**The Product Technical Statement (PTS) approach to product assurance**

**How to show your product meets the performance requirements of the Building Code**

As a product manufacturer/supplier you put a lot of effort into making sure your products are fit for purpose. The miproducts Product Technical Statement (PTS) is a way to show that your products also meet the performance requirements of the New Zealand Building Code. This offers an increased level of assurance for those selecting, approving, installing and using your products. The relevant section of the Building Amendment Act 2013 states:

*14G (1) A product manufacturer or supplier means a person who manufacturers or supplies a building product and who states that the product will, if installed in accordance with the technical data, plans, specifications, and advice prescribed by the manufacturer, comply with the relevant provisions of the building code.*

*14G (2) A product manufacturer or supplier is responsible for ensuring that the product will, if installed in accordance with the technical data, plans, specifications, and advice prescribed by the manufacturer, comply with the relevant provisions of the building code.*

Where a supplier or manufacturer has met these obligations, it reassures the designer or architect regarding compliance, while making it easier to obtain a building consent when the Masterspec PTS is included in a project specification. The effectiveness of a PTS is enhanced if it is authoritative. That is, the description and scope are clear, all relevant code clauses are covered and the evidence is robust and unambiguous. Masterspec is taking a leadership role is this area and wants to ensure that all Masterspec PTS meet this standard.

The miproducts Product Technical Statement (PTS) is specifically designed to allow manufacturers and suppliers to show how their product meets the performance requirements of the NZBC; by following this guide and the on-screen help notes provided with the PTS software. The end result, once approved by Construction Information Limited, will be delivered to the construction industry via the miproducts website [www.miproducts.co.nz](http://www.miproducts.co.nz). The website is automatically linked to all subscribers to the Masterspec specification systems, for ease of referencing product information during specification production.

When included with a project’s building consent documents a PTS offers greater certainty that your product will be accepted by consent authorities as meeting the performance requirements of the building code. If your product does not need to comply with the building code, a Standard listing may be the preferred option to describe your product and to show that it is fit for purpose. Refer to [www.miproducts.co.nz](http://www.miproducts.co.nz) for more information on both options.

## Additional assistance in completing a Product Technical Statement (PTS)

Many manufacturers and suppliers of construction products have a detailed understanding of how their company’s products meet the requirements of the New Zealand Building Code. For products requiring a high level of assurance, such as those comprising the external building envelope, or higher risk uses such as sub-grade damp proofing systems, manufacturers may have already gained a Codemark, BRANZ Appraisal, or an alternative appraisal/technical report from a recognised reporting organisation.

For companies needing additional assistance, there are a range of resources available, including:

* The MBIE website provides information and guidance on the performance requirements of construction products: [www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/product-assurance-and-multiproof/product-assurance/products-and-building-code-compliance/](http://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/product-assurance-and-multiproof/product-assurance/products-and-building-code-compliance/)
* The BRANZ Type Test and technical opinions *(*[*www.branz.co.nz*](http://www.branz.co.nz)*)*
* Recognised testing laboratories
* Some specialist engineering practices offer advisory services on construction products and systems. Contact ACENZ at [www.acenz.org.nz](http://www.acenz.org.nz)
* Your own industry organisation, some of whom have developed their own industry based codes of practice, or alternative solution to the Building Code.

## First steps – a description of the product

Once you have established your miproducts account you can then list company details, links to company contacts and company website and logos.

The PTS wizard will take you through a series of steps, with help notes provided on screen to assist completion of the appropriate level and type of data, which should be factual and not promotional.

Steps One and Two of PTS production asks you to describe your product under the following headings:

* Base information Brand name, product name, teaser and extended keywords.
* Product description A fact-based description of the product, what it’s made of, its accessories and finishes.
* Scope of Use:State clearly the range of your product’s use and any restrictions on that range of use. For example an exterior cladding system may need to be installed on a cavity above a certain risk exposure (refer to NZS 3604), or there may be minimum falls required for a particular type of roofing product, or there may be restrictions on the type of finish, or the substrate on which the product is installed.

N.B. While it is possible to list a range of use parameters for a single product type, if this becomes too broad then it is best to provide separate PTSs for each different use: say a lining material designed for use as both an internal wet area lining and as an exterior roof soffit.

* Web links Drawings, technical data, Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), environmental data, installation/application data, maintenance details, colour range.
* Links to PDF files. It is preferable to provide technical data, Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), environmental information, installation and maintenance instructions as PDF files on your website rather than web pages as this allows designers to bundle this information and attach it to a specification, or the PTS, and submit with a building consent application.
* Image Album and Videos

## *Meeting the performance requirements of the New Zealand Building Code*

Step Three of PTS production asks you to confirm how your product meets the requirements of the New Zealand Building Code.

