CARTERS Your Building Partner NOVEMBER 2018

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THIS ISSUE

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In the **frame**

BY MIKE GUY, CARTERS CHIEF EXECUTIVE

We're now hurtling towards the end of the year, by the time the next issue comes out, we will be into summer and into the end of year wrap-up.

November is a big month and after a long year, fatigue is always a factor, particularly on-site and sometimes this is exacerbated by warmer temperatures. Check out this month's column from Site Safe that highlights everything you need to know when you're out working in the heat of summer and keeping your team safe.

November is also a big month for two big industry competitions; RMB House of the Year and the RMB Apprentice of the Year in association with CARTERS. All of the regional awards have been decided and we've come down to the big one, the final. CARTERS are proud to be a sponsor of both of these competitions and we applaud all of the winners and finalists and wish all of those still on the list for the national award, all of the very best. On the apprentice front, BCITO have reported that the number of Kiwis starting building apprenticeships are at record highs but there's always room for more. Choosing building as a career pathway is a smart decision and as we look to a digital future that will disrupt many industries, talented building industry professionals will always be in demand and offer many areas of expertise in which to expand.

On the CARTERS front we've been busy optimising our product range.

We've been particularly focused on our fastenings category and we've rolled out a nationwide range in conjunction with Bremick that offers a wider and deeper breadth of product. We were impressed with their over 50-year history of product excellence and knowledge. The benefit for you is a range tailored to your needs, an extensive suite of product support and technical advice. Check out this month's Site Offers when you're instore to give you a real feel for the range.

To wrap up my column for this issue, I'd like to again reinforce the value of the partnership we have with our CARTERS trade customers. Your partnership with our business is something our entire team is passionate about because your success is our success.

And with that in mind, if there is anything we can do to assist you and your business to greater success, come into your local CARTERS store and discuss or contact your account manager.



MIKE GUY CARTERS Chief Executive

CARTERS Your Building Partner

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CHECK OUT OUR NOVEMBER TRADE OFFERS. INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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Includes:

- Updated GIB[®] Bracing section including new GS2-NOM bracing element.
- Updated GIB[®] compounds guidance.
- Updated Interior Quality of Finish guidance.







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More and more builders are coming to appreciate the full scope of their liability. Because of the demands facing those in the industry, the core package of liability insurance a builder should carry has grown.

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An update to ACC's billing and policy system identified that about 300,000 business customers were charged incorrect ACC levies since 2002. Here's how you can find out whether you're one of them.

28. EDUCATION

MORE APPRENTICES STILL NEEDED

The number of Kiwis engaging in building and construction apprenticeships is at record highs, as the industry's demand for skilled workers continues to surge. BCITO now has 12,000 apprentices actively training at the same time. This is its highest number ever, but it still needs more.

30. HEALTH AND SAFETY STAY SUMMER SAFE

Summer is just around the corner. It's a great time to get cracking on lots of jobs, but it can present extra health and safety risks such as heat exhaustion, fatigue and dehydration.

Fraudulent Designer disciplined for altering Producer Statements

The Building Practitioners Board (the Board) recently cancelled the licence of an LBP (licensed building practitioner) and ordered him to pay costs due to fraudulent behaviour. The Board has chosen to publish the details of this matter to highlight that there are consequences for cutting corners and falsifying documents.

In late 2017, the Board initiated an inquiry after it became aware the LBP in question had been sentenced in the District Court for fraud. Sentencing notes showed the criminal offending had taken place over a period of three years and that the LBP was found guilty of five charges of forgery.

The holder of a Design (area of practice 2) licence, at a Board disciplinary hearing, the LBP was found to have:

 been convicted by the court of an offence punishable by imprisonment for six months or more, which reflects adversely



These decisions and other past decisions can be read in full on the LBP website (https://www.lbp.govt.nz/).

on his fitness to carry out building work;

 acted in a manner that would bring the LBP regime into disrepute.

The fraud related to use of a Design Producer Statement (PS1), that had been signed by an engineer. The PS1 had been fraudulently altered and used for other building consent applications. The Board highlighted the seriousness of this behaviour.

The Board found that the criminal offending was linked to the LBP's design practice and was directly related to his fitness to carry out or supervise building work. The Board also considered his conduct had brought the LBP regime into disrepute.

The Board noted that people and councils rely on PS1s to provide assurance that designs meet Building Code requirements. PS1s include a statement from an engineer related to professional indemnity insurance cover. By forging these documents, such assurances and potential cover were denied.

WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM THIS DECISION

Being honest in your business decisions is important, not only for your reputation and that of your business, but also for maintaining your licence. This is a case of seriously poor behaviour and a lack of respect for producer statements. Even though producer statements are not prescribed in regulations, they are important in the industry and tampering with them is unacceptable.

Failing to meet the standards expected of an LBP has consequences. The inquiry by the Board into these actions was the result of media coverage and shows that the Board can investigate an LBP's conduct even when a formal complaint has not been made.

Notable decision about working outside competence

IN ANOTHER INSTANCE, THE BOARD HAS ISSUED A SIGNIFICANT DECISION RELATING TO A CHRISTCHURCH-BASED LICENSED BUILDING PRACTITIONER (LBP) FOR WORKING OUTSIDE HIS COMPETENCE.

The holder of a Carpentry licence, he was found to have:

- carried out building work in a negligent or incompetent manner;
- carried out building work outside his competence.

He had carried out renovation work for a homeowner which included

plumbing and electrical work. The work did not require a building consent but some work, such as plumbing and electrical work, needed to be done by a licensed person.

The Board found him to be negligent. There were issues with the building work he carried out and he failed to engage appropriately licensed persons to carry out the plumbing and electrical work.

The Board identified several issues with the building work carried out by the LBP that fell below acceptable standards. Two of the issues related to watertightness in a wet area and are serious matters. Similar to licensing of building practitioners, both the electrical and plumbing trades are regulated and restricted, and work in these areas can only be undertaken by licensed and authorised persons. It is an offence for an unauthorised person to carry out this work.

The Board found him to be responsible for the electrical and plumbing work carried out and that he was not licensed or authorised to carry out this work.

The Board suspended the LBP's licence for six months and ordered him to pay a fine of \$2,000. The Board also ordered him to pay some costs towards the inquiry and for this decision to be publicised.

WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM THESE DECISIONS

Not only did the LBP work outside his competence (as an LBP with a Carpentry licence), but the work he carried out fell below an acceptable standard. It is important to recognise when you are out of your depth, and to seek assistance from others to ensure that the work is done to the required standard.

Most electrical and plumbing work has to be carried out by a licensed and authorised person and practitioners must engage those professionals.

