
Presentation to the Canterbury Earthquakes Royal Commission

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12 September 2012

Topics to be covered

- ◎ A brief introduction to IANZ
- ◎ An overview of accreditation and IANZ assessments
- ◎ Capability of BCAs to sign off complex buildings
- ◎ Use of producer statements
- ◎ When why and how should peer review be conducted?
- ◎ The current framework and innovation

Introduction to IANZ

- ⊙ Created by Act of Parliament in 1972
- ⊙ Second broad spectrum accreditation body
- ⊙ Government owned
- ⊙ User pays
- ⊙ Not for profit
- ⊙ Internationally peer reviewed
- ⊙ Supporting clients and clients' clients

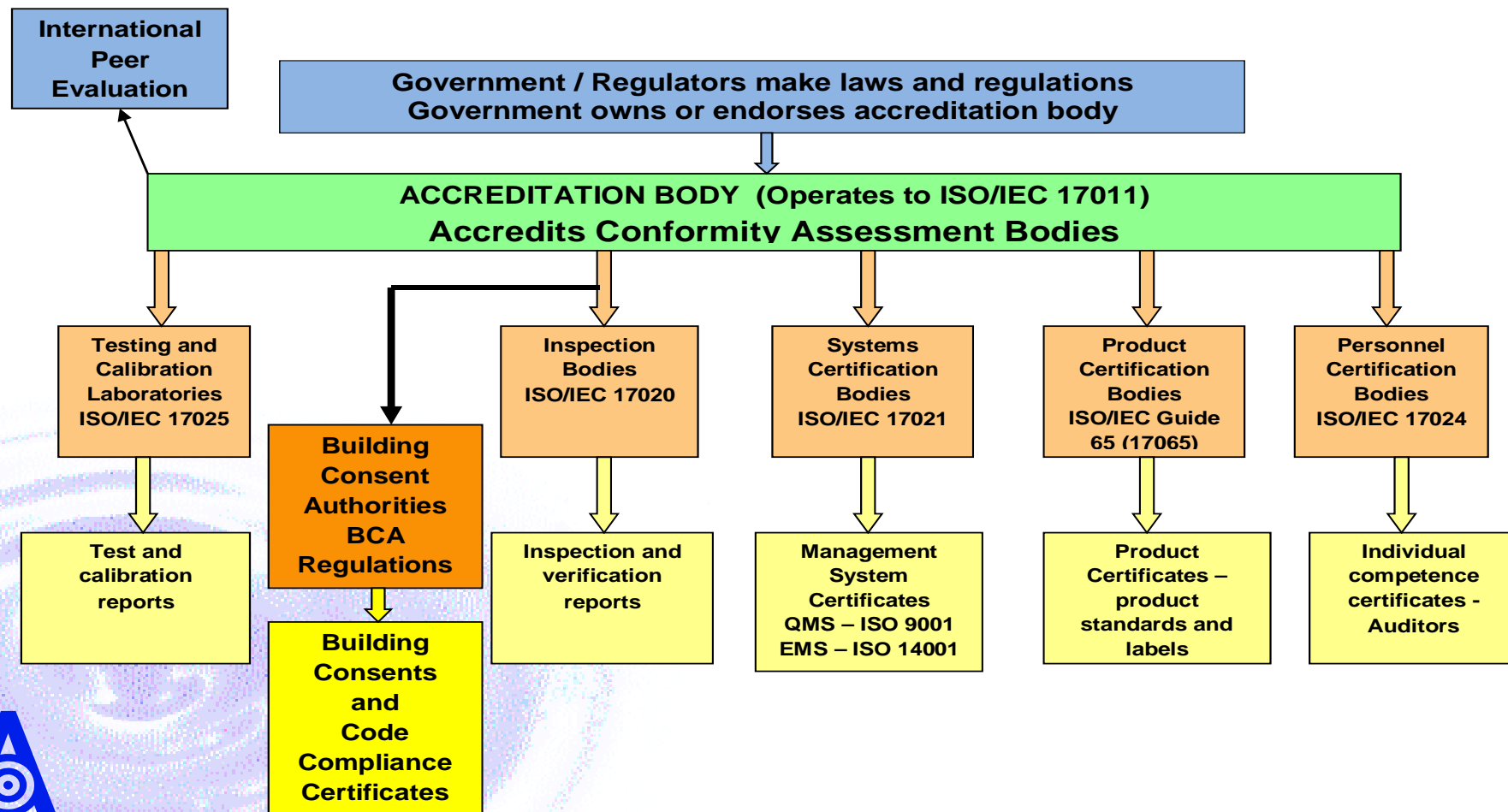
Accreditation

- ◎ The ISO 17000 definition of accreditation is as follows:
- ◎ 5.6 third-party attestation (5.2) related to a conformity assessment body (2.5) conveying formal demonstration of its competence to carry out specific conformity assessment tasks
- ◎ The word accreditation is often used less rigorously

Reliability of accreditation

- ◎ Accreditation bodies operate in accordance with an international standard ISO 17011
- ◎ The performance of IANZ is regularly evaluated by teams of international peers
- ◎ On the basis of these evaluations IANZ accreditation is recognised in over 60 economies

