




info brief

AUGUST NEWSLETTER

 Plumbers,
 Gasfitters and
 Drainlayers Board

A word from the Chair

New Board appointments



Richard Merrifield has also been appointed to the Board. Richard has over forty years in the building industry and is currently a member of the Building Practitioners Board.

Colleen Upton who is a director and General Manager of Hutt Gas and Plumbing Systems Ltd has also been appointed but will not join the Board until March next year. I welcome Richard and Colleen to our team and know that they will make a valuable contribution.

A number of meetings are planned around the country over the next few months to give an opportunity for plumbers, gasfitters and drainlayers to meet with Board representatives to discuss current issues. These are planned for Blenheim, Gisborne, Hokitika, Masterton, New Plymouth, Napier, Rotorua, Timaru and Whakatane. Dates have not yet been finalised. Tradespeople in these areas will be contacted a week or

so before the meetings are to be held. I do hope that many will take the opportunity to attend.

Next month, the annual Merit of Excellence Awards are due to be presented to the plumber, gasfitter and drainlayer who achieved the highest marks in the 2013 certifying exams. This is always a very satisfying occasion to be able to recognise excellence within our industries. Details of the winners will be announced in September.

Peter Jackson
Board Chair

I am pleased to be able to welcome back to the Board Sue Simons, Craig O'Connell and Ian Rowe, whose terms expired in July but have been reappointed by the Minister for Building and Construction.

The terms of Board members Nick Fleckney and John Simmiss have also been extended for a further year from when they expire in September. These people have given excellent service to the industry and it is good news to have them back for their new terms.



2 | Change is needed.
More illegal operators
found in Wellington.



3 | \$25,000 fine
handed down for
illegal gasfitting.



6 | Local Government
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NEW
support helps
squeeze out
illegal operators.

5 | Supporters are
spreading the
word fast.



National licence checks are proving effective.

Industry reputation

MORE ILLEGAL OPERATORS UNCOVERED IN WELLINGTON

The Board's licence checks throughout the Wellington region in early July have cleaned up another handful of illegal operators in the industry. The sixth of the planned enforcement projects carried out in 2014, this result highlights an area of concern for the reputation of the industry.

As with the previous checks conducted throughout the year, there was strong support towards the Board's initiative by most sites visited. However, there still seems to be a minority with lack of understanding of the value of the licence, and the associated training that keeps tradespeople up-to-date with industry changes.

The value of the licence

Plumbers, gasfitters and drainlayers are major players in installing new technologies for safe water supply, sanitation and mitigation of risk of fire, explosion and carbon monoxide exposure.

Technology, system complexity and methods in these areas have progressed quickly. This constant change is the reason continuing professional development (CPD), is a standard condition of a licence throughout the career of a tradesperson.

The Board's role as an industry regulator is to promote and safeguard the health and safety of

New Zealanders, and prevent damage to their property. The licence is what builds assurance in services provided by the industry to the community.

In an industry that plays such a key role in the health and safety of the public—squeezing out illegal operators in the community is essential.

The Board began this programme to check the licences of people working on building sites in early February. A significant number of unauthorised operators have been discovered and the Board is following up on all cases.

2014/15 will see the Board continue to reinforce its strong stance on unauthorised operators working within the industry—sending a clear message of zero tolerance for those working illegally in the industry.

Many of the people identified as working without authorisation through the duration of the licence check programme, are likely to find themselves in court. Don't become one of them. If you haven't relicensed for the 2014/15 year do get this organised at www.pgdb.co.nz/licensing.

The Board's website is updated with new options in CPD courses often—make a point to check regularly at www.pgdb.co.nz/cpd.



Big consequences for illegal gasfitting

AUCKLAND WELDER CONVICTED AND FINED \$25,000 FOR ILLEGAL GASFITTING

A welder who illegally installed gas pipes and appliances at a home in Auckland was convicted and fined \$25,000 in the Auckland District Court. Judge Dawson also ordered he pay reparations of \$6,039 along with court costs and solicitors' fees. The work was described by a gas auditor as the most dangerous gas installation he has ever come across in 40 years.