Notable decisions against carpenters

IN ADDITION TO THE AFOREMENTIONED DECISIONS, SIGNIFICANT SANCTIONS WERE ALSO HANDED DOWN AGAINST TWO CARPENTRY LICENSED BUILDING PRACTITIONERS (LBPS) - ONE FROM TAURANGA AND ONE FROM AUCKLAND.

The complaints have similarities relating to negligence and failure to provide records of work. This is a good opportunity for others to learn from these mistakes and avoid similar circumstances.

The first was found to have:

- carried out building work in a negligent or incompetent manner;
- · failed to comply with a building consent;
- failed to provide a record of work as required by the Building Act.

The Board heard evidence that he was supposed to be supervising unlicensed workers constructing a prefabricated house in Hamilton, but was only visiting them from Tauranga on weekends. The work then involved installing the prefabricated house onto foundations. The LBP acknowledged that he was supposed to supervise the restricted building work, but then confirmed that he did not know who was carrying out work on-site and that another person in the company he was working for prepared the record of work for him to sign. He did not check the details of the document before signing it.

The Board considered that he was not supervising restricted building work to an acceptable standard and was simply providing his licence to a manufacturing process. Work was carried out before a building consent was issued, and a record of work was not provided in a timely manner.

The Board ordered a fine of \$4,000 and costs of \$2,500. In addition, the Board ordered that this decision be published.

The second LBP was recently involved in another matter before the Board. This is the second time a complaint decision against him has been published (refer to C2-01749 and Codewords 85¹.

>>Continued over page



>>Continued from previous page

In this instance he was found to have:

- carried out building work in a negligent or incompetent manner;
- failed to provide a record of work as required by the Building Act.

In this matter, he was making alterations to an existing house and allowed some changes to be made that were different to what was on the consented plans. The Board heard that he did raise these issues with the designer, however the work was undertaken without a formal amendment or minor variation.

The Board also heard that he did not provide enough support to the unlicensed person he was supervising to carry out work. The person was forced to seek advice from a previous colleague, which clearly indicated to the Board that adequate supervision was not provided.

Due to a contractual dispute, a record of work was also not issued. The Board has consistently said that a record of work is a statutory obligation and must be provided despite disputes.

The Board ordered a fine of \$3,000 and costs of \$2,000.

WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM THESE DECISIONS

Both matters involved supervision with limited contact between the supervising LBP and those on-site. The Board noted some of the failures in these matters may have been avoided if there had been better supervision, as the LBP should have identified faults before they became failures.

It is strongly recommended that LBPs read the Supervision Practice Note. It provides detailed guidance on what is needed for good supervision.

Read the Supervision Practice Note².

Records of work and contractual disputes are common themes in complaints. The Board expects LBPs to be aware of their obligation to provide a record of work. There are very limited reasons why a record of work cannot be provided. The legislation has no conditions that allow for failure to provide a record of work, and the Board has made it clear that a contractual dispute is not an acceptable reason.

LBPs should understand their obligations and deal with any disputes in the correct manner after a record of work has been issued.

CodeMark Scheme regulations

to respond to known issues with

and assurance scheme. MBIE is

proposing to make some changes

to the CodeMark regulations and expected to seek key stakeholder

feedback on the proposals for change

in early October. If you are interested,

keep a look out for a news article on

Building Performance¹.

Finally, in mid-September

the Building Amendment Bill

was introduced to Parliament.

The Canterbury and Kaikoura

earthquakes highlighted gaps in

current legislation for managing

buildings after an emergency. The Bill

for emergency building management

introduces an end-to-end process

into the Building Act and looks at

You can read more and make a

why buildings fail in an emergency.

submission on the Bill by visiting the

CodeMark is a product certification

the scheme.



¹ (https://www.building.govt.nz/aboutbuilding-performance/news-and-updates/codewords/codewords-issue-85/)). ² (https://www.lbp.govt.nz/for-lbps/lbp-practice-notes/).

AN UPDATE to the industry

IN A RECENT UPDATE TO THE BUILDING INDUSTRY, THROUGH CODEWORDS, MBIE'S GENERAL MANAGER, BUILDING SYSTEM PERFORMANCE, ANNA BUTLER, ADVISED OF ONGOING DISCUSSIONS AROUND KEY PROJECTS AND ISSUES IMPACTING THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

At the start of September, MBIE met with the Building Advisory Panel (BAP), an 11-member panel that has a wide range of experience and knowledge and provide MBIE with independent strategic advice. The meeting covered a wide range of topics. This included risk and liability, improving the building consent process, strategies for communicating with and getting feedback from industry, a close look at work MBIE is doing on building products, and the construction skills strategy.

The construction skills strategy aims for the government to collaborate with industry to drive a rapid and sustainable shift that delivers the right people, at the right time, with the right skills, to meet New Zealand's current and future construction needs. More will be coming out of these discussions, so we will keep you updated through Trade Leader.

Ms Butler also said that engagement with the sector is at the centre of a number of MBIE projects. The Smarter Pathways project is taking a user-centric view of the ways to comply with the New Zealand Building Code. There needs to be a clear way to demonstrate compliance for a range of construction methods and housing types. MBIE has asked designers, builders, councils and construction students to take part in interviews and workshops across the country. The ideas and knowledge shared through these workshops and interviews will help MBIE to plan the next steps for the project.

MBIE is currently reviewing the



² (https://www.parliament.nz/en/get-involved/topics/all-current-topics/ managing-buildings-after-an-emergency-event/)

1 (https://www.building.govt.nz/)

Parliament website².

MBIE to collaborate with industry through advisory group

MBIE IS LAUNCHING THE BUILDING CODE TECHNICAL RISK ADVISORY GROUP (BCTRAG) TO ENGAGE WITH A WIDE RANGE OF BUILDING SECTOR PARTICIPANTS.

As the building and construction regulator, MBIE wants to obtain expert building sector advice to increase our awareness of new emerging risks or changes to existing risk settings in the New Zealand Building Code system.

This advice will help MBIE make decisions on what Building Code regulatory changes may be needed.

BCTRAG will focus on identifying technical risks in the Building Code system, and provide:

 strategic advice to MBIE on risks related to the Building Code technical clauses (the A to H clauses) and the

- documents that provide a means of complying with the Building Code;
- feedback on building sector technical trends and innovations;
- advice on the wider impacts of Building Code performance settings.

MBIE has worked with Engineering New Zealand and the New Zealand Institute of Architects to set up BCTRAG. The group will have nine permanent members representing technical organisations in the building and construction sector.

The group will also interact with a number of organisations representing

more specialist areas in the building sector. These organisations will also be able to provide input and expertise to the group discussions and give feedback on how the BCTRAG is functioning.

