


# info brief

May 2015 NEWSLETTER

 Plumbers,  
Gasfitters and  
Drainlayers Board

## A word from the Chair

### NEW APPOINTMENTS



I am pleased to announce that the Board has appointed Martin Sawyers as its new Chief Executive and Registrar. Martin starts work with the Board on 15th June.

**M**artin is a lawyer who has considerable experience in both the private and public sector. He is currently Manager of Corporate Services for the Real Estate Agents Authority, a position he has held since 2012. Prior to that he was Manager of Legal Operations with the Department of Corrections.

Martin's governance experience includes a term as Mayor of Buller and eight years as Chair of Buller Electricity Ltd.

Martin stood out from other high calibre applicants because of his relevant knowledge and experience and he impressed the Board with his pragmatic attitude to occupational regulation.

I am confident that Martin will relate well to stakeholders in the plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying industries and that he will be a real asset to the Board.

Staying with staff appointment, Amanda Smith who has been Acting General Counsel for the past two months, has been confirmed in the role on a permanent basis. Amanda was previously the Board's Senior Solicitor and has many years of legal experience in both the public and private sectors.

Peter Jackson  
**Board Chair**



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review of the minimum standards, terms and conditions of the registration and licensing requirements.



Helpful advice from Business.govt.nz

# Taking care of business

## KEY GOVERNMENT CHANGES TO BE BE AWARE OF HEADING INTO THE NEW FINANCIAL YEAR

Reading up on these changes will help you stay compliant with the new rules and regulations.

Find out more details in Business.govt.nz's newsletter at [www.business.govt.nz/news](http://www.business.govt.nz/news).

**I**f yours is a registered company, there are two key changes to the Companies Act. When filing an annual return from 1 July onward, you'll be asked to include the date and place of birth of all directors, and details of the ultimate holding company if applicable.

In addition, New Zealand incorporated companies must have a director who lives in New Zealand, or who lives in Australia and is also the director of an Australian incorporated company. For new companies this applies from 1 May, and from late October for all incorporated companies.

A new health and safety (H&S) law is expected to pass later this year as a part of the Working Safer reform package. To ensure you're meeting your H&S legal obligations, check out Compliance Matters, a free online tool from Business.govt.nz. It makes it

easy to find major requirements that apply to you and your business.

The Government wants to know what will help make tax administration simpler and easier for your business. Share your views on the Government's Making Tax Simpler consultation website.

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[A number of other business-related legislation changes have taken effect between 6 March and 1 May.](#)  
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Minimum wage has gone up, and ACC levies have gone down. The ANZAC and Waitangi Day holidays have been Mondayized, parental leave has been extended, and the rules governing rest and meal breaks have been relaxed. The Government has also clarified taxation rules on different kinds of employee allowances.

# Facilities management tender

## VIEWS ON THE PROPOSED SCOPE OF SERVICES

The Property Management Centre of Expertise (the PMCoE) is conducting a whole-of-government procurement for facilities management (FM) services. As part of this initiative they are considering the best way to deliver these services to Government agencies.

Due to high interest in this project, it has been decided that before releasing a tender to the market, PMCoE will take the opportunity to engage directly with suppliers first.

There will be a series of supplier engagement sessions hosted around New Zealand to gauge views on the best way to deliver FM services in the following categories:

- building and facility maintenance and repair services, and
- general building and office cleaning and maintenance services.

### Key messages from the PMCoE

Government doesn't currently adopt a joined-up approach to FM services and a large portion of FM services are uncontracted.

There is an opportunity to connect government agencies with FM suppliers by running a procurement process to establish an appropriate panel of providers.



The PMCoE mandate, and this procurement process, is focused on office accommodation only.

Public sector agencies and some crown agents are required to use the resulting FM contract(s).

### Who should attend?

Anyone that provides building maintenance services, tradies, small to medium businesses, sole traders or large organisations.

Information about the engagement sessions (dates and venues) happening in June are advertised on GETS.

[www.gets.govt.nz/ExternalIndex.htm](http://www.gets.govt.nz/ExternalIndex.htm)

Please contact [FM@pmcoe.govt.nz](mailto:FM@pmcoe.govt.nz) for any queries.

