

**BCRS**

**Building Code Review Service**

People Helping People



## What it is the Building Code Review Service (BCRS)?

The Building Code Review Service (BCRS) is an Industry based Product Assurance process and source of technical information that supports Compliance to the New Zealand Building Code.

BCRS provides a cost effective technical review resources process and service that administers the process of a transparent review of technical material on building products, components, methods, and materials from manufacturers, suppliers and importers.

The review process culminates with the assurance of technical reports that are free of charge on the internet at [www.BCRS.org.nz](http://www.BCRS.org.nz) and because the review service directly addresses the issues of code compliance, the reports are extremely useful to regulatory agencies, designers, engineers, consumers, building-product manufacturers and the whole building and construction sector.

On the other hand, companies that hold review reports will find these valuable because their products will have been recognised as building code compliant by an organisation known for its independence and impartiality.

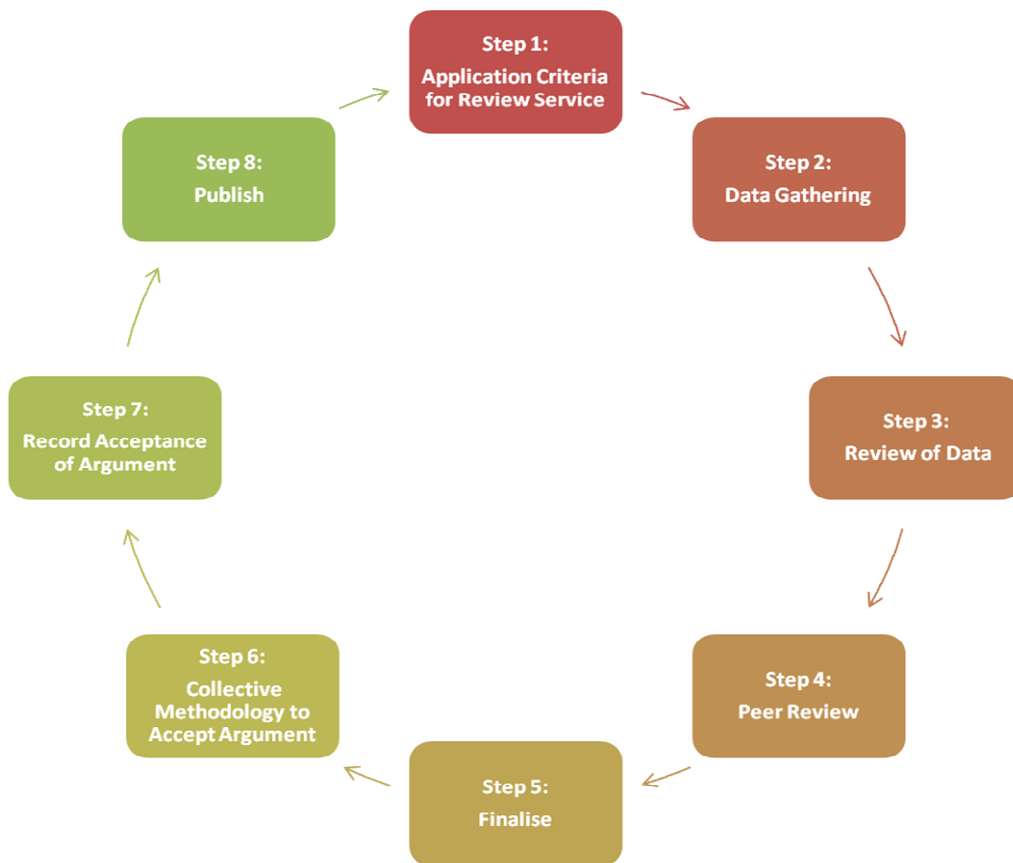


## Who uses BCRS?

- If you are a Building Control Authority, the review service can assist you by reviewing the technical assertions made about products and systems. The process will provide a methodology for products and systems to show New Zealand Building Code compliance, on all reasonable grounds.
- If you are a manufacturer, a review report from the service will make it easier to market your building-related product as you will have solid support that your product meets New Zealand Building Code requirements.
- The report on your product would be available for reference by Building Control Authorities, as well as other construction-industry professionals, free of charge, through the internet. For a small investment, manufacturers, suppliers and importers will reach huge numbers of regulators and end users.
- If you are a specifier, designer, architect or contractor and you want evidence for the local building official that you are using code-compliant materials you will be able to access the review reports.
- If you are a member of the general public, you will also benefit from the work of this service because the service will actively promote public safety in the built environment. Additionally, review reports can be used by the public to help in the selection of building products for their home or other property.

## The Technical Staff

In the first instance it is proposed that the review service will contract highly experienced subject matter specialists and professional engineers with expertise in such specialised fields as civil, structural, fire protection, and mechanical engineering to undertake reviews. Collectively, the contracted subject matter experts will have proven experience in reviewing technical material data within the building and construction sector.



## The process

The report process begins when a company or importer submits an application for a review report. The application is submitted with supporting technical data as required on the Application Information and Criteria for Review Service form and may include test reports.

Fees noted in the Building Code Review Service (BCRS) fee schedule must be submitted with applications. An application may be filed only by an entity with the rights to the materials, products or methods of construction on which a review report is sought. The applicant must have legal rights to all evidence and data.

