

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- **When Immediate Safety Conflicts with Long Term Health**
- **Training VS Assessment**

IN OTHER NEWS



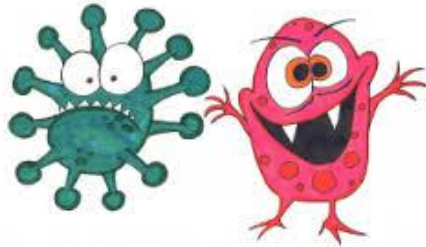
Dear Editor

Just read your article today on gasfitter to install oven between 70 and 90 dollars. I agree with you people just expect us to work for nothing now days and right now.

I am active in the motor home caravan market in Auckland. I had a person want me to check over their 5 wheeler imported from America, install new oven and certify - I gave them an idea of cost without seeing it but my price was just a little too much they wanted it done for under \$50 my answer - click went the phone.

Boat builders are another lot again, they just cannot get it into

When Immediate Safety Conflicts with Long Term Health



For a long time tradespeople have debated the worth of tempering valves and have reported problems with them when installed on low pressure systems. Well it would appear an issue has arisen where a deadly disease,

which cost a woman both her feet, could be lurking in our hot water systems, despite official requirements designed to prevent it.

This week it was reported a Hawke's Bay woman was one of two separate cases to have contracted legionellosis, also known as legionnaires' disease, which is a potentially fatal type of pneumonia.

Tests on the water in both victims' homes found the presence of legionella bacteria, which can cause legionellosis, when it is inhaled in the form of vapour or steam containing the bacteria.

Legionella bacteria can grow in water temperatures of 20-45 degrees Celsius. They thrive at temperatures of 32C-44C, but can't live at 60C or higher. People are advised to keep their cylinders set at 60C for this reason.

Hawke's Bay District Health Board initially thought the woman may have contracted the disease because the temperature on her hot water cylinder had been set to somewhere between 50-55C. They have since discovered that the gauge was misread, and that the temperature was actually set somewhere between 60-65C.

Subsequent investigations had revealed there was a tempering valve between the hot water cylinder and the tap, and that the bacteria had grown in this part of the system which, to a lot in the industry, makes total sense.

So it would appear the Ministry of Health have been requested to "review the evidence for current hot water temperature recommendations". Who knows how long this will take them, but once upon a time it would have been an easy process because plumbing, gasfitting, and drainlaying was under the umbrella of the Ministry of Health.

Water stored at at least 60C will prevent the bacteria growing but it presents a scalding risk at that temperature. The Building Act recommends that hot water coming out of a tap should be no hotter

their heads that the regulations state this and they answer back we have done it like this for 50 years so what's wrong with it. My answer back is yes you are right and the odd explosion say around 20 boats a year is this normal? All you get then is vacant looks

Ed:

Thanks writer for taking the time to share your thoughts with us. Yes the Kiwi can do attitude is a problem.

Just because people think they can do it doesn't mean they can do it properly or legally and we are stuck in the middle. The Government has set the legislation but yet they don't do bugger all to support it.

They leave it up to us to prosecute and they allow the public to buy the materials to do the work without restriction.

They want the best of all worlds by regulating us at no cost to them, by making us to pay for policing the public, by allowing the public to keep on with their so called right to do their own work and for retailers to sell to whomever they want.

The Government and those they appoint need to show leadership rather than arrogance.

than 55C.

So perhaps this is an area where the prevention of scalding is putting people at risk - so we would ask what is going to take precedence - scalding or contracting a notifiable disease?

Here's a reminder for you:

LEGIONELLA

** The most common sources are water-cooling towers (like those on large buildings), hot water cylinders, boiler systems, and garden hose-pipes. It can also be contracted from some soils or composts.*

** It can be contracted through inhalation of steam while showering.*

** For a healthy person the symptoms will be similar to a very bad cold. But for the very young, very old, smokers, alcoholics and those with cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory or kidney disease, the effects are much worse, and can be fatal.*

** It's a notifiable disease. There were 81 notified cases in the year to May 31. Last year there were 125 notified cases. In 2013 there were 155.*

** Legionella bacteria can grow in water between 20C and 46C, and thrives in the range of 32-44C. It can't grow at around 50C and higher and is killed almost instantaneously at 70C.*

** The Building Code requires hot water systems to be capable of being controlled to prevent the growth of legionella bacteria. To achieve this, the storage water heater thermostat must be set to a minimum temperature of 60C.*

We'll watch this one with interest and see how long people's lives are left at risk due to inaction by the Government. Educate people not to touch hot water from hot taps or educate bacteria not to grow?

Training VS Assessment



a person to disarm a bomb without training would you?

Any person who has had anything to do with bomb disposal will tell you "if you see me running try to keep up," but generally you won't see them running as they are trained to disarm bombs - and the appropriate word there is TRAINED. You wouldn't expect

So are our apprentices getting value for money for the training they pay for? Apprentices or their employer pay Skills, our Industry Training Organisation (ITO), over \$12,000 and the Government also pays a contribution greater than that for the training of the apprentice, but is the money being used for actual training or is it directed elsewhere?

