

# CoCT launches Build It Right portal for built environment professionals

The City of Cape Town has launched a new online resource portal for professionals in the built environment with the aim of providing clarity and guidance on the requirements for submitting building plans to the city.



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The city's development management department, which is responsible for regulating development in Cape Town, created the online portal over the past few months. The portal, inclusive of regular newsletters, is free of charge, and available to professionals and built environment practitioners who subscribe for the service.

"The newsletter provides guidance on all matters relating to preparing building plan applications, submitting applications, as well as guidance on how to complete the required forms and documents. All of this information is also available on the Build It Right resource portal," said Marian Nieuwoudt, the city's mayoral committee member for spatial planning and environment.

## **The Build It Right portal aims to:**

- respond to industry needs,
- keep all informed of current trends, new regulations and requirements,
- provide a reference library of searchable content, and
- create a platform for ongoing dialogue between the department and built professionals.

"We have done an analysis of the building plans that were submitted to the city in recent months to determine what type of information should be available on the resource portal. By taking a closer look, we have identified that some submissions were delayed either because vital information had been omitted, or because the application did not comply with the requirements of the National Building Regulations and Standards Act. Thus, the purpose of Build It Right is to make it clear to professionals what is needed when they submit building plans for approval, and to do so in a manner that is easy to understand," said Nieuwoudt.

**The National Building Regulations (NBR) and Standards Act applies to the:**

- construction of new buildings
- alteration, extension or conversion of existing buildings
- change of use of existing buildings; and
- demolition of existing buildings or structures.

The portal already features a series interpreting the NBR, as well as a series on standard processes and requirements which is basically a checklist for preparing building plans for submission.

The development management department will also use the portal from time to time to ask professionals for feedback by responding to questions or surveys. For information, email [BuilditRight@capetown.gov.za](mailto:BuilditRight@capetown.gov.za).

For more, visit: <https://www.bizcommunity.com>