Once the application is received and assessed to be complete with all required details, the review service will assign a contracted subject matter specialists to review the technical data and assertions, and work with the applicant to ensure compliance with either the Building Code or an acceptance criterion is proven before a report is issued.

Once the applicant has satisfactorily answered all questions raised and fulfilled any other requirements, a review report is issued and posted on the Internet where it may be referenced by Building Control Authorities and other interested parties. The applicant will also be provided with a printed copy of the report.

## What is included in the BCRS report?

New reports are issued for one calendar year, after which they are re-examined and may be reissued for a further one or two years depending on the applicant's preference.

### When I am looking for a specific review report, how do I find it?

All current and valid review reports will be available at [www.BCRS.org.nz](http://www.BCRS.org.nz) and you can search for reports by the product name, the name of the product manufacturer, or the type of product. If you search and still can't find it, it may be that there is no current report and you may need to contact us.

### Can I be sure that my report will be accepted by regulatory agencies?

Review reports are only advisory. The Building Control Authority having jurisdiction under the Building Act is always the final decision-maker with respect to acceptance of the product in question.

### **Is there an easy way for interested parties to receive regular updates on the review programme, reports and criteria, and so on?**

The BCRS website is the major source of information and will be updated regularly. An electronic newsletter will also be published and both posted on [www.BCRS.org.nz](http://www.BCRS.org.nz) and disseminated by e-mail.

### **How do I apply for a review to be carried out?**

The necessary application forms, fee schedule, instructions, and procedures are posted on this web site. See especially the "Application Information" section of the web site, and the "Rules of Procedure for Review Reports".

### **How long does it take to get a review report?**

The length of the review process depends on such factors as the complexity of the product and system under consideration whether an acceptance criteria needs to be developed and approved; and the applicant's promptness and thoroughness in submitting data. Given that every review is different, the best estimate is that the average review time for products is expected to take 2 to 3 months.

### **What are acceptance criteria?**

An acceptance criteria is developed when an application is received for a report on a product that is an alternative to what is specified in the Code, and there are no existing criteria that would apply to the product. Acceptance criteria may also be developed when the Code is not clear in a particular area or on specific issues related to a product; when industry raises concerns regarding report requirements; or when a new criteria is deemed necessary by the report applicant. The BCRS Board will make a decision on what is required.

### **Are there provisions for interim changes to review reports?**

There are provisions for interim changes to a review report during the period after the report is published but before it is due for re-examination. Administrative changes and minor technical changes (requiring no more than eight technical staff hours) can be handled through an interim revision; substantive technical changes must be made through a re-examination, out-of-schedule.

To learn more go to [www.BCRS.org.nz](http://www.BCRS.org.nz)



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