Permanent

MBIE Peak Body Partners

Technical Groups

Invited

organisations

The first BCTRAG meeting will be held this month to set out how the group will function.

NZ Certified Builders' wellness initiative

IN JANUARY THIS YEAR, NZ CERTIFIED BUILDERS (NZCB) ANNOUNCED ITS PARTNERSHIP WITH EMPLOYEE WELLNESS PROGRAMME (EWP) TO PROVIDE ITS MEMBER BUILDERS WITH ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT AT TIMES OF STRESS.

This includes a confidential counselling service nationwide, which NZCB members can access at preferential rates with NZCB picking up the cost for the first counselling session, as well as wider coaching and wellness support.

"The wellbeing of our members is critical to their success and, in turn, to meeting the needs of their customers," NZCB Chief Executive Grant Florence said.

The need for such a service is reflected in indicators of the prevalence of mental health issues in the building and construction industry in particular, including New Zealand's suicide rates broken down by sector. This is attributed to the maledominance of the industry and its culture.

"Builders may feel the need to live up to a particular image that involves 'toughing things out? Partnering with EWP means we can make it easy for our members to access support when they need it," said Mr Florence.

NZCB provides a broad range of support to its members – from skills development to a comprehensive industry building guarantee product.

"Partnering with EWP to provide this wellness service to our members recognises that the wellbeing of both business owners and their staff is critical to NZCB members' business success," said Mr Florence.

9

Survey reveals complacency when building



The results of a survey released recently by NZ Certified Builders (NZCB) show New Zealanders are still too laid-back about having written contracts and guarantees for building work, and that most are not actively requesting seismic work when undertaking a build or renovation.

The survey found that 50% of homeowners who had used a builder to renovate or build a home in the last 10 years, mostly in the past two to five years, did not have a written contract. Of the work done without a written contract, 23% was for work valued at over \$30,000.

NZCB Chief Executive Grant Florence says this level of complacency about written contracts is consistent with the findings in NZCB's previous survey undertaken in 2016, and it is worrying that this is still the case despite the fact that legislative change in 2015 made written contracts mandatory for building work over \$30,000.

"For our part, NZCB provides our member builders with template contracts to help ensure they adhere to the highest professional standards. But it's also really important for homeowners to be proactive in asking whatever builder they choose for a written contract, ideally for any job regardless of the size and cost," said Mr Florence.

THE SURVEY ALSO REVEALED THAT ONLY 44% OF HOMEOWNERS HAD A BUILDING GUARANTEE IN PLACE FOR THEIR LAST BUILD OR RENOVATION IN THE PAST 10 YEARS, 47% DID NOT HAVE A GUARANTEE, AND 8% WERE UNSURE. "While the majority of respondents believe their builder should have responsibility for addressing any problems with their building work, without a written contract and a robust building guarantee when undertaking building work, homeowners are exposing themselves to significant risk, as are builders.

"That's why NZCB introduced our own proprietary building guarantee in 2016, called Halo, which we require our members (on a mandatory basis) to apply to every new home build or building alteration over \$30,000 that they undertake," said Mr Florence.

The highly comprehensive building guarantee stacks up well against other building guarantees in a recent Consumer NZ comparison. As well as being underwritten by Lloyds, it is independently managed, which ensures there is no conflict of interest in the management of claims. Comprehensive coverage and financial strength were the two most highly-ranked attributes sought for a building guarantee by survey respondents.

"Given that only about one third of all builders in New Zealand are members of NZCB, there is obviously a lot of work being undertaken by other builders that do not have access to Halo and do not have the same imperative as our members to ensure there is a building guarantee in place for high-value work. This again reinforces the need for consumers to be proactive about the whole contractual arrangement," said Mr Florence.

IN ADDITION TO COMPLACENCY ABOUT THE PAPERWORK, THE SURVEY ALSO INDICATES THAT HOMEOWNERS COULD BE MORE PROACTIVE ABOUT MANAGING POTENTIAL SEISMIC RISKS. LESS THAN ONE IN FIVE RESPONDENTS THAT

HAD UNDERTAKEN BUILDING WORK IN THE LAST 10 YEARS SAID THEY HAD SEISMIC WORK ACTIVELY INCLUDED IN THEIR LAST BUILD OR RENOVATION.

"The data suggests that although there were small increases in people actively specifying seismic work as part of a building project immediately following the 2011 and 2016 major quakes, this tends to taper off and be less 'front of mind' for Kiwis as time goes on," said Mr Florence.

NZCB, which celebrates its 20th Anniversary this year, is focused on raising standards in the industry, including by requiring builders to hold a formal trade qualification to be eligible for membership and providing ongoing skills development.

"We're focused on quality because we know that this is ultimately what consumers care most about, and the results of our survey echo this. Having a reputation for high quality work, professionalism, and holding formal trade qualifications, were the top three attributes respondents said are most important when choosing a builder. Interestingly, price and providing a fixed quote were ranked the least important," said Mr. Florence.

One thousand New Zealand homeowners completed the survey during April 2018, which was conducted by Curia Market Research.

BRANZ & Site Safe team up to deep dive into Mental Health research



FURTHER RESEARCH TO UNCOVER WHAT IS FUELLING THE HIGH RATE OF SUICIDES IN CONSTRUCTION WILL BE UNDERTAKEN BY INDUSTRY ORGANISATIONS.

Site Safe NZ, in partnership with the Building Research Association of New Zealand (BRANZ), was announced recently that they will be leading a new, in-depth study to uncover the underlying trends behind the high number of suicides in the industry.

Site Safe Chief Executive Brett Murray said understanding the problem was the first step to prevention.

"This vital research will help us get the data we need to understand the bigger picture. Unlike Australia, where the high rate of suicide in construction has been recognised for years, in New Zealand we are still coming to grips with the scale of the problem.

"Having access to these cases will give us a real opportunity to take an in-depth look at this issue. By undertaking this research, Site Safe hopes to shed some light on what is driving poor mental health in construction, so we can then work alongside industry and government to put in place effective prevention programmes."

The announcement comes after an initial BRANZ scoping study suggested that a "macho" or "harden up" culture was one of the key factors behind high rates of suicide in construction and that further research was urgently required.

According to the Suicide Mortality Review Committee (2016), construction has the highest suicide rate of all industries in New Zealand. At 6.9 per cent [or 15.4 deaths of men of working age per year over the five years analysed], it is marginally higher than farming and forestry, which sits at 6.8 per cent.

"For many years we've put the focus on safety, rather than looking at people's health more broadly. It's time we recognised that we must do more and prevent suicide from having a tragic effect on the lives of so many Kiwi families."

