
Submission to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Re: Building Performance Standards

24 FEBURARY 2017

Introduction

The Institution of Professional Engineers New Zealand (IPENZ) is the lead national professional body representing the engineering profession in New Zealand. We have approximately 17,000 Members, including engineering students, practising engineers and senior Members in positions of responsibility in business. IPENZ is non-aligned and seeks to contribute to the community in matters of national interest, giving a learned view on important issues, independent of any commercial interest.

This submission is made by IPENZ, on behalf of its 17,000 Members. We wish to be notified when the list and programme are published. Please keep the following IPENZ staff updated:

- Laura Stockton, Engineering Practice Manager, laura.stockton@ipenz.org.nz
- Tracey Ayre, Policy Advisor, tracey.ayre@ipenz.org.nz

Submission

Our responses to the consultation questions are presented below.

Q1 Do you think that MBIE needs to consider any additional Standards for the priority list?

IPENZ has consulted with its Members to identify the Standards that are most relevant to them in their engineering practice. We are pleased to see the majority of these Standards on the priority list in the consultation document but recommend the list be expanded to include:

- AS/NZS 1252: 1996 – High-strength bolts with associated nuts and washers for structural engineering

- AS/NZS 1554: 2014 – Structural Steel Welding (Parts 1 and 3–7)
- AS/NZS 1576:1: 2010 – Scaffolding – Part 1: General requirements
- AS/NZS 1576:2: 2009 – Scaffolding – Part 2: couplers and accessories
- AS/NZS 1576:3: 2015 – Scaffolding – Part 3: Prefabricated and tube-and-coupler scaffolding
- AS/NZS 1664.2: 1997 – Aluminium structures – allowable stress design
- AS/NZS 2785 – Suspended ceilings – design and installation
- NZS 3910: 2013 – Conditions of contract for buildings and civil engineering construction
- NZS 4404: 2010 – Land development and subdivision infrastructure

In addition we recommend the following Standards be included on the priority list:

- AS/NZS 4234 – Heated water systems – calculation of energy consumption. This Standard relates to the efficiency of hot water systems and is relevant to Clause H1 of the Building Code.
- Standards related to lighting safety and performance. Lighting technology is developing and it is important safety aspects are kept up to date and in alignment with international practice.

We question whether commentaries on Standards or part of Standards are included on the priority list. We recommend commentaries be taken as included where the Standard or part of the Standard is listed on the priority list.

Finally, we recommend the Ministry check the date of AS/NZS 2566.1. According to the consultation document the Standard is dated 2002 but we understand the latest version is dated 1998.

Q2 Do you know of any Standards that have information gaps or need research in order to be developed? If yes, please give details.

We support the list of areas needing research presented on page 17 of the consultation document. Additional research is needed in relation to:

- NZS 3404 to investigate the reliability of detailing being used in Christchurch where multiple variations of braced steel frames are being used.
- NZS 1170.5 regarding the separation of building period from site period. Flexible buildings on flexible sites where site and building period are closely aligned are more likely to result in significant damage
- NZS 3101 in relation to the residual capacity of buildings that have experienced earthquake damage.

This research could be relevant to a number of Standards in addition to those identified above.

Q3 Do you have any comments on the sequencing of Standards in the Standards programme

We have no comment on the sequencing.

Q4 Do you think that some of the Standards identified could be co-funded by BSP and other parties? If yes, which ones and who would the other party(s) be?

We note the intention that the identified Standards be funded by the Building Levy. We also note the intention set out in the consultation document that co-funding opportunities will be considered.

We believe it is important for the regulator to fund the development and maintenance of Standards that support legislation and regulation. In the case of building and construction Standards, we believe MBIE, as regulator, should be funding the development and maintenance of Standards that support the Building Code and relevant regulation.

In our submission in response to the Standards and Accreditation Bill in 2015, we believe cited Standards should be available to practitioners free of charge, including construction Standards for engineers and others practising in the

sector. We believe it is important Standards are priced as cheaply as possible to enable all practitioners to access them.

We advise some caution in the application of co-funding as it is important that Standards development proceeds in accordance with the prioritised list. We see some risk in co-funding as this could result in preferential development of those co-funded standards.

Q5 If responding on behalf of an organisation/group: Which Standard committees would you be interested in participating? Please identify by Standard number or topic.

We look forward to working with the Standards Development Team to identify opportunities to support the development and maintenance of Standards. We are particularly interested in participating in the maintenance and development of Standards related to:

- design of structures and non-structural elements
- seismic performance.

Q6 Please add any other comments you wish to make regarding the proposed Standards programme

Volunteer Remuneration and Recognition

For a number of years IPENZ has worked with its Technical Groups to identify Members who are appropriately skilled to contribute to the development and maintenance of Standards. Our Members are very committed, enthusiastic volunteers who willingly share their expertise as a means of ensuring Standards are technically rigorous and to give back to society and their profession. Engineers are typically time-poor and through involvement in the Standards development process are expected to invest both time and funds. We believe changes are needed to better acknowledge and support the involvement of these technical experts.

We believe volunteers should be remunerated for their time and travel and costs associated with involvement in Standards development and maintenance. Travel costs can become significant for volunteers, particularly where a joint Australia/New Zealand Standard involves travel to Australia. Providing funding will ensure the right volunteers are involved – those with the best skills and expertise, rather than simply those who have the funds available to participate.

We also believe there are opportunities for volunteers to be better recognised for their contribution. This recognition could be as simple as a letter of thanks during or at the end of a Standard's development. We suggest the volunteers also receive free access to the Standard they have contributed to as a gesture of appreciation.

Conclusion

We appreciate the opportunity to make this submission and are able to provide further clarification if required. For more information, contact:

Susan Freeman-Greene, Chief Executive, IPENZ

Email: susan.freeman-greene@ipenz.org.nz

Phone: 04 474 8935

PO Box 12241, Wellington 6144