# Service trenches and pavements

## INFO MOSTLY RELATING TO DRAINLAYERS AND ALSO PLUMBERS & GASFITTERS IN CANTERBURY

A building controls update has been released by MBIE on site ground improvement in relation to section 15.3 of the Canterbury Residential Technical Guidance.

Where services cross the interface between the treated and untreated ground, detailing should consider the potential for differential movements by including flexible or piped sections, and the extension of cement-treated backfill to form a transition zone.

In general, penetrations of the non-liquefiable crust should be minimised where practicable. They may form a zone of weakness that provides a release path for surface expulsion of liquefied soil.

Where services or other excavations are required in the treated (densified or stabilised) zone, care should be taken to minimise disturbance to the surrounding materials. Granular backfill is to be placed in 200mm thick layers, with the addition of a minimum of 3% cement by weight. The materials are to be well compacted to achieve a dense surface (as least as compact as the original improved ground).

If excavations extend to within 500mm of the edge of the treated zone, the excavation should extend to the edge and the ground be made good as with the trench backfill.

[www.mbie.govt.nz/pdf-library/latest-news/canterbury-technical-guidance-part-c-section15-3.pdf](http://www.mbie.govt.nz/pdf-library/latest-news/canterbury-technical-guidance-part-c-section15-3.pdf)

# BUILD & RENOVATE TODAY



## Ask-for-the-card

### MOVING BILLBOARDS IN CANTERBURY

The strong progress of the industry public awareness campaign, and its important role in informing and educating consumers about the key issues and risks of using unauthorised tradespeople, is about to rapidly extend its reach over the next few months.

Spreading the message and the value of the licence through van signage has remained a popular option for tradespeople to help with squeezing out illegal operators.

A signwritten vehicle is a moving billboard and a hugely effective method for spreading the word—and this has proven to be the case in Canterbury. Two vans featuring campaign signage captured the attention of the Build and Renovate Today magazine who gave the Board a call to discuss how they could provide support.

The winter edition of this publication will now be featuring the campaign with a targeted focus on DIY and home renovators.

The message to consumers will be, it's better to hire a professional and get the job done properly the first time around than make costly mistakes.

“Join other savvy kiwi home homeowners who are taking the right steps. Always ask for the card.”

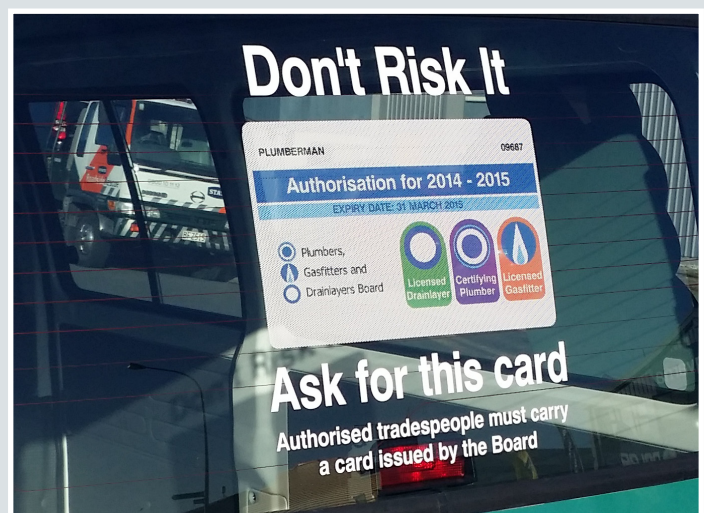
Email [comms@pgdb.co.nz](mailto:comms@pgdb.co.nz) for campaign stickers, posters, signage imagery and other support options available.

### SUPPORT IS SET TO ELEVATE THE REACH OF THE CAMPAIGN IN THE CANTERBURY REGION FAST

Build and Renovate Today is distributed to residential homes in Christchurch and surrounding areas (from North to South Canterbury). It is made available to consumers through NZ's major DIY outlets and also architects, hospitals, at retail specialists, eateries and the home and leisure show in this region.