It is expected the study's initial results will be available early next year.

THE STUDY AIMS TO ANALYSE THE CORONER'S FINDINGS OF ALL SUICIDES OF CONSTRUCTION WORKERS FROM 2007 UNTIL 2017, SOME 339 CASES, TO BETTER UNDERSTAND ANY COMMON FACTORS.



If you think you, or someone you know, may be thinking about suicide, call the Suicide Crisis Helpline for support on 0800 543 354 or visit: www.lifeline.org.nz/suicide-prevention

Top plate connections

BY ALIDE ELKINK, FREELANCE TECHNICAL WRITER

It can be difficult to understand the requirements for joints in top plates – below are some pointers on best practice for top plate connections.

Specific requirements for joints in top plates are set out in section 8.7.3 of NZS 3604:2011 Timberframed buildings.

All joints in top plates must be made over a support, such as a stud or solid blocking between studs. Other criteria for joints depend on whether the wall:

- Is braced (either in-line or a wall intersecting with it is braced)
- contains no bracing elements.

Each of these situations is covered off below.

Many methods require a fixing of a certain strength or capacity, measured in kN (kilonewtons).

WALLS WITH BRACING - IN-LINE CONNECTIONS

For single storey buildings, the capacity of joint connections in top plates of walls with one or more bracing elements is based on the highest bracing element in the wall. The connections must be in both tension and compression along the plate and have the following capacities:

- 3kN capacity connections are required for walls containing up to 100 bracing units (BUs)
- 6kN capacity connections are required for walls containing more than 100 BUs
- 6kN capacity connections are required for walls with a ceiling diaphragm.

Figures 2(a) and **(b)** give further detail.

The 3kN and 6kN connections can be made using metal connection plates or nailed joints with fixings (**see Table 1).** However, if an extra top plate is used and the joints are not aligned with the lower top plate, the 3kN or 6kN capacity connections are not normally required as long as there is at least a 3kN/6kN nailed joint connection (as appropriate) between top plate pairs.

WALLS WITH BRACING - RIGHT ANGLE CONNECTIONS

Internal walls containing one or more bracing elements must be connected to external walls that are at right angles to them at the top plate level. Connections in tension and compression along the line of the wall bracing element may be direct (**Figure 3(a)**), or through framing members (such as truss bottom chords, ceiling joists or ceiling battens) that are in line with the braced wall (**Figure 3(b**)).

Each internal wall must have a connection capacity as follows:

- 6kN connection to at least one external wall is required for a wall with up to 125 BUs
- 6kN connections to at least two external walls are required for a wall with up to 250 BUs
- minimum connection capacities of 2.4kN per 100 BUs to at least two external walls are required for a wall with more than 250 BUs.

WORKED EXAMPLE

Figure 4 demonstrates the various options.

IN-LINE CONNECTIONS IN TOP PLATES

For the in-line connections at M2, N2, N3 and O2 in **Figure 4**, if the total BUs in the bracing lines M, N or O are:

- less than 100 BUs, use 3kN capacity connections
- more than 100 BUs, use 6 \kN capacity connections.

If a double top plate is used and joints in the top plates are staggered, neither the 3kN or 6kN capacity connections are required according to NZS 3604.

RIGHT ANGLE CONNECTIONS IN TOP PLATES

For the right angle connections at M1 and O1 in **Figure 4**, if the wall on bracing line A has:

- up to 250 BUs, then 6kN connections are required at each end of line A
- more than 250 BUs, then connections at each end of line A must have a capacity of at least 2.4kN per 100 BUs.

For connections at N1 and N4, if the wall on bracing line N has:

- up to 125 BUs, then 6kN connections to an external wall is required
- up to 250 BUs, then there must be 6kN connections to each end of the wall at both external walls are required more than 250 BUs, then a fixing capacity of 2.4kN per 100 BUs of the wall at both external walls is required.

RIGHT ANGLE WALLS THAT ARE LATERALLY SUPPORTED

The connection requirements of the wall on bracing line B to the external wall in **Figure 4** depend on the amount of bracing in wall B:

- if there is no bracing in wall B, a 3kN connection, or a halved or a butt joint over a stud or blocking may be used at B1
- if the bracing does not exceed 125 BUs, use a 6kN connection at B1
- if there are between 125 and 250 BUs, a 6kN connection is required at B1 and the wall must be connected to external wall O with



Notes:

- Connection plate capacity = 3 kN, where bracing capacity < 100 BUs. Connection plate capacity = 6 kN, where bracing capacity > 100 BUs.
 Connection plate not required when extra top plate is used and joints in plates are staggered.

Connecting top plates in line in walls containing bracing.

FIGURE 2.



2(a) Butt joint

2(b) Butt joint with ceiling joist

Capacities of nailed joints: • Up to 3 kN: 3/100 × 3/5 mm nails per side. • Up to 6 kN: 6/100 × 3/5 mm nails per side.

- Notes: Connection plate fixing capacity for each wall with: maximum 125 BUs: 6 kN to at least one external wall maximum 250 BUs: 6 kN to at least two external walls more than 250 BUs: 2.4 kN/100 BUs to at least two external walls

Connecting top plates of external walls at right angles to other walls containing bracing.



25 × 1 mm strap with 3/30 × 2.5 mm flathead nails each end solid blocking connecting truss chord or celling joist to top plate top plate ceiling joist, rafter, truss chord or floor joist ceiling be

end wall framing

FIGURE 4.





Connecting members providing lateral support to top plates.

FIGURE 5. op plat

halved joint fixed with 3/75 = 3.15 mm nails (must be over stud)



5(b) Butt joint

5(a) Halved and nailed joint

stud

Connecting top plates in walls with no bracing.

TABLE 1: COMMON FIXING DETAILS FOR 3 AND 6KN CONNECTIONS

Fixing for metal connection plates					
Up to 3kN	to 3kN 3/30 x 3.15 nails per side				
Up to 6kN	6/30 x 3.15 nails per side				
Fixing for nailed joints					
Up to 3kN	3/100 x 3.75 nails per side				
Up to 6kN	6/100 x 3.75 nails per side				

Top plate connections

IMAGES SUPPLIED BY BRANZ BUILD MAGAZINE

- the bottom chord of a truss or with a ceiling joist between B2 and B3 using a 6kN connection
- · if there are more than 250 BUs, the connection at B1 must be 2.4kN per 100 BUs and the wall must be connected to external wall O with

the bottom chord of a truss or with a ceiling joist between B2 and B3 using a 6kN connection.