International model of accreditation



Accreditation process

- ① IANZ reviews a BCA's documented systems to establish compliance with accreditation regulations
'Building (Accreditation of Building Consent Authorities) Regulations 2006'
- ① IANZ assembles a team including one or more technical experts for each assessment
- ① Assessment of a BCA takes place on-site and typically lasts three to five days

On-site assessment process

- ◎ All stages of building control are sampled to determine if the BCA's procedures are being followed
- ◎ A sample of consents is reviewed in detail to determine if outcomes are technically correct
- ◎ Site inspections are witnessed
- ◎ Training records are reviewed
- ◎ Competence assessment results are compared with observed performance

On-site assessment process continued

- ③ Reference documents such as the Building Act, Accreditation regulations, relevant published standards, guides are checked for availability and currency
- ③ Inspection equipment is checked for availability, suitability and, where relevant, calibration

On-site assessment process continued

- ◎ BCAs are required to have continuous improvement processes, to undertake internal audits of their activities and to monitor their performance
- ◎ BCAs are required to have systems for managing inquiries and complaints related to building control
- ◎ IANZ assesses the effectiveness of these systems

Assessment outcome

- ③ At the end of an assessment IANZ holds a meeting with BCA management to discuss findings, if necessary, corrective actions are raised
- ③ A full written report is also provided
- ③ Corrective actions must be addressed satisfactorily within an agreed timeframe

On-going assessment

- ① Assessment is not a one off event
- ① BCAs are reassessed every 24 months

Accreditation provides confidence

- ◎ The accreditation process ensures that accredited organisations have:
 - ◎ Effective management systems
 - ◎ Reliable training and competence assessment systems
 - ◎ Formal systems for allocating work to competent persons
 - ◎ Checks and balances where required
 - ◎ Systems for self auditing, performance monitoring, continuous improvement and complaints management
 - ◎ Effective record keeping systems

BCA capability to sign off complex buildings

- ⊙ Every application is allocated to a level of building complexity
- ⊙ Every building official has been assessed for competence using the same complexity levels
- ⊙ The accreditation regulations require work to be allocated to persons assessed as having the necessary competence for the project

The BCA process

- ① Applications for building consent are checked for completeness before acceptance (not technical)
- ① Building officials (or contracted experts) undertake a detailed assessment of the submitted plans and specifications to establish compliance with every applicable clause of the Building Code
- ① Further information is often required during this process
- ① Formal peer review may also be requested

The BCA process continued

- ⊙ When compliance of an application with the Building Code is confirmed a Building Consent is granted
- ⊙ During construction building inspectors confirm that construction is in accordance with the consented plans and specifications
- ⊙ If construction is significantly different from the approved design, remedial action is required or approval of an amendment to the design

Traceability of records

- ③ Records of who worked on each project are retained (BCA staff and contracted experts)
- ③ BCAs contract out work they do not have in-house competence to handle. This is a managed process
- ③ Work may be contracted out to other BCAs or to appropriate professionals
- ③ Decisions made during processing and inspections are recorded as are the reasons for decisions

Centralised building consenting

- ⊙ This is a policy issue
- ⊙ There are arguments for and against
- ⊙ A single organisation with local or regional 'branches' could realise the advantages while mitigating the disadvantages

Super City as a model

- ◎ Auckland could be considered to be a regional Building Consent Authority
- ◎ Evaluation of the effectiveness of Auckland in meeting the goals of central processing could inform the practicality of national or regional building consenting

It is too soon to draw conclusions from Auckland



Producer Statements

- ⊙ Producer statements are not mentioned in current legislation
- ⊙ Producer statements may be accepted by BCAs at their discretion
- ⊙ BCAs have no legal right to require producer statements

Reliability of producer statements

- ◎ Evidence of the author's competence may be required, depending on the degree to which the statement is used to justify a compliance decision
- ◎ The accreditation regulations require BCAs to record all decisions and reasons for decisions
- ◎ If a producer statement is used as the sole means of establishing compliance, the reasonable grounds for accepting the statement must be recorded

Guidance on producer statements

- ◎ Some informal guidance has been provided by MBIE on the acceptance of Producer Statements
- ◎ More formal guidance than an article in 'Codewords' would be welcomed by BCAs
- ◎ MBIE is working with IPENZ on suitable guidance

When, why and how should peer review be conducted?

- ⊙ Engineered designs are, by definition, unique
- ⊙ Therefore consideration of the need for a peer review of a design is case-by-case
- ⊙ Decisions should be risk based
- ⊙ IPENZ Practice Note 2 defines types and scopes of peer review
- ⊙ When a peer review is requested, it must be clear what type of review is required

Does the current framework impede innovation?

- ◎ The current system is based on compliance with the New Zealand Building Code
- ◎ The Building Code is performance based
- ◎ Acceptable solutions are provided
- ◎ Alternative (innovative) solutions are allowed
- ◎ Alternative solutions must deliver code compliance
- ◎ Assessment of alternative solutions is more complex than accepting an acceptable solution