McCann FitzGerald



Building Control (Amendment) Regulations 2014 – Some Legal Issues Barrett Chapman

Irish Building Control Institute
Annual Conference

Thursday, 3 April 2014

Arises

- Under contract
- In tort
- Pursuant to statute

Contract

- Specific standard of care
- Implied term
- Fitness for purpose

Tort

- Neighbour principle
- Duty of care

Statute

- Sale of Goods and Supply of Services Act 1980
 - Necessary skills to render service
 - Due skill care and diligence
- Safety Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005
 - Designers
 - Contractors
 - Project supervisors

Building Control (Amendment) Regulations 2014 – New Liabilities?

- Contract?
 - Designer
 - Builder
 - Assigned Certifier

Building Control (Amendment) Regulations 2014 – New Liabilities?

■ Tort?

- Designer
- Builder
- Certifier

"Based on the above, and relying on the ancillary certificates scheduled, I now certify, having exercised reasonable skill, care and diligence that the building or works is in compliance with the Second Schedule to the Building Regulations ..."

Building Control (Amendment) Regulations 2014 – New Liabilities?

- Statute
 - Designer
 - Builder
 - Certifier

Designer

	Contract	Tort	Statute
B.C.A.	X	✓	X
Owner	✓	✓	X
Third Party	X	✓	X

Builder

	Contract	Tort	Statute
B.C.A	?	✓	X
Owner	✓	✓	X
Third Party	X	✓	X

Assigned Certifier

	Contract	Tort	Statute
B.C.A	?	✓	X
Owner	✓	✓	X
Third Party	X	✓	X

Contractual Limitations on Liability

- Time
- Cap
 - Monetary sum
 - Level of insurance
 - Type of loss
- Net Contribution clause

Type of Loss

"You shall not be liable for loss of rent or any other type of economic loss"

BHP Petroleum & Ors v British Steel plc & Anor [1999]

Issues

- Limit liability under BCAR2014?
 - Client?
 - Third parties?
- Is it insurable or akin to fitness for purpose/
- Personal/company liability?
- Reliance on someone else's cert?

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