


info brief

MARCH NEWSLETTER

 Plumbers,
Gasfitters and
Drainlayers Board

A word from the Chair

Relicensing is going great guns



Relicensing is in full swing and it is fantastic to see the large number of tradespeople who are getting in early to ensure that they are authorised to work lawfully on 1 April, which is the start of the new licensing year.

At the time of writing this, the number of people who have relicensed is more than double the number who had done so at the same time last year - plus 124% to be precise.

At the Board meeting next week, Minister for Building and Construction Maurice Williamson will be presenting the Centenary Youth Leadership Awards to three excellent young tradespeople. They were selected from the many high calibre nominations that were received for the awards. Details of the successful nominees will be released following the presentation.

The business plan for the next year will be adopted by the Board at that meeting and will be published on the website shortly after. There is a busy year ahead for the Board. It is pleasing to see that we are moving into a period of stability rather than the rapid change of recent years.

Inside this edition is information on enforcement action being undertaken by the Board to apprehend people who are working unlawfully. You can expect to see a lot more of this happening in

the future. This work is both to promote public health and safety, and to reinforce the value of the licence.

On the subject of the value of the licence, thanks to those tradespeople who have included the "ask for the card" message in material advertising their businesses. A good example is in this Info Brief (page 6), and more ideas from the industry to come for future editions.

Building community recognition of the value of using trained and authorised tradespeople is the most effective way we can collectively fight against the illegal operators in our industry.

Peter Jackson
Board Chair



2 | Topping up your CPD tally with self-directed learning



3 | Christchurch enforcement project - licence checks



5 | Examination criteria changes from November 2014



6 | National media coverage and public survey result



Practical steps to help achieve CPD points

Topping up your CPD tally with self-directed learning

WHAT IS SELF DIRECTED LEARNING?

CPD points can be obtained from courses that are accredited by the Board and from non-accredited (self-directed) learning. However, there are limits

on the number of points from self-directed learning that can count towards your required CPD.

The maximum self-directed learning points that can be claimed per licence are:

- 3** self-directed learning points for 1 licence
- 5** self-directed learning points for 2 licences
- 6** self-directed learning points for 3 licences

Self-directed learning can include reading and researching published material, attending seminars or industry conferences, other non-accredited programmes and on-the-job training.

One hour of self-directed learning is worth one CPD point and your self-directed points can relate to any trade for which you hold a licence.

Point to note : Self-directed points must relate to one or more of the Board-prescribed competencies. You can record your self-directed learning points when you renew your licence.

CPD is the means by which people maintain their knowledge and skills related to their trade. The Board is committed to CPD as a valuable tool to assist in maintaining and improving the competence of registered tradespeople, and, as a consequence, to protect the health and safety of members of the public.



Helpful link

[click here](#)

The first licence checks conducted as part of enforcement projects covering building sites has proven to be successful.



Christchurch enforcement project

A recent licence check conducted in the Canterbury region highlighted the need for tradespeople involved in rebuild projects to ensure they are authorised by the Board.

The enforcement project identified a number of illegal operators in the area.

Involved in the project were approximately 150 building construction sites.

The sites visited were predominantly new domestic dwelling subdivisions, a large primary school redevelopment, a multiple unit motel complex and a number of small commercial developments for shopping, apartment accommodation and offices.

The enforcement project went extremely well with a positive reaction received from tradespeople on most sites.

It was also pleasing to see that the commercial site managers were receptive to the licence audit and were supportive of what the Board was undertaking in the region.

The Board is currently following up on all reported cases of illegal operators identified during the enforcement project and considering what action to take.

Renewing your licence for 2014/15 is an easy process. Renewal can be done online at the link below, or by giving the Board's licensing team a call on 0800 743 262.



RELICENSING

2014/2015

Licence renewal for the 2014/15 year is advancing quickly, with numbers of licenses being processed to date well up on last year. The licensing team has been increased temporarily to accommodate the demand during this busy time.

RENEWING YOUR LICENCE IS EASY

Two ways



You can renew your licence online if you have an online profile set up. If not, email licensing@pgdb.co.nz to get one organised.

You can also renew your licence by completing a relicensing application form that you can download from the Board website (see link below). Alternatively, give the licensing team a call on 0800 743 262 to request a form to be sent out to you.



APPLYING FOR A LICENCE OR RENEWAL



TIME LINE

STEP 1 Complete the application form accompanied by the information, documentation and required monies as outlined in the application form or online template.

STEP 2 The Board licensing team will process your application. Applications are processed within 5 working days.

STEP 3 If you would like to confirm that your application has been accepted, check the public register on the Board website for your updated details.