Wayne Johnson, a welder by trade was not authorised by the Board to carry out gasfitting work at a home in Papatoetoe, Auckland.

Several faults were identified and the work was described as some of the most dangerous that had ever been cited in 40 years.

The gasfitting work involved the extension of gas pipes from the house to the garage of the residence, which was attached to the natural gas. Mr Johnson also installed gas appliances including a continuous flow water heater, free standing oven, kebab roaster, commercial hot plate, and completed connection of the gas appliances to the extended pipe work.

When the Board received the complaint, a licensed gasfitter was sent out to the property to inspect the installations for the purpose of a gas audit. Several faults were identified and the work was described as some of the most dangerous he had ever come across in his 40 years experience in the gas industry. He had never found a more dangerous installation.

The auditor believed that due to the severity and number of gas leaks that were immediately adjacent to open flames, a fire or explosion was inevitable.

The deficiencies in the manner the work was carried out were found to be unsafe and posed a danger to life. Numerous faults were found that could have led to gas leaks—causing fire or explosion. Other risks included potential for the generation of carbon monoxide.

No authorisation leads to prosecution



Gasfitting prosecution

NOT BEING UP-TO-DATE WITH THE INDUSTRY REQUIREMENTS POSSES RISK

Kerry Dixon appeared in the Wanganui District Court in July and pleaded guilty to a charge under section 125(2)(c) for carrying out gasfitting work that he was not entitled to do under his section 21 exemption.

In April last year Mr Dixon hooked up a gas fire heater at a Wanganui property without supervision. He did not realise the law required this work to be supervised by an authorised gasfitter.

The work included connecting the heater to the gas supply and commissioning and testing the heater.

He was sentenced in Whanganui District Court on one count of unauthorised gasfitting and was fined \$1500 and ordered to pay solicitors fees of \$113.



Gasfitting prosecution

BUSINESS & TWO STAFF FINED \$6000 FOR ILLEGAL GASFITTING

MD Brown & Co Ltd, a team of plumbers who have over 30 years combined experience in plumbing and drainlaying, should have known that similar to these trades it is illegal to carry out gasfitting work without authorisation from the Board.

Convicted and fined in the New Plymouth District Court, MD Brown & Co Ltd and two employees associated with the case, pleaded guilty to the charges brought against them. The work involved installing a 9kg LPG bottle for a new oven cook-top and connecting the associated pipework at a property in New Plymouth.

Two charges were brought against the company, and one against each of the employees, resulting in a total fine of \$6,000—\$1,500 for each charge.

Taking in to account the information before the Court, and that MD Brown & Co Ltd intended to pay all related fines, Judge Roberts believed that \$1500 for each of the four charges was an appropriate penalty. They were also ordered to pay court costs and solicitors' fees.



Plumbing prosecution

ILLEGAL PLUMBING COSTS AUCKLAND MAN \$1000

In a recent prosecution, an Auckland man was convicted and fined \$1000 plus court costs and solicitor's fees, for illegally carrying out sanitary plumbing.

Bum-Suk Kim installed a domestic hot water cylinder at a home in Auckland without an authorisation, and failed to set it to an adequately heated temperature. This created the potential risk of Legionella or other bacteria affecting the domestic hot water supply.

Mr Kim had not carried any valid authorisation for four years at the time the work was done at the property.

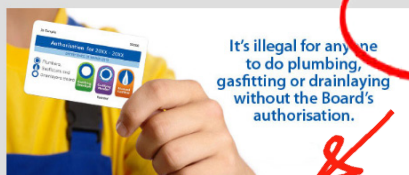


Caution!

If your gas appliances aren't certified any insurance claims you make in relation to them could be dismissed.

