

# info brief

December 2013



## A word from the Chair

*This is my final column. I will be retiring from the Board in January 2014, due to personal reasons. When I accepted the role of Chair, I set out "to restore the reputation of the Board as a fair and responsible regulator in the public interest".*



As a lay member of the Board the protection of the public is of paramount importance. The Act under which

we all operate, in my years of experience in the public sector, is unnecessarily complicated. This makes it very difficult for tradespeople, as well as the Board. In my time as Chair, the current Board and its management have worked diligently to resolve the legacy issues we inherited. In my view, the end is in sight when the Auditor General's review is issued

early next year. There have been many achievements in the last few years. CPD is now a way of life for licensed tradespeople. Work still needs to be done to ensure that courses are of high quality and accessible in all parts of the country. The technical difficulties with funding of disciplinary actions and prosecutions have been addressed by Parliament; where both the problem and solution lay. The Board's non-taxable status has been confirmed by the courts and is beneficial to all licensed persons.

While the Board has reduced its overall operating costs, it suffers from a lack of economies of scale. I have advocated for the amalgamation of the three trade occupational licensing boards. In my view, that is the best way to

reduce the costs of licensing to tradespeople.

From my observations the majority of tradespeople are competent, ethical and responsible - but there is a proportion of the industry who are not and bring it into disrepute. Regulation of trades is therefore essential in order to protect the public from the actions of this minority, which is key to the Board's purpose.

As I leave, I wish to acknowledge the hard work of my colleagues on the Board, Max Pedersen The Registrar along with his team, and thank them for that.

I wish you all a happy Christmas and New Year.

Alan Bickers  
Board chair



2 | The new licensing year is fast approaching. Do you have enough CPD points?



3 | The Board has a current consultation - this is an opportunity for you to have your say.



5 | Everyone doing plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying work needs to be authorised.

New resource  
from Technical  
Services

6 | Gasfitting made easy. Energy Safety and our technical team have designed a new resource.



### Continuing professional development

## April 1, 2014 marks the new licensing year and it's fast approaching

### DO YOU HAVE THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF CPD POINTS TO RELICENSE?

As CPD is part of our industry licensing framework and a condition of renewing your licence each year, it's important to make sure you have enough points accumulated by 31 March 2014 - before the new licensing year begins. If you do not have enough points when you come to relicense, it is likely that a new licence will not be issued to you - so we want to keep his date at top of

mind. To check on how you are tacking with your CPD points balance, visit [www.pgdb.co.nz](http://www.pgdb.co.nz) log in to your profile and view your summary. Or, please feel free to contact our licensing team on 0800 743 262, they are happy to help out with current point balance details.

*Sanitary plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying are regulated industries in NZ and it's illegal for anyone to do this work unless they are authorised to do so by the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board.*

### NEED TO OBTAIN MORE POINTS?

You can find a full list of accredited courses at [www.pgdb.co.nz/trade/cpd](http://www.pgdb.co.nz/trade/cpd) or contact us on our 0800 number.

If face-to-face courses aren't for you - consider our correspondence or online options.

To renew your license online, your authorisation number, password and credit card details is all you need.

Email us at [comms@pgdb.co.nz](mailto:comms@pgdb.co.nz) if you have any trouble with the online system or have forgotten your password.

*Examination results for the November 2013 round of examinations will be posted out on 31st January 2014. If you have a change of address let us know at [exams@pgdb.co.nz](mailto:exams@pgdb.co.nz).*



**Gasfitting  
solution**

See page 04

## Consultation

Submit a response at [www.pgdb.co.nz](http://www.pgdb.co.nz) under the current consultations section using the online form, email comments to [submissions@pgdb.co.nz](mailto:submissions@pgdb.co.nz), or mail to: The Registrar, PGDB, PO Box 10655, Wellington 6143.



## This is an opportunity to have your say

Earlier this year the Board consulted on a proposal to prescribe participation in competence reviews, as a standard term and condition of a licence. 159 submissions were received, with many of these asking for more information.

There is a second consultation document on the proposal to prescribe participation in competence reviews available for viewing and comment at [www.pgdb.co.nz](http://www.pgdb.co.nz). It provides more information on

the following areas:

- In what circumstances will I have to take part in a competence review?
- What is involved in a competence review?
- What is the result of a competence review used for?
- How much of my time will a competence review take?
- How often will I have to do a competence review?
- If the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Act 2006 authorises the Board to review the competence of tradespeople, why are these *Gazette* notices necessary?



