

# Poorly Constructed Buildings in New Zealand

## Quality Infrastructure

METROLOGY    **STANDARDS**    TESTING    CERTIFICATION    ACCREDITATION    QUALITY  
MANAGEMENT

### **PROBLEM** Defective control system for the construction of buildings

In 2004 a research was conducted about the construction of buildings in New Zealand. It revealed a systemic error in the control system of the entire process, from the first draft to the final construction. The set of errors is being accumulated during the phases of the construction and may lead to disastrous consequences for the final buildings and their residents.

### **BACKGROUND** Systemic deficiencies in the process of construction

These deficiencies are the result of a complex interaction of several factors:

- Shift in responsibilities and change in the relationships of designers and builders
- Urban criteria
- Lack of professional and commercial aptitudes
- Shift in responsibilities and structures on the ground
- Need for costs and speed
- Lack of effective supervision / inspection practice
- Limited capacity of consumers to evaluate the quality of construction due to the complexity of the issues involved.

### **SOLUTION** Building law 2004

Given the alarming results of the investigation in 2004 a new building law became effective. The new law applies to the construction of new buildings, as well as the alteration and demolition of existing ones. Its objective is to improve the monitoring and promote good practice in the design and construction area, as well as greater control and supervision by the government throughout the entire process.

### **IMPACT** Superior control and security

The new law from 2004 establishes the basic criteria of the Quality Infrastructure in order to provide clarity and guidance on compliance with building standards. Thus, offering the possibility of superior control by the government throughout the process of construction and inspection. Furthermore, it provides a greater certainty on skills required of workers in each of the tasks involved. All this leads to a better consumer protection through the introduction of a minimum security which is mandatory and crucial for the economic development of any country.

### **SOURCES**

<http://www.dbh.govt.nz/blc-building-act>