

## 1. Purpose

The purpose of this practice note is to provide guidance to people preparing Geotechnical reports intended to be submitted with building and resource consent applications.

To ensure Council officers and external agencies can effectively interpret reports it is essential that there is a consistent format to reports, particularly for meta-analysis studies such as in the creation of regional geotechnical maps.

## 2. Legislative requirements

When assessing applications for building consent or subdivision; Council officers need to be satisfied on reasonable grounds that all building work will comply with the provisions of the Building Code.

This requirement is contained under s71 of the Building Act 2004 and in the case of subdivisions, s88 of the Resource Management Act (Schedule 4).

In the case of land which has one or more natural hazards (i.e. geotechnical issues), Council must be satisfied that adequate provision has or will be made to protect the land, building work, or other property that is the subject of the application.

- Geotechnical reports prepared by suitably qualified persons are a satisfactory mechanism for establishing compliance with the Building Code.

## 3. The Standard

All reports, drawings, statements of suitability and/or statements of professional opinion must be signed by a recognised Engineering Professional. The Professional shall be a suitably qualified and experienced Engineer and/or Engineering Geologist who holds current CPEng accreditation in the geotechnical practice field or has mentioned within their practice area and/or PEngGeol certification from Engineering New Zealand.

However, all engineers must ensure that they only work within the practice field/area as specified by Engineering New Zealand that they are competent and recognise when appropriate supervision is required.

Where new geotechnical factual data has been collected it shall be presented in a stand-alone report (a Geotechnical Factual Report). Where this new data includes investigation to depths greater than 5 m below ground level shall also be presented as an electronic file in the AGS4 NZ data transfer format and shall be uploaded by the provider to the New Zealand Geotechnical Database.

Further details on the requirements for specific report types and site conditions are provided in the Auckland Council Code of Practice for Land Development and Subdivision Section 2.

## 4. References

- [Auckland Council Code of Practice for Land Development and Subdivision](#), Section 2 (Earthworks and Geotechnical Requirements).
- [Electronic transfer of geotechnical and geo-environmental data](#) – AGS4 NZ v1.0 (AGS edition 4.0.3 – New Zealand localisation).