Consultation closes ; 17<sup>th</sup> January 2014



# Who needs to be authorised?

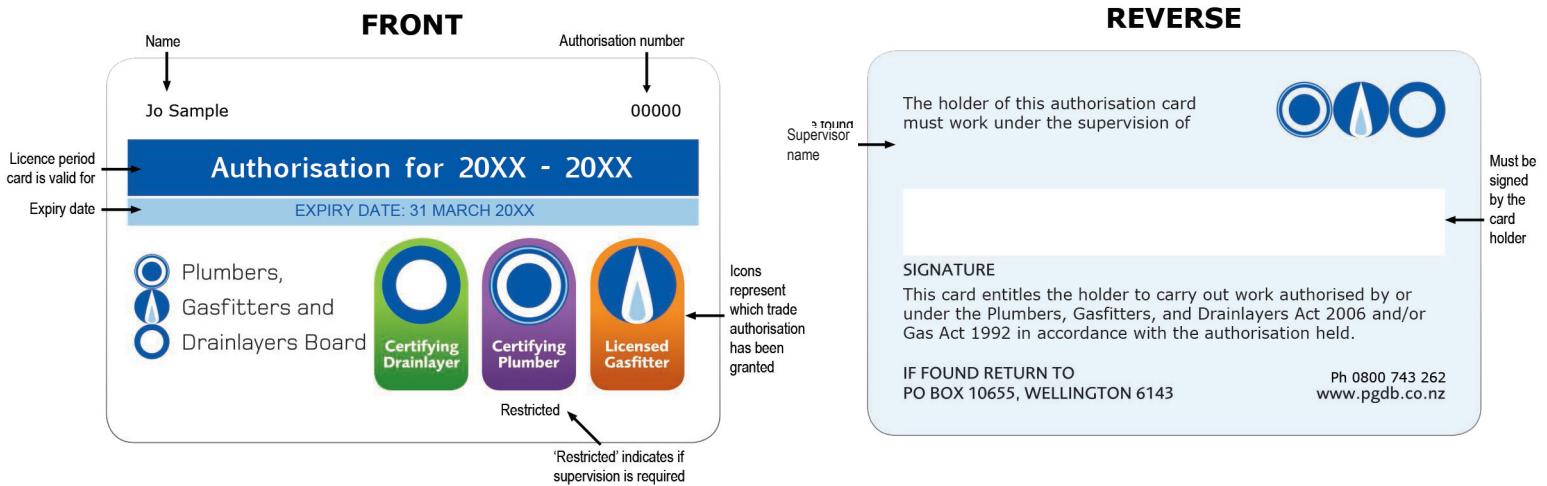
**EVERYONE DOING PLUMBING, GASFITTING AND DRAINLAYING WORK NEEDS TO BE AUTHORISED BY THE BOARD. THIS ALSO INCLUDES THOSE WORKING UNDER SUPERVISION.**

We recently received some feedback that some tradespeople think that they don't need their own authorisation to carry out work, as long as they are supervised by an authorised person. This is not the case.

Any person who is actually doing plumbing, gasfitting or drainlaying needs to have their own authorisation. That applies whether they are registered, a trainee or a person working under an exemption under supervision. Any person who is actually doing plumbing, gasfitting or drainlaying needs to have their own authorisation. This applies whether you are

registered, a trainee or a person working under an exemption under supervision. The Board issues all authorised people with a card which identifies the type of work they are permitted to carry out.

Only certifying tradespeople are able to work without supervision. For everyone else, the authorisation card details what the person's supervision requirements are on the reverse, including the name of the supervisor. Work being undertaken by anyone who does not have Board authorisation is working unlawfully.



## There have been a few updates

At the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2013 PGD Board meeting new versions of some policies were approved. The policies updated were the PGDB provisional licence policy, registration policy and the supervision policy.

The new versions are available for viewing on our website at [www.pgdb.co.nz/legislation-policies](http://www.pgdb.co.nz/legislation-policies).

## 2014 Surveys

The annual stakeholder survey is now booked in to begin during the first week of February 2014.