**Self-assessment of minimum level of assurance**

A simple two-step approach allows you to determine the **minimum level of assurance** customers, designers, contractors and local authorities need to satisfy them that your product meets the performance requirements of the New Zealand Building Code:

Step One: Assess your product’s **likelihood** of not meeting the requirements during normal use.

You choose from:

* **Rare** (only under exceptional circumstances)
* **Unlikely** (would not be expected to happen in durability lifetime of product)
* **Possible** (may happen at end of durability lifetime of product)
* **Likely** (might happen in durability lifetime of product).

Step Two: Assess the **consequences** of not meeting the requirements.

You choose from:

- **Insignificant** (no risk of harm to building user)

- **Minor** (might cause harm to building users)

- **Significant** (cause injury or illness)

- **Major** (potential loss of life).

This results in an indication of the **minimum level of assurance required** and the type of supporting information you would need to provide, as follows:

* **Low** Technical information only
* **Medium** Technical information by the manufacturer and either an independent assessment or reference to an industry-based scheme
* **High** Codemark, a BRANZ Appraisal, or other appraisal.

Note: This information is indicative only and is designed to give the manufacturer and those accessing the PTS, a general guide to the level of information required to support the PTS.

**Technical requirements of the New Zealand Building Code (NZBC)**

Select the Building Code sub-clauses your product needs to meet. For example most building products will need to meet B 2.3.1(a), (b), and/or (c), and F2.3.1.

In the notes field you can provide clarification if certain subclauses only apply to parts of your product e.g. B2.3.1(b) 15 years durability might apply to a plaster cladding and B2.3.1(c) to its paint finish.

**Evidence**

Provide evidence that your product meets each Building Code subclause that you’ve selected. For example, meeting or assisting with meeting an acceptable solution or verification method, compliance with a Standard (NZS or AS/NZS), conforming with your industry sector’s Code of Practice (which may or may not be recognised as an alternative solution), or historical evidence of use over a significant period of time (50 years+). Information on these sources of evidence can be found at [www.building.govt.nz](http://www.building.govt.nz) and [www.standards.co.nz](http://www.standards.co.nz).

**Supporting evidence**

Here you may provide specific sources of evidence to support your statement of performance with the Building Code by confirming that the product has a Codemark, current BRANZ Appraisal, or other evidence. This may be an appraisal by a recognised company or organisation other than BRANZ or reference to an industry-based scheme.

If your self-assessed level of assurance was “low”, a link to your own technical information may suffice. It is best if this evidence is available online.

**Use in Service History**

Add information and examples of your product’s previous use in New Zealand.

**Criteria**

The three subsections under this heading should focus on how your product meets the requirements of the Building Code:

 Design guidelines

 Design parameters and requirements. Guidance on the range of intended use, appearance related features, range of components, fixings, finishes etc.

 Installation requirements

 State any special conditions governing the installation of the product, such as required substrate conditions, special fixings, climatic/temperature conditions during installation. Requirements of installers (e.g. special qualifications or authorisation), any certifying or special inspections required during and/or after installation and any product testing and commissioning regimes. Alternately, or in addition, provide links to the company’s technical literature.

 Maintenance requirements

 The core focus is on setting out maintenance requirements to meet B2 Durability. In particular this should cover the need for regular inspections of finishes, fixings and jointing; and specific maintenance requirements, such as the regular cleaning of surfaces.

 In addition, provide guidance for the contractor during and immediately following product installation, such as required surface protection; and guidance for the building owner (short and long term) to preserve a product’s appearance and extend life. Also provide guidance on safe disposal and recycling at the end of a product’s life.

**Warrantees**

Specific company warrantees should be listed here, whether directly related to compliance (i.e. B2 Durability) or not.

**Environmental** Material composition, environmental effects of disposal, company recycling policy, ability to add to a Green Star rating.

**Quality assurance, Relationships, Other Certification**. Tick as applicable and/or add any relevant certification or memberships e.g. FSC, WANZ etc

**Health and Safety**

In addition to product information contained within any MSDS (Material safety Data Sheet) manufacturers and suppliers must now consider and respond to their responsibilities as a PCBU (person conducting a business or undertaking) under the *Health and safety at Work Act 2016*. Include all relevant information and advice within or as an attachment to the PTS.

**PTS Samples**

Refer to [www.miproducts.co.nz](http://www.miproducts.co.nz) for a list of current product technical statements by others.

For further information and support contact:

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