



Plumbers,
Gasfitters and
Drainlayers Board

A word from the Chair

THE YEAR IN REVIEW AND LOOKING AHEAD



twelve meetings with practitioners around New Zealand and these have proved to be very constructive and productive. More will follow in the New Year. I personally value and enjoy these meetings and the honest discussion that occurs at them.

The Board has also met with industry stakeholder organisations during the year. During 2014, representatives from Master Plumbers, the Federation, The Skills Organisation, and Energy Safety have attended Board meetings. These meetings are also valuable.

The most recent meeting was with Paul Hollings of the Skills Organisation who made a useful presentation to the Board on the comparison between industry training today and that which occurred under the old Trade Certification Board. The difference is not as much as we are sometimes led to believe. The Board's Registrar also meets

with many industry organisations on a regular basis.

Looking ahead, preliminary consultation starts in February 2015 in relation to the next review of practitioners' fees and the levy. Later that year we will hold meetings throughout the country to discuss this important matter. I hope to see many of you at those meetings and look forward to reading the many thoughtful submissions that will be received by the Board.

I hope that you and your families all have a safe and happy Xmas and New Year.

Peter Jackson
Board Chair

It is time to reflect as another year is almost at an end. From the Board's point of view it has been a good year with the release of the Auditor General's follow up report, less resources needing to be applied to historical issues, and licensing numbers rebounding to healthy levels.

I hope that the year has been a productive and profitable one for all who are working in the trades.