The Board would like to take this opportunity to reinforce the importance of the survey. If you do receive a call please take the time to answer our questions. Your feedback is valuable to us in determining where we need to position our improvement focus and what we are doing well. This is an opportunity for you to comment on how you think we are tracking in terms of service, communications, consultation, registration and licensing. We also want to know your thoughts on the role of the board in general.



*The results will be posted on our website and featured in Info Brief*

### WE ARE CONDUCTING A NEW SURVEY NEXT YEAR THAT WILL ESTABLISH A PUBLIC AWARENESS BASELINE



*The Board is surveying the public*

Until now there has been no formal process in place to measure public awareness of licensed tradespeople and the industry standards. The Board plans to launch a new public awareness measure in 2014, by taking part in one of Colmar Burnton's regular online surveys.

Undertaking an option such as this, is a very cost-effective way of interviewing a large number of New Zealanders throughout the country. Results from the first survey undertaken will be regarded as a 'baseline' from which subsequent survey results can be compared, and any improvements

measured. The results of the survey will help the Board gain a good understanding of public awareness and effectiveness of the current 'ask for the card' campaign. The findings from the survey will help with the future campaign strategy and boost future awareness.

## Prosecutions

Noel Maker was convicted and fined \$750 along with solicitor's (\$113) and court costs (\$130), in the Kaikohe District Court, 24 September 2014.

Mr Maker pleaded guilty to one charge of carrying out work or employing a person to carry out sanitary and plumbing work when not authorised to do the work.

*There are plenty more stickers left! If you would like more, give us a call on 0800 743 262 or email us at [comms@pgdb.co.nz](mailto:comms@pgdb.co.nz)*

### Hiring a Plumber, Gasfitter or Drainlayer?

**Before you do...**

**Ask to see their card to check they have our authorisation.**

**Without it, it's illegal for anyone to do this work in NZ.**



You can also check if someone's authorised  
**[www.pgdb.co.nz](http://www.pgdb.co.nz) 0800 743 262**

# Gasfitting certification made easier



Click [here](#) to get the resource

Or visit [pgdb.co.nz](http://pgdb.co.nz)



All gasfitting work requires certification

Together with Energy Safety this month, we have designed a new resource to support industry understanding around gasfitting certification.

From 1 July 2013 gasfitting was classified into one of three formal risk based categories – low-risk, high-risk and general work. Calls to the Board office regarding associated gasfitting certificates have indicated that there is some confusion

on which type of certificate needs to be filed. To further assist, together with Energy Safety, the Board has developed a resource to help point you in the right direction. We now have a simple flowchart to guide you in the decision making process.

Take a look at our new resource at [www.pgdb.co.nz/trade/info-for-gasfitters](http://www.pgdb.co.nz/trade/info-for-gasfitters).



## In the news

### MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND EMPLOYMENT

There have been changes to the Building Act.

The changes affect the work of building practitioners and the home handyman. They are in the Building Amendment Act 2013 that became law on 28 November 2013. Some changes come into force immediately and some will come into effect in 2014.

For more details about the Building Amendment Act 2013 go to [www.dbh.govt.nz/building-amendment-act-2013](http://www.dbh.govt.nz/building-amendment-act-2013). You can download a fact sheet or read the key information on the web.



### PRODUCTIVITY PARTNERSHIP

New Zealand is on the brink of the biggest construction boom in 40 years, according to a joint industry and government report recently released.

The National Construction Pipeline report points to an unprecedented level of building and construction in New Zealand over the next five years.

The report forecasts an increase in construction right across the country in both residential and non-residential sectors. Construction hot spots are Auckland, followed by Canterbury and then Waikato/ Bay of Plenty and Wellington. The main drivers of growth are

Auckland's residential housing demand more than doubling (projected 150 percent increase) and the Canterbury rebuild.

"This is a heads-up to the sector," says Productivity Partnership spokesperson Andrew Reding. "We want people to be aware that there is an ongoing pipeline of work so they can manage resources appropriately".

A fact sheet summarising the National Construction Pipeline report and the full report can be viewed at: [www.buildingvalue.co.nz](http://www.buildingvalue.co.nz)

Merry  
Christmas

We'll be back on deck early Janu-

## We will be closed for Christmas

The Boards office will be closing briefly over the Christmas period.

### THE DATES

Our offices will be closed from midday 24th December 2013, reopening 6th January 2014.