

info brief

JULY NEWSLETTER



Plumbers,
Gasfitters and
Drainlayers Board

A word from the Chair

The increasing importance of the profession



Last month the World Health Organisation declared plumbers the most important front-line health workers around the globe. At the same time, the World Plumbing Council released information about the significant contribution the industry makes to new technology, installations and environmental impact. You can read more about this on page-2.

While many people think of plumbing as being the basins, taps and toilets they see, what goes on behind the scene is crucial health-protection work that must be done properly.

As a statutory body, the Board's focus is on ensuring those providing plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying services are

competent so we can help protect the health and safety of the public and property.

Health and safety considerations are an essential part of a system's design, installation and maintenance. As technology and methods evolve, so too does the complexity of these systems, and the competence of those working at the forefront becomes even more significant. This constant change, and the importance of the front-line work our sector is responsible for, is why the Board requires continuing professional development (CPD) throughout the career of a tradesperson. So it was encouraging to see at the start of the new licensing year most tradespeople were well prepared with the required amount of CPD.

Spreading the 'Ask for the Card' campaign message is proving effective in squeezing out illegal operators in the industry. Thanks to those who are making full use of the "ask for the card" message in advertising their business. It has also been great to see some of the different ideas coming through for proactively "showing the card".

As well as the Board encouraging homeowners to ask for the card, tradespeople also play an important part in keeping public awareness up by showing their card. Another good example of this is on page-7.

Finally, I would like to mention again the Board's current consultation opportunity. Thanks to those who have already taken the time to submit your comments. Your views are important, and we welcome any comment on this proposal to integrate the registration examinations into the new New Zealand Certificates in plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying.

We need to have received your submissions by 5pm on 15 August 2014, and you can find the proposal outlined in the submission booklet that is on the Board's website at www.pgdb.co.nz/consultation.

Peter Jackson
Board Chair



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Competent plumbers are needed now more than ever

THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION HAS DECLARED PLUMBERS THE MOST IMPORTANT FRONT-LINE HEALTH WORKERS AROUND THE GLOBE

A recent information release by the World Plumbing Council (WPC) had some interesting things to say about the professional plumbing industry. They believe that the industry is poised to make significant contributions to all aspects of water conservation and water reuse in the future.

One objective of the World Plumbing Council is to promote awareness of the plumbing industry's role in protecting the environment by providing safe, fresh water and sanitation through proper management, care, reuse and conservation of natural resources. The industry also plays a major role in the installation of technologies that address concerns about the depletion of fossil fuels and work toward reducing harmful emissions.

its existence and embraces efforts to ensure we are preserving every drop possible. They know this skill set already exists, and can only be enhanced through further training of professionals within the industry. However it is thought a different model needs be endorsed to include the following valuable resources in the solution.



Alter historical approaches to water expansion with new strategy comprised of an integration of conservation and reuse.

If historical approaches are not altered to water supply expansion, we will only be able to provide a fraction of the world's water demand in the next few decades. By 2050, the world population is estimated to increase by three billion people, with 100 percent of this growth expected to be concentrated in urban areas. Within 20 years, the projected demand for water will increase between 40-50%. Although it was universally agreed that the water challenges ahead of us are daunting, the good news is it is not impossible.



Fresh water is in finite supply and as the key to life and without question, our planet's most precious natural resource.

The WPC says the plumbing industry recognises the balance humanity must maintain to guarantee



Conservation and reuse must be done through a combination of centralised and de-centralised approaches.

The strategy needs to integrate water/waste-water conveyance and treatment, river and surface water cleanup, wastewater and gray water reuse, rainwater harvesting, desalination, and climate change adaptation. With 100% of the world population growth occurring in urban areas in the next 30 years, most of the focus was on needed changes to urban water management. The key component will be to minimise consumption while maximising recovery through a move toward a hybrid approach of conservation and a combination of centralised and decentralised water reclamation and reuse. The concept applies to all urban areas whether they are rapidly developing cities in Asia or fully developed urban systems in North America.



Plumbing industry largely responsible for the advancing de-centralised conservation and water reuse.

Governing bodies around the world need to make the tough decisions - change is needed. Water rates need to be adjusted to match real overall costs and inspiration provided to the public to work together toward solutions. The water technology to achieve demand goals is already available and widely accessible. The biggest obstacle is the lack of understanding for change. A sustainable water supply is only achievable if all stakeholders in the water loop, including the plumbing industry, are working together.

The plumbing industry will play an essential role in helping stakeholders understand the importance of implementing a key component of the integrated strategy.



