

Guidance Notes

(An application for Building Consent **must** include a schedule confirming how your building work will comply with the Building Code).

The PIM/Building Consent Application form under the Building Act 2004 Regulations requires applications to identify the relevant clauses of the Building Code against which the building will be checked, and what “means of compliance” are to be used under each relevant clause.

The Building Code clauses range from B1:Structure through to H1:Energy Efficiency and define the performance criteria required to be achieved for each part of a building. The Building Consent application form lists the clauses in order.

Each Building Code has an “Acceptable Solution” i.e. a specific method of construction or installation of a building element that will meet the Building Code performance criteria, a “means of compliance” (i.e. following the pictures and text in the book).

Example 1

Timber wall framing structure for dwellings is most commonly constructed to the NZS 3604 Timber Framed Buildings Standard; this is described in the Building Code as Clauses as **B1/AS11 NZS3604 Timber Framed Buildings**

Clause	Means of Compliance	Waiver/Modification Required
B1 Structure	B1/AS1 NZS 3604	N/A

Example 2

Sanitary plumbing and sewer drains, are most commonly covered with Acceptable Solution **G13/AS1** or Further Acceptable Solution **Australian Standard AS3500** which is an accepted alternative standard.

G13 Foul Water	G13 AS/1	N/A
Or		
G13 Foul Water	AS 3500	N/A

Means of compliance other than “Acceptable Solutions” are often used; these are known as **Alternative Solutions** i.e. examples of the construction method are not contained in the list of Building Code Acceptable Solutions.

Example:

Proprietary exterior cladding systems, such as polystyrene backed, acrylic texture, coated wall claddings (known as EIFS systems) that have undergone approved laboratory performance testing and attained a product appraisal certificate. Such systems are reliant on approved applicators strictly adhering to the tested and approved application specifications. Alternative solution product testing methods to prove compliance with the Building Code’s performance criteria are known as Verification Methods – **Example: E2/VM1** to meet external weather tightness requirements.

If a Building Consent application contains work that is not covered by an Acceptable Solution or an Alternative Solution to the Building Code then you will need to note this in the Waiver/Modification column on the schedule and supply details relating to the request for waiver.