#### Available soon

Supporting this initiative and the upcoming retail focus of the ask-for-the-card campaign will be a helpful consumer guide. It will detail the right steps to take when building or renovating and sanitary plumbing, gasfitting or drainlaying work needs to be done.



An example of one of the van signage options available.

# New Consultation

The first comprehensive review of registration and licensing requirements since 2010 is now underway. At stakeholder meetings around New Zealand, tradespeople have made many suggestions about how they think the registration and licensing requirements could be improved. This review raises many of those issues for discussion.

This is the first of three consultation opportunities that will occur before the review is completed. A form for giving your views is attached to the consultation document. You can also make a submission online at the Board's website. Your comments need to be submitted by 15 July 2015.

Once the Board has received feedback from tradespeople, the information obtained will be used to develop options for further discussion with industry early next year. We welcome comments on any aspect of registration and licensing that you think could be improved.

## The following are some of the issues that the Board has already identified:

1. Should there be an additional "journeyman" class of registration introduced?
2. Should the work that people are permitted to do under the "exemption under supervision" provisions be restricted?
3. Should there be other registration classes for people wanting to undertake just a limited range of plumbing, gasfitting or drainlaying work?
4. Should there be one or two classes of registration for qualified tradespeople?
5. Are the current registration class names appropriate?
6. Should there be terms and conditions of registration?
7. Should the certifying examination be part of a NZQA qualification?
8. What changes (if any) should be made to the CPD scheme?
9. What changes (if any) should be made to the supervision requirements?

**Information about these questions and the rest of the review is contained in this consultation document on the Board's website at [www.pgdb.co.nz/consultation/current.html](http://www.pgdb.co.nz/consultation/current.html)**



## Consultation update

The preliminary consultation for the three yearly review of the Board's fees and levy has now closed, and the Board is currently considering all submissions received to help prepare a specific fees and levy proposal. The Board settles on this proposal 4 August 2015. A summary of submissions can be found on the Board's website at [www.pgdb.co.nz/consultation/recent.html](http://www.pgdb.co.nz/consultation/recent.html).

### The next step

The Board will hold meetings around New Zealand to discuss the proposal with tradespeople. The meetings will be held in the 10 main centres across New Zealand and will commence in August 2015.

### How will I know the dates and venues?

Date and venue details for each meeting will be highlighted in Info Brief, emailed and text out to practitioners.

It's important to ensure your contact details on the Board's database are up-to-date.

If you have changed your email, telephone or address details recently let the Board know at [0800 743 262](tel:0800743262) or email [comms@pgdb.co.nz](mailto:comms@pgdb.co.nz).

# Survey of stakeholders

## MEASURING THE SATISFACTION OF TRADESPEOPLE | CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT

In February, the Board completed its annual survey that measures the satisfaction levels of tradespeople with the services provided by the Board. This survey was carried out by the National Research Bureau, and selected 403 tradespeople at random to take part.

The survey also captured opinion on how the Board could continue to raise industry satisfaction levels in the service categories considered.

The categories the Board surveys are:

- general service and communications
- consultation, registration and licensing.

This year the survey results show that the Board has continued to achieve sound levels of satisfaction across the industry.

All suggestions from respondents who provided feedback were considered by the Board, and actions put in place to ensure continued improvement.

In particular, changes have been put in place around the Board's consultation process. The stakeholder survey history suggests that when looking at the outcome of questions relating to this category,

satisfaction is likely to be influenced by the subject matter of a consultation.