TOP PLATES REQUIRED FOR LATERAL SUPPORT

Top plates must be laterally

supported by any one of the following:

- · a sheet ceiling lining with a minimum density of 600kg/m3
- · intersecting top plates, joists, rafters, trusses or purlins

- framing members at maximum 2.5m spacings
- 70 x 45mm connecting members (Figure 5).

If the ceiling has a density of less than 600kg/ m³ (such as softboard) and the distance between bracing lines is between 5-6m, a 90 x 45mm top plate must have an additional 140 x 35mm top plate.

WALLS WITH NO BRACING ELEMENTS

A joint made in the top plate of a wall that contains no bracing elements, in-line or at a wall intersection, can be any one of the following:

- a halved and nailed joint (Figure 1(a))
- a butted and nailed joint over blocking (Figure 1(b))
- · a joint with an alternative fixing with at least 3kN capacity in compression or tension (see table 1 for kN references).



Which of the following is not correct? Walls with no bracing elements may have top plate connections made by:

- a halved and nailed joint 1.
- 2. a butted and nailed joint over blocking
- 3. a minimum of 3kN capacity alternative fixing
- 4. a minimum of 6kN capacity alternative fixing

Which of the following is correct?

www)

- 1. Joints in top plates may be made anywhere in the top plate
- 2. Joints in top plates must be made over a support such as a stud or solid blocking.

In-line wall connections of 3 to 6kN capacity are not required under NZS 3604 if an extra top plate is used (true or false)?

- 1. True
- False 2.

In Figure 4, if the wall on bracing line D has less than 250 BUs, connections at M3 and O3 must be:

- 3kN capacity 1.
- 2. 6kN capacity
- 2.4kN/100 BU capacity. 3.

Check your answers here:

https://www.building.govt.nz/about-building-performance/news-and-updates/codewords/ codewords-issue-86/top-plate-connections/quiz-answers/



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Simon Archer says, "we are immensely proud to partner with CARTERS in creating true in-store fastener destinations which are easier to shop and have a wider and deeper range of quality product ready to assist CARTERS trade partners."

Should builders have professional indemnity insurance?

BY BEN RICKARD

This is a question we're getting on an almost daily basis. And it's because more and more builders are coming to appreciate the full scope of their liability. This is the result of two things:

- Building owners are becoming more difficult and more likely to demand compensation if they're not satisfied with the work that's been done (or to get out of paying in the first place).
- The range of legal remedies available to dissatisfied homeowners has grown with various amendments to the Building Act over the past few years.

		Public/General Liability	Statutory Liability	Professional Indemnity	LBP Professional Indemnity
Physical Damage	Damage to physical property	Y			-
	Damage caused by faulty workmanship	With Faulty Workmanship Extension			-
	Resultant damage from faulty workmanship	Y	-	-	-
No Damage	Compensation for non-damage related mistakes			Y	
	Compensation for mistakes following a plan, design or specification	-		Y	-
	Compensation for mistakes installing components or systems	-	-	Y	-
	Negligent supervision of non-LBPs	-		Y	Y
	Errors in Records of Work	-		Y	Y
Fines & Penalties	LBP Disciplinary Board fines	-	Y	-	Y
	Building Act fines & penalties		Y	-	-
	Health & Safety at Work fines	-		-	-
	Health & Safety at Work reparations		Y	-	-
	Other fines & penalties	-	Y	-	-
AI	Legal costs & expenses associated with a claim	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Typical weekly cost*	\$10	\$3	\$15	\$7
	Policytrigger	Held liable by someone else	Prosecuted or fined by statutory body	Held liable by someone else	Held liable by someone else
	Policy type	Occurrence	Oaims made	Claims made	Claims made

For a builder with annual turnover less than \$500,000, 2 staff, no claims and typical limits of cover. Excludes GST.

Because of these changes, the core package of liability insurance a builder should carry has also grown. Plain old public liability insurance is no longer enough. Your package now needs to include cover that is common in other industries, and even among other construction professionals such as engineers and architects, but is only now being more widely adopted by builders.

The table shows the broad strokes of the cover available under the four most common liability policies.

At Builtin, we think a package that includes the first three offers the most suitable cover for the broader risk profile now faced by builders.

LBP Professional Indemnity, while tempting because of its lower premium, offers a much narrower cover than full professional indemnity insurance, which covers the big exposures builders are most likely to face.

Here are three examples where professional indemnity insurance applies.

1. SLAB LAID TOO CLOSE TO BOUNDARY - \$40,000 A surveyor was engaged by the builder to mark out a site. Unfortunately, the surveyor made a mistake and, as a result, the foundations were laid too close to the boundary. The cost of fixing this error came to \$40,000, which the builder was held liable for. As the surveyor's terms and conditions stated that they could only be liable for a maximum of twice their fee, the builder was forced to pay most of the cost from their own pocket.

Q. Is it a public liability claim?

A. No, because there is no physical damage to the property, which would be a requirement under public liability insurance.

Q. Is it a Professional Indemnity claim?

A. Yes, because someone the builder is responsible for has made a mistake that has caused financial loss to the client.

2: COUNCIL INSPECTIONS NOT ARRANGED - \$20,000

A builder was contracted to perform earthquake remediation, a reclad and re-roof to a Christchurch home. The builder failed to arrange all the inspections required and the Council subsequently refused to grant a code compliance certificate. An independent assessment required both cladding and roof material to be removed as part of the inspection, and multiple failings were identified that the builder was held liable for. The cost of the inspection and remediation work in order to obtain a CCC amounted to over \$20,000.

Q. Is it a public liability claim?

A. No, because there is no physical damage to the property, which would be a requirement under public liability insurance.

Q. Is it a Professional Indemnity claim?

A. Yes, because the builder's mistake in failing to arrange the inspections led to the client's financial losses.

3: JOINERY INCORRECTLY MEASURED - \$75,000

A builder in Auckland subcontracted the installation of joinery. Unfortunately, the subcontractor didn't measure it correctly or follow the manufacturer's installation guide. This was picked up shortly after the



code compliance certificate was issued and, in the subsequent legal action involving the Council, the builder and subcontractor, the builder was found significantly responsible and ordered to pay a large share of the overall damages, in addition to his hefty legal bill.

Q. Is it a public liability claim?

A. No, because installing something wrong is not considered to be

physical damage to the property, which is the test under public liability insurance.

Q. Is it a Professional **Indemnity claim?**

A. Yes, because the subcontractor, who the builder engaged and was responsible for, made a mistake that caused financial loss to the client (the cost of replacing and re-installing the joinery).