Is it Camouflage?



The government has spent more than \$600,000 over the last three years on flowers to brighten up offices and on bouquets for staff and visitors, Labour says.

"When we have sectors of society struggling and the government warning of continued financial belt-tightening, there is no excuse for splashing out on unnecessary extravagances," said MP Kris Faafoi.

His figures show a total \$603,349 spent on florists' services since 2012/13.

The Ministry of Social Development was the biggest spender, \$136,040, followed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's \$91,039 bill.

"The government surely needs to rethink its priorities," Mr Faafoi said.

That \$600,000.00 could have been used to refund the money unlawfully taken from plumbers gasfitters and drainlayers but maybe perfumed flowers are needed to take away the stench of unlawful activities.

But perhaps there is

To work out if the money is being applied correctly we need to look at three definitions training, assessment and evaluation.

Training is the process of learning the skills you need to do a particular job or activity. Currently the majority of training for an apprentice is on the job training provided free of charge to the trainee by the employer.

Assessment is the process used to increase quality of training. Currently apprentices attend assessments every 17 weeks but this isn't linked to training it is simply linked to a schedule of skills an apprentice should have and the apprentices are tested to see if they have those skills.

Evaluation is to judge quality of training and systems. This appears to be done by judging success of assessments done every 17 weeks. So if you have an apprentice – have you ever had them FAIL a block course? On the balance of probabilities what does this tell you?

Payments to polytechnics and the ITO seems to be based on success in pass rates of unit standards. This leaves a situation where organisations use assessments and evaluations to prove their success in trainees passing unit standards. So it appears we have a system where passing assessments is deemed to be training.

An industry training organisation must carry out one or both of the following core activities (whether or not it receives funding for those activities via a plan):

- developing and maintaining skill standards to be listed on the Directory of Assessment Standards and used in the assessment of trainees;
- developing and maintaining arrangements for the delivery of industry training that will enable trainees to achieve the relevant skill standards.

The "delivery of industry training" is very relevant because it seems this responsibility has been left up to the employers and supervisors in the industry and the ITO is simply doing assessments with limited training, so in effect the apprentices and government are paying for assessments and limited training not the majority of apprentice training.

When it comes to regulation our industry gets compared to lawyers, accountants, doctors etc but how many of those professions get their core skills from on the job training? They all attend structured training and get practiced in those skills on the job. Our apprentices are not receiving that structured training and hence the skill levels are dropping and consistency is nonexistent.

Yet again the tradespeople in the industry cop the blame and continuing professional development has been getting used to pick up on the deficiencies in the apprenticeship training.

The following submission to the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board was sent to the Federation for information and voices an opinion on some of the issues:

In case you don't know it yet we object to CPD system. It is a terrible failure and an admission by all those concerned in the education and

method in their madness and it could be camouflage but it does remind us of a saying:

"You can't put flowers in an ass and call it a vase"

Assets What is the asset that never appears on your Balance Sheet but yet it decides the future of your business?

It's people - employees decide where your business can go, how you get there and how long it takes. They are the future of any business but yet they are very seldom seen as an asset.

Training from experts is a must where we get the right mix of creativity, smart work, how adapting to change gets better productivity and pride of knowledge and skills.

We maintain assets such as vehicles so we need to maintain our employees as well to ensure they are operating to full capacity in knowledge and skills.

This is an industry issue which practitioners should be thinking about so if you have any thoughts let us know.

administration of our trades. One day you will wake up to the fact that the ITO system of education is a joke with the priority being the management, which costs more than the education of the tradesperson. It's a cut and paste mentality that filters on down to the Polytechs that all have their own agendas where they are run by incompetent tutors and unqualified management.

Then you realise what a shambles it is and apply the CPD system because you know the apprenticeship education system is inadequate and then the cost gets lumped back on to the trade again.

Just do it once and do it right.

You wave your big stick of disciplinary measures and attack trades people who slip up occasionally but don't do anything about the hardware stores that sell the plumbing materials direct to the public so that illegal work can be carried out by anyone.

Include some ethics and legal training in to the education and you might make some progress. Start listening.

Plumber Waikato

Thanks to Plumber Waikato for giving us his views.

In some ways training providers are the meat in the sandwich, many want to provide training but are contracted for assessments and after that it boils down to numbers qualifying so money can exchange hands.

Now we know the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board sets the standards of competence but are they really being achieved? Has there been a decade or more of people who have been trained to pass assessments and exams but can't really do the job?

The Federation believes the manner in which the ITO is being operated is failing and industry standards are slipping due to lack of training. This will be bought up with the appropriate organisations to see what corrective action is taken to get value for money for apprentice, the industry and the public who fund the Government contribution to apprentice training.

Final Opportunity...

Today is the last chance you have to get your submission in for the Board's consultation on CPD. Don't miss this opportunity – the Federation gave you our views last week – if you agree with them you simple need to email the Board and tell them you agree with the Federation's submission.

We've always been very proud of the good turnout Federation members have with consultation – don't let this one be any different, and don't let those riding on the coat tails of industry have the bigger say for their self gain.

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