Throughout the year Board members and staff have attended

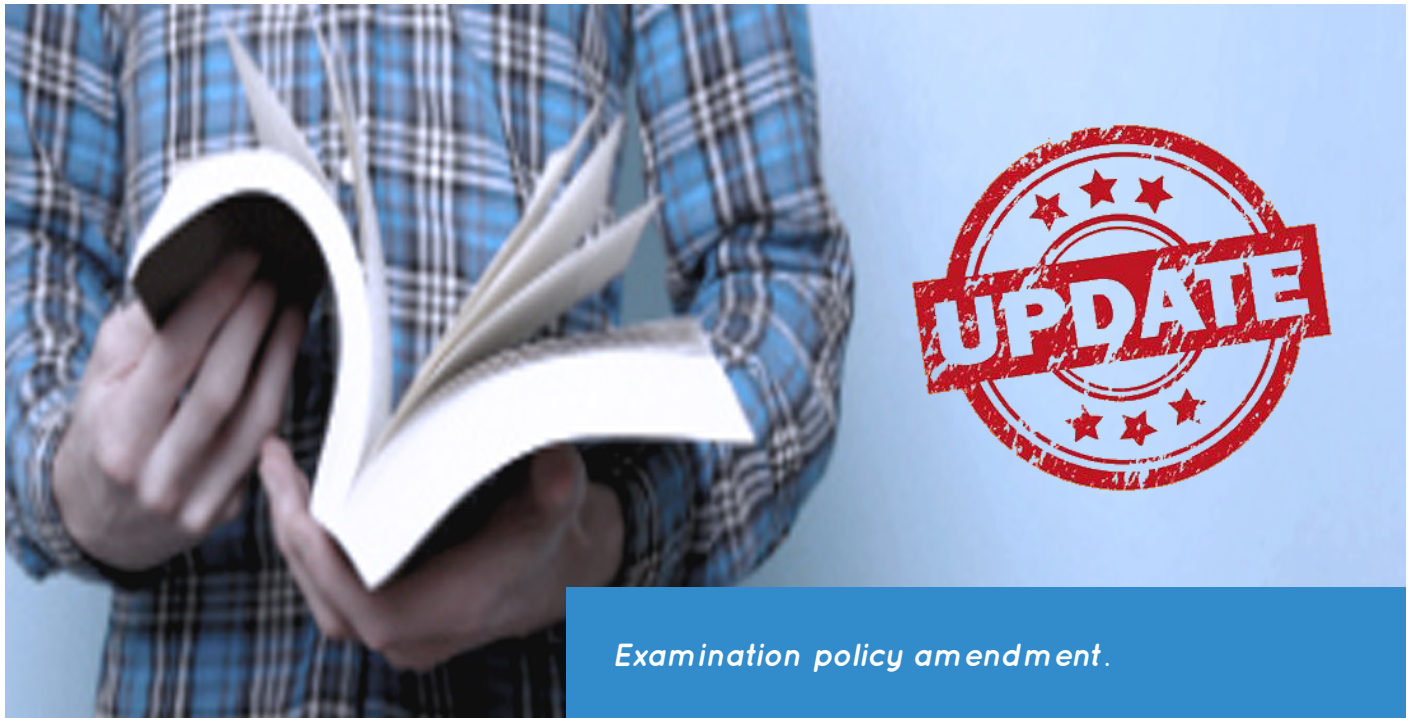


2 | **Take note!** Things have changed for plumbers, gasfitters and drainlayers.

3 | Why infringement notices can not be used for discipline.

4 | Digital marketing add to the Summer public awareness campaign.

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Take note - things have changed for plumbers, gasfitters & drainlayers

REMOVING THE TIME DELAY FROM THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS WHILE MAINTAINING HIGH STANDARDS

Inside this article

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“An amendment to the examination policy removes any delay from the assessment process for some trainees.”

There has been an amendment to the Board's examination policy.

Previous to the change, to be eligible to sit the Board's examination for the licenced class of registration, plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying trainees had to have completed their national certificates.

What the Board found was, that the considerable time delay between attending the final block course or final practical assessment and being awarded the national certificate meant that some trainees were having to wait an unreasonable time to sit the examinations.

WHAT EFFECT WILL THIS HAVE ON TRADESPEOPLE?

The effects on tradespeople as a result of the update to the policy are positive. This amendment removes delay from the registration process for some trainees and will enable them to realise their earning potential as registered tradespeople sooner.

A very good question!

WHY AREN'T INFRINGEMENT NOTICES USED FOR DISCIPLINE?

The first thing to understand is that there are three ways the Board can take enforcement action against someone:

1. Charging a registered person with committing a disciplinary offence resulting in the Board holding a disciplinary hearing.
2. Charging an unlicensed or unauthorised person for working unlawfully, or carrying out other certain offences. This leads to prosecution in the District Court.
3. Issuing an infringement notice, instead of taking a prosecution, for offences someone could be prosecuted for in the District Court.

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Sometimes people tell the Board that it should issue infringement notices instead of taking people through the disciplinary hearing process.

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The Board cannot do this because the Registrar can only issue infringement notices for offences that can be heard in the District Court. As above, disciplinary charges are heard by the Board, not prosecuted in the District Court.

Feedback also suggests that the Board should issue infringement notices for the District Court offences it prosecutes instead of taking people to Court.

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The Board has considered this course of action carefully. There are a number of reasons why not.

1. The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment would need to make regulations about infringement notices, before the Board could issue them.
2. The Board receives 90% of any prosecution fine. This goes some way towards recovering costs. The Board would not receive any share of infringement fines meaning the cost would have to be fully met by the industry.
3. It would be very costly for the Board to set up and run a new infringement system. Just the IT costs alone are extremely high. Again, this is a cost that would be carried by tradespeople.

Taking into account the costs and benefits of setting up and running an infringement system, compared against prosecuting people in the Courts, the Board has decided that it is more cost effective to continue with the status quo.





“ The public awareness campaign, is rapidly extending its reach”

PHASE ONE

Showing the ask-for-the-card message to the audiences of five major nationwide radio stations, and, those looking at DIY.com. The current statistics indicate that the message should be seen more than **13,980,000** times.

Auckland Master Plumbers,
Gasfitters and Drainlayers Association Inc.



HOME | ABOUT | MEMBERS INFO | CPD TRAINING | CALENDAR | SEARCH | FAQ'S | NEWS | SPONSORS | CONTACT US

If you're looking for a plumber, gasfitter or drainlayer call on a Master plumber, Gasfitter or Drainlayer

Ask for one of the web links

Search for a Master plumber

All members of our respected trade organisation are fully qualified and hono... addition, all our work is covered by the Master Guarantee, giving you complete...
If you want quality workmanship and professional service look no further than a Master Pl... Gasfitter or Drainlayer.