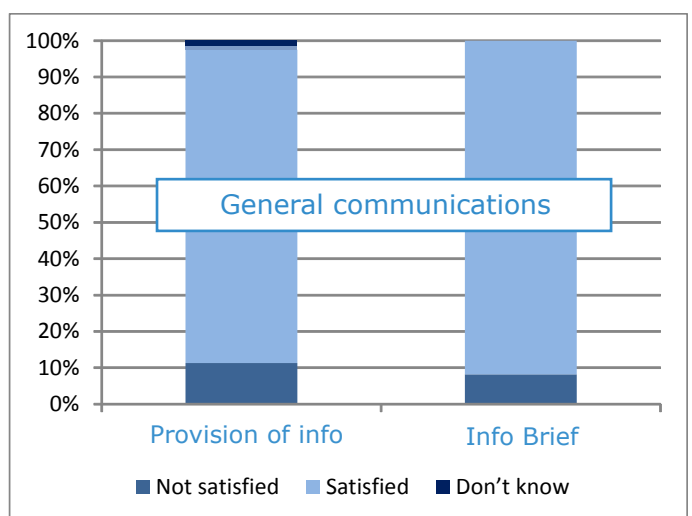
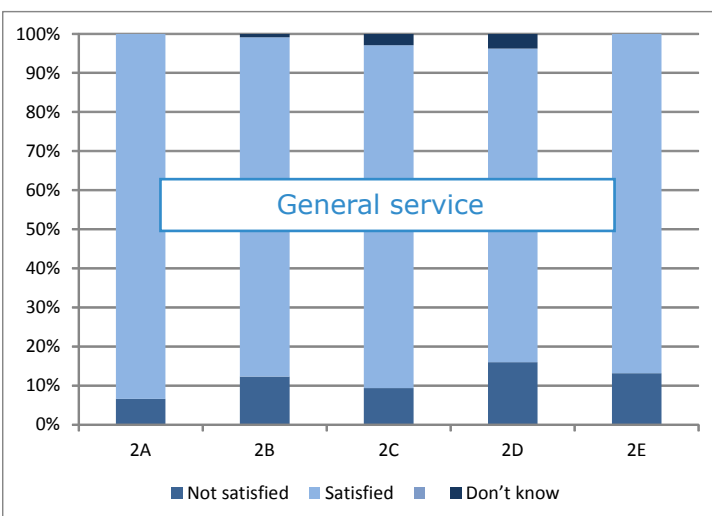
2015 reviews the fees and the levy along with the commencement of the review of the minimum standards, terms and conditions of the registration and licensing of plumbers, gasfitters and drainlayers.

Being two of the more major industry consultations the Board has conducted in the past three years, measures have been put in place to ensure these higher engagement level topics are communicated effectively.

Another notable addition to the Board's communication channels will be the addition of a general feedback form to the trade section of the Board's website, providing the option to submit other ways in which practitioners would like the Board to communicate.

Practitioners will also be able to submit feedback around the types of information they would like to help ensure they are fully informed on industry legislation and compliance, licensing requirements, registration and examinations. Activation of this new online form will be announced in Info Brief.

Below are two of the four graphs detailing the results of the 2015 stakeholder satisfaction survey. Take a look at the Board's website at the link below. Here you will find more detailed information around the general service, general communications and also the full results for the remaining two graphs detailing satisfaction levels in licensing, registration and the Board's consultation process. A full list of proposed actions for continued improvement can also be found on the website. [Go to www.pgdb.co.nz/publications/Survey\\_results](http://www.pgdb.co.nz/publications/Survey_results)



**2A**  
Satisfaction in the way respondents were greeted.

**2B**  
Satisfaction in the way needs were understood.

**2C**  
Satisfaction in the accuracy of information given.

**2D**  
Satisfaction in the speed of the Board's responses.

**2E**  
Satisfaction in the overall level of service received.

# ENERGY SAFETY

## Energy Safety business update

### MULTILAYER PIPE SYSTEMS FOR INDOOR GAS INSTALLATIONS

**E**nergy Safety reminds gasfitters using multilayer pipe that AS/NZS 5601 has specific requirements on its use in installations.

In addition, they have modified the Electricity and Gas High Risk Database so installations where multilayer pipe is used outdoors can be recorded.

Multilayer (or "PEX") piping is becoming increasingly popular with gasfitters for installing as pipework in gas installations. Multilayer piping is a sandwich of an outer layer of cross-linked polyethylene ("PEX"), a middle layer of aluminium and then another inner layer of the cross-linked polyethylene.

It is easy to bend and joints are made by crimping the pipe end to a metal fitting using a crimping tool. It is also cheaper than the traditional copper piping once the initial outlay for the special tools has been covered.