There will be a need to accelerate the development and installation of high efficiency plumbing systems and components, and standardise the use of decentralised (onsite) alternate water sources, such as rainwater and gray water, in order to offset the need to expand water generation and transportation systems. Onsite alternate water sources offer very high volume potential, even in arid regions of the world, while requiring less energy and infrastructure to treat and put to beneficial use.

Along with expanding the water supply to meet demands of the growing population, there will be a need to increase electricity and food production as well. Water, energy and food production are interconnected. Power and agriculture are two of the top consumers of water. Substantial power is used to treat, transport and heat water. Agriculture depends on phosphorus and nitrogen—the earth's supply is rapidly dwindling—and wastewater contains large quantities of these minerals. Creating an urban water cycle that uses less water and energy, while assisting in generating electricity and food, is a win. To be successful, traditional plumbing fixture and systems may need to be altered to separate fecal, urine and gray water waste streams at the source to allow municipal wastewater plants to treat waste and extract resources with fewer chemicals, and less electricity and expense.



Competent plumbers are needed to design, install and maintain sustainable systems due to the increased risk to public health and safety and systemic implications of water conserving products.

The benefits of safe water supply and sanitation come with risks that include water contamination, and cross connections. Plumbers are charged with ensuring systems are safely installed. With the increasing population and urbanisation these risks can amplify due to expanded use of alternate non-potable water sources, increased system complexity and need for more frequent maintenance and repair. The World Health Organisation declared plumbers the most important front-line health workers around the globe as this role has become more critical than ever to all aspects of water conservation and water reuse.

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

This is an opportunity to have your say

At the moment, after someone has gained a National Certificate in Plumbing, Gasfitting, or Drainlaying, they must sit and pass the Board's licensed class registration examination before becoming eligible for registration.

The Board is considering making the licensed class registration examinations part of proposed new qualifications that would be called New Zealand Certificates in Plumbing, Gasfitting and Drainlaying (Level 4). This would mean that a trainee would be eligible to apply for registration as soon as he or she had been awarded their New Zealand Certificate.

The proposal is outlined in the submission booklet that can be found on the Board's website, and public submissions on this current proposal are now invited. Submissions must be received by 5pm on 15 August 2014.

Make a submission

Submissions can be made using the submission form in the consultation document or by completing the online submission form on the Board's website.



Go to : www.pgdb.co.nz/consultation/current



Timely reminder for drainlaying



**STANDARDS
NEW ZEALAND**
PAEREWĀ AOTEAROA

PLUMBER FINED FOR UNAUTHORISED DRAINLAYING

The recent prosecution of a Wairarapa man who was fined \$500 for breaching drainage regulations, is a timely reminder of why it is important to have a clear understanding of industry standards.

Admitting to charges in the Masterton District Court in June, he told the court he installed 12m of drainage at one property and did some minor work at another. He is a certified plumber and has been for more than a decade, but unfortunately did not have authorisation for the outside drainlaying work he completed.

The defendant explained to the Court that he thought he was authorised by a New Zealand Standard, and admitted this was a mistake.

It's illegal for anyone to carry out drainlaying work unless they are authorised to do so by the Board.

SO, WHERE DOES PLUMBING END AND DRAINLAYING BEGIN?

The Board examines this question in detail. [Click here](#) or go to www.pgdg.co.nz/publications/infobrief, to read more about the legally defined boundary line between plumbing and drainlaying.

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE QUALITY AND SAFETY OF TRADE PRACTICES

Standards NZ is the operating arm of the Standards Council, responsible for developing and distributing industry quality and safety standards for many sectors across the country. These standards help make life safer and easier and improve the effectiveness and reliability of many services used every day.

It is important to know that compliance with standards is voluntary, **unless** they are cited in Acts or Regulations as a means of compliance or acceptable solutions.

To find standards that are cited in regulations go to www.standards.co.nz. Click on the 'search and buy standards' tab on the top navigation bar and select the 'standards and Law tab'. If a standard is cited you will find a 'citations' drop down box on the web page.



Although every effort has been made to ensure accuracy of the information on the Standards NZ website, you should refer to the relevant government agency for confirmation that your understanding of the compliance requirements are correct.



Left : Silver medalist Hunter Turner (ATT - hosted by J&J Plumbing and Gasfitting

Center : Gold medalist Adam De Pass (Jackson Plumbing Ltd)

Right : Bronze medalist Jared Murphy (NZ Defence Force)



2014 Plumbing excellence

worldskills
New Zealand

TOP TRADE APPRENTICES HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED

New Zealand's top trade apprentices have been announced following an intensive two-day WorldSkills New Zealand 2014 national competition held in Hamilton this month.