THE SOLID FOUNDATION TO A BUILDER'S RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

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reparation costs)

claims for compensation)

In a nutshell

It'll come as no surprise to note that you're more likely to be held liable for a mistake than ever before, with more rules to follow and more people willing to have a go at you. This means upping your game when it comes to managing this risk. Having the right liability insurance package to suit your business is a good start.

Note: The examples and descriptions of cover given here are a guide only. Whether a particular event is covered will depend on the specific circumstances and wording of the policy.



Builtin Insurance are New Zealand's trade insurance experts. For more information and to request your own review visit builtininsurance.co.nz or contact Dave La Pere at dave.lapere@builtin.co.nz or 0800 BUILTIN.

Threats and opportunities of KiwiBuild

In general, major upturns and downturns in new dwelling consents have been driven by interest rates and population growth. These factors will remain important, but government initiatives are set to be equally important for many parts of the country. How building firms perform in the future will be impacted by whether they are involved in governmentsponsored building.

Nationally, government-sponsored consents for new dwellings have increased threefold over the last four years. This has been dominated by increased building by Housing NZ although government-sponsored consents are still dwarfed by private sector consents as shown in the chart (Fig. 1).

Housing NZ building will increase somewhat more, but KiwiBuild will be much more important. The KiwiBuild target is to build 1,000 new dwellings for first home buyers in the 2018/19 June year, 5,000 in 2019/20, 10,000 in 2020/21 and 12,000 per annum subsequently until a total of 100,000 are reached. 50% of KiwiBuild building is supposed to be outside of Auckland. The most recent





announcement at the time of writing is a plan for 211 KiwiBuild properties in Wanaka over the next two years.

When building of social housing is included, government-sponsored consents will reach around 14,500 by 2021/22 if the KiwiBuild targets are achieved versus just over 2,000 in the last year.

In the parts of the country where KiwiBuild building will be significant, being involved in it will be important; assuming it is profitable. For firms not involved, KiwiBuild poses two threats and a possible opportunity. Some of the people who buy KiwiBuild dwellings would have built their own homes privately or would otherwise have bought an existing property from someone who, in turn, built one themselves.

This will mean there will be some direct crowding out by KiwiBuild. KiwiBuild and other government initiatives that will stimulate economic growth are likely to, in time, result in higher interest rates. This will result in some indirect crowding out.

In time, the direct and indirect

THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING LITTLE TO GET DOWN SECTION PRICES, WHICH IS ONE REASON THE KIWIBUILD TARGETS MAY BE HARD TO ACHIEVE. HOWEVER, KIWIBUILD IS LIKELY TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS AIDED BY THE \$2.1B ALLOCATED TO KICK START IT, MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS ON HOUSING NZ AND GOVERNMENT LAND, ALMOST 100 DEVELOPERS HAVING TENDERED FOR KIWIBUILD CONTRACTS AND OVER 40,000 PEOPLE HAVING REGISTERED INTEREST IN BUYING. BUILDING SMALL HOUSES ON TINY SECTIONS AND GREATER USE OF PREFABRICATION WILL BE IMPORTANT FACTORS. IT IS POSSIBLE SOME FOREIGN BUILDING COMPANIES WILL WIN CONTRACTS FOR BUILDING PREFABRICATED HOUSING ON GOVERNMENT LAND.



crowding out of other building by KiwiBuild may pose a significant threat, especially for builders not involved in the scaling up of KiwiBuild. Slowing population growth in most of the country due to net migration with the rest of the world becoming less positive adds to the threat.

ON A POSITIVE NOTE, IF SOME COMPETITORS FOCUS TOO MUCH ON KIWIBUILD, IT MAY OFFER AN OPPORTUNITY FOR BUILDERS NOT INVOLVED TO GROW MARKET SHARE OF NON-KIWIBUILD BUILDING.





FOOTNOTES

(1) The lowest of the average floating and various fixed mortgage rates charged by the largest mortgage lenders. (2) Adjusted by Statistics New Zealand to remove the seasonal pattern. (3) Median section price reported by REINZ (\$000)









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New SafePlus online tool supports better health and safety

The SafePlus Online Self-Assessment Tool is a health and safety performance improvement tool, designed for small and medium-sized businesses wanting to improve their workplace health and safety.

The online tool is free to use and provides a simple way to engage people from all areas of your business, lets you check-in on how you're doing, and gives you advice and guidance for improvements you could make. It asks about three things that really matter for lifting health and safety performance:

- leadership
- worker engagement
- risk management.

Their anonymous responses are used to create a 'snapshot' of how your people think the business is doing in health and safety – plus recommendations for what to work on first, and advice about how to take action.

The online tool can also be used to identify differences in thinking between different divisions or locations of your business.



Get tailored advice What to do and how to do it, matched to your set-up and assessment outcomes



Take action Engage people across your organisation to put the guidance into action.

> Run new assessments whenever you choose, to check progress and identify new priorities.

¹ USE THE NEW ONLINE SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL HERE.

SafePlus was developed by WorkSafe, ACC and MBIE from international good practice, and is tested with industry in New Zealand.

The information you enter into the



1 https://online.safeplus.nz/

2 https://d3opxj40zzop7u.cloudfront.net/assets/information-disclosureand-privacy-statement-75a8980a1b5ce53aedb0b5bd28b75eba970328a37 832875436130a32848263b6.pdf

Run an assessment Set the tool to send multi-choice questions to your people and gather their responses



Repeat! Run assessments regularly, to check the effectiveness of improvement plans

tool is secure, and is only available to the government in an anonymous and summarised format, maintaining your commercial privacy.

² SAFEPLUS ONLINE TOOL PRIVACY STATEMENT IS HERE.

As more businesses use the online tool, you will be able to benchmark your performance against similar sized businesses and industry types.

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Applying quantity surveying theory to residential building projects

BY VICTORIA HARISON

IN THE PAST, PRICING FOR A RESIDENTIAL PROJECT MEANT WRITING A FEW SIMPLE CALCULATIONS ON THE BACK OF A PAPER BAG - YOU WOULD HAVE ADDED TOGETHER SUBCONTRACTOR QUOTES AND A MERCHANT ESTIMATE AND DECIDED COUPLE OF PEOPLE ONSITE FOR A COUPLE OF MONTHS WOULD BE ENOUGH. ADD ON A PERCENTAGE FOR SITE OVERHEADS, MULTIPLY THE WHOLE LOT BY 10 PER CENT AND THE JOB IS DONE, RIGHT?

These days, to remain competitive and profitable and within contract legislation, it's a task you should really spend some time thinking about. In addition, as a licensed building practitioner you need to ensure that you're meeting your obligations while being as profitable and competitive as you can.