However, the piping has limitations. The plastic used in its composition has no ultraviolet resistance and typically has a maximum temperature rating of 40–70°C. It must therefore not be used outdoors without protection and can't be used too close to a hot gas appliance. Each brand of piping is proprietary and has its own fitting and crimping tools - the different systems are not interchangeable.

The installation standards recognise these limitations. The installation standard 5601.1 has several specific sections that deal with proprietary multilayer piping systems.

- Section 4.5.4 requires that the system is identified with a label at the point of supply.
- Table 4.1 prohibits the use of multilayer piping as the final appliance connection and it may not be used where temperatures exceed 60°C.
- Section 5.2.13 requires that for some classes of installation, a multilayer piping carcass, must have "reversion fittings" to allow another form of piping to be joined to it.
- Section 5.3.17 requires that multilayer piping above ground must be protected from ultraviolet light and physical damage.
- Section 6.6.1 also prevents the use of multilayer piping as the final connection to an appliance.

The caravan and boat standard 5601.2 does not allow the use of multilayer piping, unless the piping system is specifically designed and has product certification that includes use in caravan or boat installations.

Energy Safety recently surveyed New Zealand importers of multilayer piping to establish each firm's approach to these requirements in the installation standard and a report on the findings is being prepared.

In the meantime, Energy Safety reminds gasfitters they must comply with the standard and the manufacturer's instructions.

Certifying gasfitters entering a high risk record on the Electricity and Gas High Risk Database should note that there is now a tick box entry for the exterior use of this piping in the Work Specific Details section of the form.



**Visit Energy Safety's website at:**  
[www.energysafety.govt.nz](http://www.energysafety.govt.nz)

**or contact them at:**  
[info@energysafety.govt.nz](mailto:info@energysafety.govt.nz)

# Worldskills Oceania competition

APRIL 13 – 17 ROTOKAURI CAMPUS, WINTEC, HAMILTON

The inaugural Worldskills Oceania vocational training competition was held at the Rotokauri Campus of Wintec in Hamilton from, the 13th to the 17th of April 2015.

This was conducted under the Worldskills International Competition format, helping competitors to prepare for the 'Worlds' in Sao Paulo, Brazil in August 2015.

There were 103 competitors from Australia, Malaysia, Korea, India, Canada, China and New Zealand competing in 30 different trades competitions.

They all progressed through regional and national competitions. For some categories and countries the final outcome is being made as a result of competitor performance in New Zealand.

For the Plumbing and Heating section there were four competitors – Dylan Di Martino from Australia, Ken Howe from Canada, Mohd Fariduddin Ali Kassim from Malaysia and Adam de Pass from New Zealand.

The competition was run over three and a half days (23hrs) with each competitor having to complete a series of tasks. Adam de Pass received the Gold Medal, Dylan Di Martino received the silver medal and Ken Howe the Bronze medal.



Left to right: Dylan Di Martino, Adam de Pass, Ken Howe

## Have you relicensed for the 2015/16 year?

It's illegal for anyone to do sanitary plumbing, gasfitting, or drainlaying without authorisation.

Ensure you are licensed for the 2015/16 year.

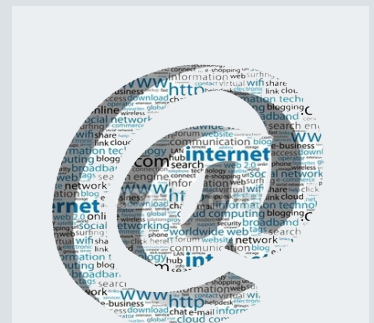


## Checking CPD points

Completing CPD is a condition of licensing for registered tradespeople. If you don't have enough CPD points when renewing your licence then it's likely that a new licence will not be issued to you.

If you find you don't have enough CPD points take a look at the full list of courses. There are face-to-face or online options available. See [www.pgdb.co.nz/trade/cpd](http://www.pgdb.co.nz/trade/cpd).

If you want to speak with someone about any of these courses give the Board a call on 0800 743 262.



Log in to your PGDB profile at [www.pgdb.co.nz](http://www.pgdb.co.nz) to find your CPD points summary under 'my continuing professional development'.