Hosted by Wintec (Waikato Institute of Technology), the WorldSkills New Zealand 2014 national competition saw 90 regional competition finalists from across the country showcase their talent over 18 industry categories. Each competitor completed a specific project over two

days, replicating problems and tasks that they would encounter in their daily jobs.

Congratulations and good luck to this year's plumbing category winners as they prepare to compete at the Oceania WorldSkills competition in April 2015 before potential selection for the WorldSkills New Zealand "Tool Blacks" team competing in Brazil at the International WorldSkills Competition in August 2015.

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT

WorldSkills New Zealand is a not-for-profit Charitable Trust dedicated to encouraging vocational trade/skill excellence by encouraging participation at regional, national and international WorldSkills competitions. Working closely with ITOs, polytechnics and private companies, the organisation promotes skills training as a first choice to school leavers. They also promote consistent international performance benchmarks

and support a New Zealand "Tool Black" team presence at the bi-annual WorldSkills International Finals competing against 65 other countries.

WorldSkills NZ competitions are open to anyone undertaking trade/skill training and persons under 23 who have finished their training. Since 1986, 6000 New Zealanders have participated in WorldSkills competitions supported by employers, mentors, work mates, family, friends, communities and more than 700 volunteers.

"Some great examples we've found of ways the industry is promoting ask-for-the card on their websites."



Website example one



Website example two

Build assurance in the local community and help squeeze out illegal operators in your area.

There are many ways to do it

HELP SQUEEZE OUT ILLEGAL OPERATORS AND BUILD ASSURANCE ALONGSIDE YOUR SERVICES

The first impression matters the most, especially where advertising your business is concerned. The first impression consumers have largely influences whether they will become customers, or look elsewhere.

Consumers tune out if you only play one note. Building assurance alongside the services you provide is equally important.

An easy way to do this, is take advantage of the many promotional options the Board has available through the 'ask for the card' public awareness campaign. Communicate your added value to customers, by spreading the word that only authorised tradespeople can undertake plumbing gasfitting and drainlaying.

Inconsistent advertising is largely wasted. It is important to note that a prospective customer needs exposure to the same message, in the same way, more than once, before they are ready to entertain a decision. Remember to pick advertising vehicles where you can afford to have your message in an ongoing and consistent presence.

Email comms@pgddb.co.nz or phone **0800 743 262** for all the promotional material and artwork options available.



Website example three





Whangarei industry briefing

QUESTIONS FOR THE BOARD AND INDUSTRY CONCERNS

On 26 June 2014, around 30 plumbers, gasfitters, and drainlayers attended an industry meeting in Whangarei hosted by Master Plumbers.

The meeting also included a briefing from the Board's Chairman, Peter Jackson and Acting Chief Executive, Renée Riddell-Garner about current issues and gave opportunity for questions about Board related business.

Among the issues raised, the key theme centered on what the Board was doing to deal with unauthorised people carrying out work in Whangarei.

Relative to these concerns, are the Board's discussions with Councils to include authorisation checks in building consent processes. This means building consents would only get signed-off where work has been carried out by an authorised tradesperson.

Another tactic in place that was discussed in terms of increasing the consistency and quality of work and aiding in squeezing out illegal operators, was the Board's ongoing enforcement projects that are being carried out across the country.

So far there have been checks in Christchurch, Auckland, central Otago, and Wellington. The Board has come across a significant number of unauthorised people carrying out restricted work in these areas, and is taking prosecutions as a result.

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

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

Keeping up-to-date

GAS SAFETY STANDARDS

The following gas safety standards have been published and reconfirmed.

NZS 5256:2014

Verification of the safety of gas appliances provides procedures to determine that a gas appliance is safe to use.

Manufacturers, importers, and installers use the standard to assess the safety of gas appliances against the technical requirements of NZS 5266 and NZS/AS 3645, and applying the principles of NZS 5257.1.

View more here:

[http://shop.standards.co.nz/catalog/5256:2014\(NZS\)](http://shop.standards.co.nz/catalog/5256:2014(NZS))

NZS 5255:2014

Safety verification of existing gas installations provides procedures to assess the safety and report the condition of existing gas installations.

Read more on this standard in the Touchstone article Improving the safety of gas appliances and installations.

[http://shop.standards.co.nz/catalog/5256:2014\(NZS\)](http://shop.standards.co.nz/catalog/5256:2014(NZS))