STEP 4 Authorisation cards are sent out within 10 working days of applications being accepted.

GO TO WWW.PGDB.CO.NZ/LICENSING ... OR [CLICK HERE](#)

Find more information on licensing in the policies section of the board website

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

*Stocks have been replenished!
If you would like more stickers,
give us a call on 0800 743 262
or email comms@pgdb.co.nz*

*Help squeeze out illegal operators in your area.
An idea sent in this month from Fielding.*

Awareness is high get on board

NATIONAL MEDIA COVERAGE

Over and above providing promotional material to help spread the ask for the card message via industry and stakeholder alliances, the Board also conducts strategic media activity. 2014 has seen community and daily newspapers throughout New Zealand picking up the message, alerting the public to the dangers of using unauthorised tradespeople and showing prominent imagery of the card in most publications.



The current 2014 combined newspaper circulation has covered most regions reaching a large amount of NZ households. Aligning with the media reach, is the recent Colmar Brunton survey results showing public awareness at 86%.

● Dark grey shows 2014 National media coverage to date





The recent conviction of Roeland Koridon who carried out gasfitting work when not authorised to do so by the Board, sent a strong message to the public.

Mr Koridon sold on Trademe a bus which he had converted into a motorhome. A complaint was received when the purchaser noticed defects with the gasfitting work.

The complainant became aware that a 9 kilogram LPG gas bottle supplying gas to the kitchen hob and heater was not adequately restrained, as it began to roll around and leak when he drove the bus.

Passengers in the motorhome were also put at significant risk by a non-compliant ventilation flue. If the wind blew in a particular direction it blew down

the flue and extinguished the flame of the gas heater installed in the vehicle, causing gas to accumulate in the bus. It was also discovered that the two burner kitchen hob was not ventilated. The effects of substandard work of this type have serious adverse effects and pose serious risk.

Mr Koridon has never been registered or licensed as a gasfitter and was convicted and fined in the Whangarei District Court.

This was the second conviction and fine over the same house bus. Last July he was fined for carrying out extremely dangerous uncertified electrical work following an investigation by the Electrical Workers Registration Board.



Moses Tupua has been convicted and fined for illegally carrying out drainlaying work.

Mr Tupua placed an elderly occupant of a residence in a position of significant risk when his defective work resulted in raw sewage entering the dwelling.

The work completed was the laying of a soil pipe between the dwelling situated on the premises and the sewer mains, to convey foul water from the dwelling.

He had combined the new soil pipe with existing drain pipes and removed an existing relief gully. As a result of the defects in the work, on several occasions sewage came

up from the pipework and entered the dwelling from the shower waste. The complainant had to personally clean the raw sewage pooling on her shower floor.

Mr Tupua did not hold a current licence at the time of the installation at the property. He was convicted and fined \$2400, plus court costs of \$130 and solicitors fees of \$113. He also returned to the complainant \$1200 of the full payment he received for the work prior to sentencing.

Updated references to standards

UPDATED REFERENCES TO STANDARDS CITED IN ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS AND VERIFICATION METHODS

On 14 February 2014 the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) published amendments to the Acceptable Solutions and Verification Methods listed below to reflect updated, withdrawn, or amend references to Standards and other publications.

MBIE regularly reviews published Standards to see whether they are suitable for referencing in the Acceptable Solutions and Verification Methods. MBIE consulted on the proposed changes from 20 September 2013 to 20 October 2013. Feedback from the consultation supported the proposed changes.

AMENDED DOCUMENTS

- E1 Surface Water
- E2 External Moisture
- E3 Internal Moisture
- G10 Piped Services
- G11 Gas as an Energy Source
- G12 Water Supplies
- G13 Foul Water
- G14 Industrial Liquid Waste

HANDBOOKS

- Building Code Handbook
- Compliance Schedule Handbook

TRANSITION PERIOD

There is a transition period from 14 February 2014 until 14 August 2014, where both the old and the new documents apply. From 14 August 2014, only the new versions apply.

HOW TO GET COPIES

You can download copies of the amended documents at www.dbh.govt.nz/compliance-documents

Purchase print copies from Vic Books
www.vicbooks.co.nz



Helpful exam prep

UNITEC - AUCKLAND

Unitec have two day refresher courses designed for those intending to sit their registration exams in June.

Full information on times, course content and contact details can be found on the Board's website at www.pgdb.co.nz/exams under other information.

Website updates

The Board's website is constantly evolving. Updates this month have been made to the following pages:

- Trade section : CPD
- Trade section : Examinations
- Trade section : Registrations
- Trade section : Licensing
- Publications section : News
- Publications section : Survey