Please use the search function to the right of the screen to look for a local Master Plumber, Gasfitter and/or Drainlayer nearby.

The Auckland Master Plumbers, Gasfitters & Drainlayers Association is a trade association that was established in 1894.
“ Another good example of how to support the campaign on your website”

About to hire a plumber, gasfitter or drainlayer? Ask to see their card.

Squeezing out the illegal operators.

Without the card it's money down the drain

NOW IS THE TIME! ... IF YOU'RE NOT ON BOARD—GET ON BOARD

Phase one of the Board's summer campaign will roll out on Monday, 22 December.

What's phase one?

A marketing campaign using digital channels to show the ask-for-the-card message to five major nationwide radio station website audiences and those looking at DIY.com.

Why choose these digital channels?

To ensure the campaign is targeting the right people and using the best digital channels for maximum nationwide reach, analysis was taken from other digital campaigns, and the results of the Colmar Brunton public survey undertaken by the Board earlier in the year.

How long will the campaign go for?

The campaign will run through to March 2015. Based on current statistics the ask for the card message should be seen more than 13,980,000 times during this period.

What is the campaign designed to do?

The campaign is designed to help ensure

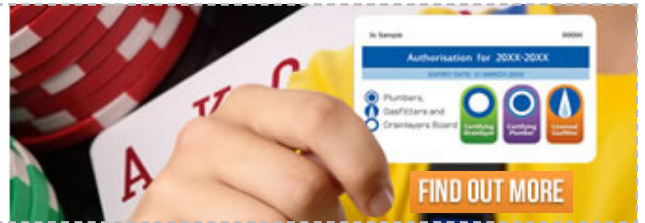
homeowners who are partial to partaking in the kiwi spirit of DIY are well informed that:

- it is illegal to carry out this type of work without authorisation from the Board
- ask for the card...it provides confidence you are hiring a competent tradesperson
- work carried out by unauthorised people can cause injury, loss of life and disease as well as damage to property
- there are big fines associated with illegal work
- Don't risk insurance.

What will the adverts say & who will see them?

The ask-for-the-card advertising messages have been refined to best align with the mindsets within each of the groups of people the campaign targets. Each advert clicks through to the key information these people need to know.

See the groups that the campaign is targeting and the messages they will **see on page 05**.



Who will the digital campaign be targeting?

THE ASK-FOR-THE-CARD DIGITAL MARKETING CAMPAIGN AUDIENCES & THE MESSAGES THEY WILL SEE



.... continuing on from page 04.

Community focused busy lifestyle families

This audience likes to take a break online to catch up with the outside world. The channel picked for this audience is dedicated to bringing the community closer with individualised local areas filled with what's happening in their communities.

The message they will see:

- Without the card—it's money down the drain
- Don't drain your bank account—ask for the card

Key decision makers in business

These are the people who need to know the latest information and value time as much as money. The channel picked for this audience makes it easy for them to connect with the new campaign through a favoured news site.

The messages they will see:

- Stack the deck in your favour—ask for the card
- It's a gamble without the card

The kiwi bloke

Boys will be boys, so the channel picked provides them with their fix of funny emails and YouTube clips. This is also a site where those spending time there like to share the content they find.

The message they will see:

- Got pipe dreams—ask for the card
- Don't be a drip—ask for the card

Sport fanatics

The channel picked for this group gives them what they are looking for when visiting the online world. Access to live commentary, the latest sports news, and live scores.

The messages they will see:

- No card—red card!
- It's a gamble without the card

The media savvy 'Me' generation

An audience that is very active in the online world, the channel picked is a site that engages through their social media activity.

- Don't drain your bank account—ask for the card
- Without the card—it's money down the drain

These audiences are partial to partaking in the kiwi spirit of DIY

When these groups visit the popular DIY website chosen for the campaign that has a strong social media following two messages will be reinforced,

- Don't drain your bank account—ask for the card
- Without the card it's money down the drain

Take a look where each banner advertisement directs audiences to find out the key information they need to know at the link below.