The highly trained team at Alrite Gas are qualified as certifying gasfitters, which means that they're able to certify all installations, ensuring that they comply with the latest safety regulations. You'll be ALRITE with us!

Alrite Gas are pleased to offer FREE checks on all your gas appliances with any other service booked with us.



You'll be ALRITE with us!

Clever!

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 0800 743 262

New supporters elevate coverage

SUPPORTERS ARE SPREADING THE WORD FAST

The strong progress of the industry public awareness campaign, and its important role in informing and educating consumers about key issues and risks, has rapidly extended its reach over the past few months.

Progress is going well

Alongside the Board's media and promotional activity it is refreshing to see tradespeople, organisations and local government also coming on-board to help us spread the message. This has extended national coverage extensively and the campaign gains more momentum each month.

Support for the campaign is mostly shown through information distribution opportunities. The message features in advertising, newsletter articles and helpful consumer links on websites.

Spreading the message and the value of the licence through van signage has also remained another popular way to spread the word.



Remember—the Board has articles imagery and promotional material ready to go. Contact comms@pgdb.co.nz for more information on the different ways you can help push the message.

August has seen organisations such as Citizens Advice Bureau New Zealand coming on-board to help out. The Insurance Council NZ is also showing interest and spreading the campaign message. This has helped to push the message through community groups assisting with the Christchurch rebuild.

This increasing support for the campaign can only have a positive effect on squeezing out illegal operators in our communities—especially important in regions most at risk, who are in recovery from natural disaster.

Local Government on-board

Many City and District Councils are now working with the Board to reduce the number of people working illegally within the construction sector. A response welcomed and appreciated by the Board.

The Board is working toward all Councils taking this approach.



Both the Board and Councils have a duty in protecting public health and safety, by ensuring that construction work is carried out competently.

The Board does not have resources for wide-ranging licence checks, and can't be everywhere all at one time. But, with the help of Councils the odds of picking up illegal operators increases immensely.

They already have inspectors visiting building sites, and most consider it common sense for licence checking to be part of their role.

This effective tactic to squeeze out illegal operators, continues to help build assurance in the reputation of the industry, and the services it provides to local communities.



Feel like you've have been disadvantaged by an action by the Board? Know the right process.

How to make a complaint effectively

A GUIDE TO THE BOARD'S COMPLAINTS PROCESS

The general complaint policy provides a way for tradespeople to make a complaint. If you think that you have been disadvantaged by an action, order or decision of the Board, this policy covers the 'ins and outs' of the process, and makes special note of what type of complaints fall within its boundaries. Page 08 outlines some good examples.

Know the process. Save yourself frustration by knowing the process. Before making a complaint—do visit the Board's website. Everything you need to know is at www.pgdb.co.nz/legislation-policies.

Complaints are submitted in writing by post or email and are addressed to the Complaints Resolution Officer (CRO).

Who is the CRO? The CRO is a member of the Board's legal team, who is the main contact during the process, and does the initial assessment of the complaint. The CRO can also aid in an informal resolution of a complaint.

Where informal resolution is not possible, the complaint will be formally accepted by the CRO within five working days. Every effort is then made to progress the complaint to a final decision within 20 working days.

When making a complaint. Always remember that the role of the CRO is impartial. The CRO is there to help you, and guide you through the correct process as easily as possible.



Technical support

Can plumbers & gasfitters lawfully do roofing?

The introduction of the licensed building practitioners scheme and restricted building work in 2007, has created some confusion within the trades.

THE QUESTION IS—WHO CAN LEGALLY CARRY OUT ROOFING WORK?

ARTICLE KEY :

RBW = restricted building work

LBP = licensed building practitioners

- **For links and helpful references** that sit alongside the information in this article.

Click here or go to :

www.pgdb.co.nz/publications/infobrief

Essentially the introduction of the scheme means, that anyone carrying out or supervising restricted building work must be licensed building practitioners.

However ...

