contacting the manufacturer or supplier and asking for evidence the product meets NZBC requirements.

If you are unable to get satisfactory evidence from the manufacturer or supplier, practitioners may want to get their own independent assessments done. That said, in many circumstances, independent testing might not be financially practicable to do. However, if it is practicable to do the testing it should be completed by competent assessors such as chartered professional engineers and/or recognised testing laboratories.

Regardless of what way the practitioner does it, it is important that they are satisfied the products they install meet NZBC requirements before they install it.

Helpful links:

[MBIE guidance on 'Showing your products comply with the Building Code'](#)

[WaterMark](#)

[CodeMark](#)