[http://www.pgdb.co.nz/consumer/Consumer_awareness_-_D.I.Y_renovators_\(1\).html](http://www.pgdb.co.nz/consumer/Consumer_awareness_-_D.I.Y_renovators_(1).html)

Supporting the campaign is easy!

Email comms@pgdb.co.nz for campaign stickers, posters, signage and new online imagery options.

RELICENSING

2015 / 2016

The new licensing year is fast approaching

It's illegal for anyone to do plumbing, gasfitting, or drainlaying without the Board's authorisation. Ensure your relicensing for 2015/16 has been completed by 1 April 2015.

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's website

“If you have any topics or examples of work that you think the industry would get benefit from the input of the technical services team, email a brief explanation and images to technical@pgdb.co.nz.”

Top tips from technical services

FAULTY FITTINGS



Photo one

Photo one shows a water connection fitting that has been attached to a gas pipe to act as a Tee joint. The pipe had been drilled and the clamp attached.

The seal between the fitting and gas pipe is made from an unknown rubber compound and smeared with an unknown sealant. The pipe has been drilled with little to no effort made to remove burrs left from the drilling process.

Issues arising from this non-compliant method of connecting to a gas pipe:

1. The remaining burr could come loose and be drawn through the gas pipe and into an appliance safety device or valve compromising their operation. **AS/NZS 5601 5.1.1**
2. If the rubber seal is not suited for the gas type used it could perish causing a loss of seal and a gas leak. **AS/NZS 5601 2.3.3**

AS/NZS 5601 table 4.1 provides clear information regarding consumer piping material including acceptable fittings and jointing. **Section 5.1.7** provides further information in regards to jointing.

Inside this article

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This article is mainly about safety and observing your surroundings before committing to any actions that may result in damage to fixtures, yourself or others.

OBSERVING YOUR SURROUNDINGS CAN PAY OFF

Photo two shows the damage caused to an existing gas pipe that was hit by a platform lift. The pipe and fitting had been installed and identified correctly.

In this instance consideration had also been given to installing isolating valves at various locations throughout the installation because of the environment the gas pipe was installed in, and the large size of the installation.

When the pipework was damaged by the platform lift, causing a significant gas leak, it was a simple matter to safely isolate that section of pipework stopping the gas leak and preventing an unsafe situation escalating to a potentially disastrous outcome.

The provision of the isolating valves not only enabled the unsafe situation to be made safe easily and effectively but also enabled the gas supply to the rest of the installation to continue uninterrupted while the damaged section of pipework was repaired and re-commissioned.

This was a good option in this installation. With the approval of the client, the decision to exceed the minimum compliance requirements (adding extra isolating valves) added extra safety value.



Photo two

Do brush up on this



TAKE A LOOK AT THE CHECK LIST

As you may be aware, new consumer protection measures come into effect from **1 January 2015**. These changes should encourage a professional, no-surprises relationship between contractors and their clients.

To support these measures, the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment has produced resources including a disclosure statement template and checklist.

They have also produced guidance booklets, one for contractors and one for homeowners. All resources are now available for download from www.doyourhomework.co.nz.

Review of licensing fees

REMINDER : UPCOMING CONSULTATION

The Board will start the three yearly review of licensing fees and other charges in February 2015. The review will be completed late next year with any changes to be in place in time for the licensing year that commences 1 April 2016. The last review took effect on 1 April 2013.

It is important that tradespeople take the opportunity to be involved in the review. To make sure that there is ample opportunity to do this, the Board has planned two rounds of consultation. The first of these is about options and that will occur early next year. As part of this tradespeople will be asked to consider various different fee structure options that are possible.

An issue that will be considered as part of this is whether or not photo licence cards should be introduced. There is a cost to photo licences which is why it will be looked at as part of the fees review.

Once the Board has had feedback from tradespeople about the options, a specific proposal will be presented for formal consultation in about the middle of next year.

A series of consultation meetings will also be held around the country at that time, particularly in the main population centres.

The next edition of Info Brief will be published in February 2015.

Christmas closure dates

The Board's office will be closing briefly over the Christmas period from midday 24 December 2014, reopening 5 January 2015.