General quantity surveying (QS) principles can help a lot here. They can be used for any project, even the smallest renovation job. If you consistently apply these principles, along with best practice, you will be able to more accurately price jobs and projects will run more efficiently.

PRINCIPLE #1 - MATERIALS MEASUREMENT

It is very important to make your materials measurement as accurate as possible. This might sound obvious, but if you win a job with a merchant estimate and find out it was missing key items or under measured, that can cause real issues. You might then need to try to negotiate with the merchant to have the extra goods delivered for free or negotiate a variation with the client so that you can continue with the job.

Avoiding these issues is not the only reason that you want your material measure to be accurate and detailed. The other reason is specifically aligned to principle #2.

PRINCIPLE #2 - LABOUR MEASUREMENT

While measuring labour is a standard tool for quantity surveyors, builders don't always understand how to do it well when they price their own work. To measure labour for a job it is best to use a labour constant, which is a figure based on how long it will take to complete a task on a permeasurement basis, such as per square meter. It is calculated as a constant figure that can easily be multiplied.

You use a labour constant so that regardless of the measurement (or size of the task) it is easy to figure out the amount of labour needed to complete it.

Example: if your project requires 100m² of plasterboard then you want to know how many m² of plasterboard can be installed per hour:

- 1. You know it takes five minutes to put up 1m² of plasterboard.
- Divide five minutes by 60 minutes (this will give you a labour constant of 0.08/m² of plasterboard).
- Times the measure (100m²) by the constant (0.08/m²) to calculate your labour requirement in hours – 100 x 0.08 = 8 hours.

Materials measurement and labour measurement are the first building blocks for pricing a job effectively. If you have your materials measure correct, and you apply a labour constant to each line item, then your labour amount and costs are likely to be correct too.

Luckily, you don't have to work out a labour constant for every task (unless you want to) because there are resources to assist you.

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There are a variety of books and online quantity surveying tools available to help you understand what average labour constants should be. You can also get professional help and advice by hiring a quantity surveyor.



Applying quantity surveying principles can have what benefits?

- A. More accurate pricing for jobs
- B. Higher efficiency projects
- C. Fewer surprises
- D. All of the above

The materials principle sets out to ensure that:

- A. Using a correct materials measure is key to getting the labour requirement correct
- B. Your supplier will provide you with lots of extra materials
- C. The homeowner should

supply you with everything Which best describes a labour

constant?

- A. The amount of time it takes to install plasterboard
- B. A calculation that only quantity surveyors can do
- C. A value that can be applied to a measurement to work out the labour required for the project
- D. A measurement of how much material you need to order

Check your answers here:



https://www.building.govt.nz/ about-building-performance/newsand-updates/codewords/codewordsissue-86/price-right/quiz-answers/

Victoria Harison is a Director/Quantity Surveyor at RedQS

The importance of understanding the New Zealand Building Code

BY JAMES SKINNER

This article provides a timely snapshot summary of the Building Code in New Zealand.

BACKGROUND

Buildings need to be safe, healthy and durable for everyone who occupies them. All building work must comply with the Building Code. The Building Code must be complied with, even if the building work does not require a building consent.

The Building Code falls under the Building Act 2004. The Building Act covers the building sector and sets out the instructions, alteration, demolition and maintenance rules of new and existing buildings in New Zealand.

Local authorities ensure that the proposed building work will comply with the Building Code. When the local authority is satisfied that the building work is compliant it issues a code compliance certificate. This confirms the requirements of the Building Code have been met.

Using the Building Code clauses, you can find acceptable solutions, verification methods, updates and technical guidance.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

James is an experienced construction and civil litigator who has represented a wide range of clients large and small, including builders, building companies, waterproofers, roofers, window joinery suppliers, designers, engineers, homeowners and councils across New Zealand.

This publication is intended only to provide a summary of the subject covered and is of a general nature. You should not act in reliance on any statement contained in this publication without first obtaining specific professional advice from your lawyer.



CATEGORIES

There are several parts to the Building Code including:

- A General provisions;
- B Stability;
- C Protection from fire;
- D Access;
- E Moisture;
- F Safety of users;
- G Services and facilities;
- H Energy efficiency.

All people in the construction industry should be familiar with the clauses of the Building Code.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE BUILDING CODE

When the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) make changes to the Building Code, there is a period of consultation first. MBIE has a wealth of information on their website - www.building.govt. nz - and we encourage you to take a look at this regularly or sign up to the updates to ensure that your building practices are current.

There are different ways of complying

with the Building Code, which can help the building industry benefit from developments in innovation building design, technology and systems.

Many of the acceptable solutions and verification methods refer to standards and other publications. Depending on your specific area of trade you should be very familiar with these practical guidelines including the build solutions.

SUMMARY

Like any industry, continually striving to be better is critical for keeping standards high. An important part of this process is making sure that your work meets the current standards. There is a wealth of information out there in the market to assist the construction industry make sure that the standards are met and exceeded. The onus is on every contractor to make sure that they understand the requirements in particular the standards applicable at the time. This will help protect the contractor legally and lead to better outcomes all round.



ACC refunds: Do you qualify?

ABOUT 300,000 BUSINESS CUSTOMERS WERE CHARGED INCORRECT ACC LEVIES SINCE 2002. HERE'S HOW YOU CAN FIND OUT WHETHER YOU'RE ONE OF THEM.

ARE YOU OWED A REFUND?

If you were in your first year of selfemployment between 2002 and 2017, or paid provisional ACC levies after ceasing trading, ACC may owe you a refund.

ACC expects to refund around \$100 million to approximately 300,000 business customers who were incorrectly charged levies during that time.

ACC WILL REFUND:

- all first-year levies collected between 2002-2017 from selfemployed customers who worked full-time (averaged over 30 hours per week over the financial year.) This affects around 106,000 customers and equates to approximately \$36 million in levies.
- businesses who paid provisional invoices and weren't required to

do so because they'd subsequently ceased trading or had changed their business structure. This amounts to around \$64 million.

ACC expects the refund process to be completed by 31 March 2019.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

If you think you might be eligible for a refund, ACC needs your current contact details.

Either visit acc.co.nz and fill in a web form with your contact details, or if you're already registered for MyACC for Business, use that channel to check your contact details are up-to-date.

ACC will update their webpage as more details become available (www.acc.co.nz).

HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

An update to ACC's billing and policy system identified these issues.

THE AVERAGE REFUND WORKS OUT AT ABOUT \$340 (EXCLUDING GST) FOR FIRST-YEAR SELF-EMPLOYED, AND AROUND \$415 (EXCLUDING GST) FOR PROVISIONAL PAYMENTS. CUSTOMERS WILL ALSO RECEIVE AN INTEREST PAYMENT. Preparations for a new levy system included a legal check on whether the new levy system would be compliant with regulations. ACC discovered the regulations from 2002 were drafted in a way that didn't allow for levying of first-year self-employed.

