

Technical Category Three (TC3) Investigations and Assessments undertaken by EQC



As you are aware, the land in your neighbourhood was rated by CERA as being TC3 (green/blue). A detailed assessment of soil conditions in your neighbourhood is needed so engineers can design appropriate foundation solutions to meet building code requirements.

You may have noticed that EQC is already undertaking drill tests in your area. Investigations will take place on both private land and roadside berms (the grass verge between your property and the road). Investigations involve on-site drilling and testing, plus off-site geotechnical analysis. The work is to provide information for foundation design as part of your building claim(s); it does not relate to your land claim(s) with EQC.

Generally drilling will be undertaken on berms at little disruption to you. If drilling is required on your property, EQC will contact you by phone to arrange and confirm the date when testing will occur.

The testing process

Step 1: Marking out the drill site and service clearance

Testing will take place in an area of the property least likely to cause disruption. Our field staff will find a suitable location either in the front or back yard of your property, or directly in front of your property in the road way. A ground penetrating radar unit (approximately the size of a lawn mower) will be used to verify that no underground cables or pipes are present at the test location. To be doubly sure, the site will be revisited within a week by a cable locator to verify there are no cables present. Each visit will take around 10-20 minutes and should not be an inconvenience to you. A wooden stake will be placed in the area where drilling will be undertaken. It is imperative that you do not remove the wooden stake.

Step 2: Investigating your soil

Every endeavour will be made to undertake drilling on the roadside berm at no disruption to you. However in some cases we may need to investigate your property by using one of the following:

- a) A Cone Penetration Test (CPT) - this provides very high quality geotechnical data. A drill rig will push a rod, around 20mm in diameter, into the ground to 20m below the ground surface. The rigs weigh a minimum of 2 tonnes and are either on tracks (like a digger) or wheels. A CPT test will gather data which allows for detailed analysis of how liquefiable your soil is.
- b) A machine drilled borehole - these holes have a diameter of 100mm. Soil is extracted, boxed and sent to our lab for logging and testing. The hole will be backfilled with grout on the day of drilling completion.

Step 3: Reinstatement

Our field staff will reinstate your property either on the day or within three weeks of drilling. Photos taken before drilling will be referred to when ensuring your property is left in its original state.

Step 4: What happens to the data collection?

EQC will manage your data through its Project Orbit platform. That information will become available to engineers to assist them with the design of foundations and building consent.

Step 5: Repair of your home

You will be contacted by Fletcher EQR or your private insurer to discuss repair options for your home.

0800 DAMAGE (0800 326 243)
or visit us at www.eqc.govt.nz

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Some commonly asked questions



Q. Will it be noisy?

A. Although large equipment will be used, people generally find the vibration and noise levels are not significant.

Q. How long will an investigation on my property take?

A. CPT can take one to three hours, whereas machine drilled boreholes can take anywhere from six to 48 hours (two days) to complete. We ask that all family and friends keep away from any drilling equipment left on your property overnight.

Q. Do I need to be home during the investigation?

A. No, you will not need to be present at any stage of the investigation. The contractors simply require access to your property. Please note that at no stage will any contractor need to enter your home.

Q. Can the contractors answer my questions regarding the TC3 investigations, my EQC or private insurance claim?

A. No. Our contractors at your property are there simply to carry out the drilling investigation and do not have information or answers for you regarding your EQC claim(s) or foundation designs. We would ask that in each instance you contact EQC with any queries or concerns you may have. For your safety and that of our contractors we also request that you do not engage or distract the contractors while they are on site.

Q. What if I have pets?

A. Please ensure suitable arrangements are made for them to be kept safe during the drilling process. Dogs should be restrained at all times while there are contractors and/or machinery on your property. Every effort will be made to ensure that investigations are located in areas where pets are least affected.

Q. What if I am a tenant? Will EQC or my landlord contact me?

A. EQC will seek approval from your landlord before drilling commences. It is the responsibility of your landlord to notify you if EQC requires to drill on your property.

Q. Why is EQC's drilling programme following the Stronger Christchurch Infrastructure Rebuild Team (SCIRT) infrastructure programme?

A. Going into areas after SCIRT work ensures that vital infrastructure is in place before house repairs are undertaken. This minimises disruption and the potential for duplication of works.

Remember, we will phone you if EQC geotechnics require access to your property to undertake a soil investigation.

In the meantime, for further information you may like to visit our website www.eqc.govt.nz or call 0800 DAMAGE (0800 326 243).

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