The Building (Designation of Building Work Licensing Classes) Order 2010 has deemed a craftsman (certifying) plumber/gasfitter or registered (licensed) plumber/gasfitter as having an automatic licence to undertake restricted building work in roofing. For example, metal profiled products.

The 2010 Order above says, roofing work to a residential unit is RBW, as it involves the building's structure and weather tightness. As stated RBW must be carried out by a LBP.

But ...

The Order in Council (see links to article references) clarifies that plumbers and gasfitters are treated as licensed to undertake roofing.

Therefore...

As a registered plumber or gasfitter,

and being treated as if you are already licensed in roofing, you cannot apply to the Licensed Building Practitioner Board to be a licensed roofer (see links to article references).

But you can do this ...

Apply for a different licence class if you wish. The LBP scheme has many licence classes; one of which is roofing which covers seven categories in roof types.

Being treated as licensed in roofing recognises that registered plumbers and gasfitters have the skills (competency) to carry out and supervise the fitting and sealing or flashing of pipework, through exterior walls and roofs.

It also recognises that ...

Registered plumbers and gasfitters have the skills to carry out and supervise the installation of certain roofs and cladding. Eg, profiled metal roofs and cladding, as they have been trained to undertake this work.

For more information take a look at the LPB website at: www.business.govt.nz/lbp.

Need more info? Contact the Building Practitioners Board at 0800 60 60 50 / licensing@lbp.govt.nz

Outward Bound valuable

EMPLOYERS, EMPLOYEES AND THE PUBLIC BOTH BENEFIT FROM OUTWARD BOUND BUSINESS COURSES



Tradespeople who take part in the Outward Bound designed business courses return to work with increased productivity, leadership skills and organisational loyalty. Attendees experience a huge amount of personal growth during these courses. The experience leads to improved performance and personal development. This has a positive flow-on effect to the New Zealand public in regions receptive of the services they are providing.

"The Outward Bound course was amazing! Massive thanks to the Board for providing the opportunity. I literally couldn't even give you one tiny negative aspect from the course. The tutors and peers made the whole trip unforgettable. I would recommend everyone from young to old and any background to just give it a crack. You won't regret it."

Kurt Davies - Gasfitting category winner (Centenary Youth Leadership Award)

Proposal to integrate the (licensed class) registration examinations into the proposed Level 4 New Zealand Certificates in Plumbing, Gasfitting and Drainlaying

PUBLIC CONSULTATION DOCUMENT



Approved 17 June 2014

Version 1.0

Consultation

PROPOSAL TO INTEGRATE THE (LICENSED CLASS) REGISTRATION EXAMINATIONS INTO THE PROPOSED LEVEL 4 NEW ZEALAND CERTIFICATES IN PLUMBING, GASFITTING AND DRAINLAYING

Thanks to all those submitters who took the opportunity to tell us what they thought of the Board's proposal. The Board will consider the submissions and make decisions relating to its proposals at its meeting on 9 September 2014. Further information on the Board's decision will be published in the September Info Brief.

More on complaints

THE TYPE OF COMPLAINTS THAT SIT WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE BOARD'S COMPLAINTS POLICY

The Board's general complaint resolution policy provides a framework for addressing complaints of tradespeople who consider that they have been personally and specifically disadvantaged by an action, order or decision of the Board under the 2006 Act.

Disadvantage may have resulted, for instance, from one or more of the following:

- poor or unlawful decision-making
- lack of consistency
- inefficiency/ineffectiveness
- poor communication or lack of accountability.

This policy does not cover complaints:

- about an action, order or decision of the Board under Part 3 of the 2006 Act (relating to discipline and offences)
- of a general nature about the Board's policies and processes under the 2006 Act
- about an action, order or decision of the Board under the Plumbers, Gasfitters, and Drainlayers Act 1976
- that have already been considered under the Board's historical complaints resolution process
- considered to be trivial, frivolous or vexatious.

If you have any queries about the process, please call us on freephone 0800 743 262 and ask to speak with the Complaints Resolution Officer.