They also uncovered the second issue with provisional invoices paid by businesses that had subsequently ceased trading or changed their business structure, but hadn't informed ACC.

ACC suspended invoicing new selfemployed customers for their first year when the issue was uncovered. No first-year invoices have been issued since March 2017, and this will continue until the regulations are updated.

"I would like to apologise to customers who have been affected, our focus now is to make this right as soon as we can," says Phil Riley, ACC's Head of Business Customer Service Delivery.

DO YOU HAVE MORE QUESTIONS ABOUT ACC LEVY REFUNDS?

Visit www.acc.co.nz for more information, phone 0800 222 776, or email business@acc.co.nz

BCITO's 12,000th apprentice paints a bright future

The number of Kiwis engaging in building and construction apprenticeships is at record highs, as the industry's demand for skilled workers continues to surge.

The Building and Construction Industry Training Organisation (BCITO) now has 12,000 apprentices actively training at the same time. This is its highest number ever, but it still needs more.

"12,000 apprentices in training is a record number for BCITO. But it isn't nearly enough. We need many more people to enter the industry and start formal training now if we are to have a hope of reaching targets which will make a small dent in the sector's skills shortages," says Warwick Quinn, BCITO Chief Executive.

"Our apprentices are setting themselves up for a prosperous and rewarding future and it's never been a better time to enter the industry and trade up. Employment forecasts for the construction sector which BCITO covers suggest there will be 37,100 new and 44,500 replacement job openings in the next five years," says Quinn.

In addition, the recently released National Construction Pipeline Report predicts building and construction activity to remain at its current elevated levels until the end of 2020, with sustained growth expected from 2021 to over \$41 billion in 2023.

Quinn says the construction sector must diversify and attract more women, Maori, Pasifica and Asian workers. "The record low birth rate in 2003 means the number of school



leavers today has never been lower and this is adding pressure to an already stretched sector. We have a small window of 4-5 years to address some of our concerns before birth rates plummet to record lows. So, if you think we have a skills shortage now, just you wait."

BCITO's 12,000th apprentice, 21-yearold Cherie Stewart, is painting her way to a brighter future. Employed by Auckland based painting and decorating business Profile Property Services Ltd, Cherie was eligible for the first two years of her Painting & Decorating apprenticeship 'fees free.'

The number of employers who are offering formal training through BCITO has also reached record highs, with 15.3% growth in the last two years.

Profile Property Services Ltd owner, Paul Eaton, has taken on four apprentices and encourages others to do the same. He says an apprenticeship was a condition of Cherie's employment.

"Cherie is really reliable and willing to learn. She has a lot of potential and we wanted to put her on a path to a successful career with a secure and well-paid future. BCITO apprenticeships offer wrap around training and support which ensures she is working to industry best practice and her skills are recognised. It also ensures our clients get a quality result," says Paul Eaton.

HER NEW CAREER NOT ONLY MAKES FINANCIAL SENSE - IT'S ALSO A LOT OF FUN. "WE WORK AS A TEAM AND HAVE A BIT OF BANTER. PLUS, I KNOW THAT I'M EMBARKING ON A CAREER WHICH WILL ENABLE ME TO EARN AND LEARN WITHOUT RACKING UP A STUDENT LOAN," SAYS CHERIE STEWART.

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SUMMER IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER. IT'S A GREAT TIME TO GET CRACKING ON LOTS OF JOBS, BUT IT CAN PRESENT EXTRA HEALTH AND SAFETY RISKS. HEAT EXHAUSTION, FATIGUE AND DEHYDRATION ARE ALL THINGS TO WATCH OUT FOR WHEN WORKING IN THE HEAT.

Site Safe's central regional manager Jeff Strampel says knowing the danger signs is vital when working in the heat.

"If heat stress or exhaustion is not dealt with quickly, it can progress to heat stroke, which can be lifethreatening.

"Those doing work in confined spaces like underfloor, ceiling or roof work and those working in the hot sun are especially at risk.

"Unfortunately, New Zealand has one of the highest melanoma rates in the world. Kiwis need to know that exposure to our harsh UV rays can lead to melanoma or other skin cancers."

"It can be tempting to take on too much work, especially if you've been waiting for good weather to get started on a job – but just remember to take a step back and think about the task before you get stuck in," Mr Strampel says.

"SMART PLANNING MAKES FOR A BETTER AND A SAFER JOB."

Be extra careful when doing these types of work, which make you more likely to suffer heat exhaustion:

- Working in the direct sun
- Working near heat-producing processes

- Working in confined spaces
- Doing underfloor, ceiling or roof work
- In cabs of mobile plant
- Closed areas with limited air flow

DANGER SIGNS TO LOOK OUT

FOR: Make sure you know the danger signs to look out for when working in the heat. If you do overheat, you'll notice symptoms like:

- Clammy or sweaty skin
- Feeling weak or dizzy
- Darker coloured urine
- Pounding or rapid pulse
- Loss of balance, fainting
- Headaches
- Muscle cramps
- Mood changes or confusion

TIPS FOR STAYING SAFE:

Tool up: use the right tools for the job and try to switch tasks regularly if using vibrating power tools. Consider low-vibration hand-held tools and, where practical, install low-vibration seats in machinery. Rotate tasks between workers and make sure workloads and deadlines are realistic.

Be cool: wear lightweight breathable clothing if it's safe to do so, but be sure to comply with your company's clothing and PPE regulations. Remember to wear a hat, sunglasses



For more free health and safety information, check out Site Safe's website www.sitesafe.org.nz

and a good quality sunblock. Safety sunglasses, to protect eyes both from flying objects and UV rays, are also a good idea. With any sunglasses, always check the impact and UV rating.

Don't sweat it: stay hydrated with lots of water. Avoid dehydrating drinks, like those containing caffeine or alcohol. Most people need about eight glasses of water per day, but if you're working in the heat, it's likely you will need more.

Go with the flow: think about airflow and use fans to provide ventilation and keep the temperature down if necessary.

Be the man/woman with the plan: if you have several jobs to do outside, think about where the sun is and which jobs you might be able to do first to avoid being in full sun for too long.

Take a break: if possible, consider taking a break and heading inside during the hottest part of the day. Always take regular breaks and consider extra breaks if the work is demanding. Monitor and place limits around overtime and avoid incentives to work too many hours. If you need to work longer hours, consider staggered start and finish times, and longer breaks and periods off work. Try to set realistic deadlines and timeframes for jobs.



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