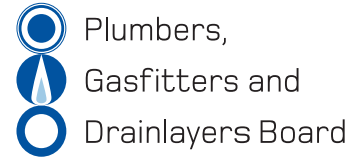


info brief

OCTOBER 2015 NEWSLETTER



A word from the Chair

NEW APPROACH TO UNAUTHORISED WORK TO STAMP OUT ILLEGAL OPERATORS QUICKLY



the Master Plumbers half yearly meeting. Here, we provided delegates with a presentation on some changes that are underway—including a new 'triage' system for handling complaints.

In essence, many complaints received by the Board relate to disputes between customers and tradespeople, and don't involve significant health and safety issues.

Changes the Board have made mean, if complaints are minor, don't present significant health and safety issues or involve repeated poor behaviour by the tradesperson, they will now, in the first instance, be dealt with by way of mediation where possible.

The Board have also appointed a full-time investigator (see page 2 of this newsletter), and as part of the increased focus on unauthorised work, a new mobile phone app will soon be available to both consumers and practitioners in late November.

The APP will allow photo and video evidence along with GPS coordinates of illegal worksites, false advertising on vans and so on, to be uploaded directly to the new Board investigator (See page 4).

Effectively this will enable the consumer and industry stakeholders to help in squeezing out illegal operators quickly, by being the eyes and ears assisting the Board with strategic operations.

The Board are aware of the substantial number of tradespeople who are working hard to uphold the integrity of their profession, and I know these initiatives will be welcome news. Those who are working without authorisation will get caught.



Peter Jackson
Board Chair



2 | New investigator appointed



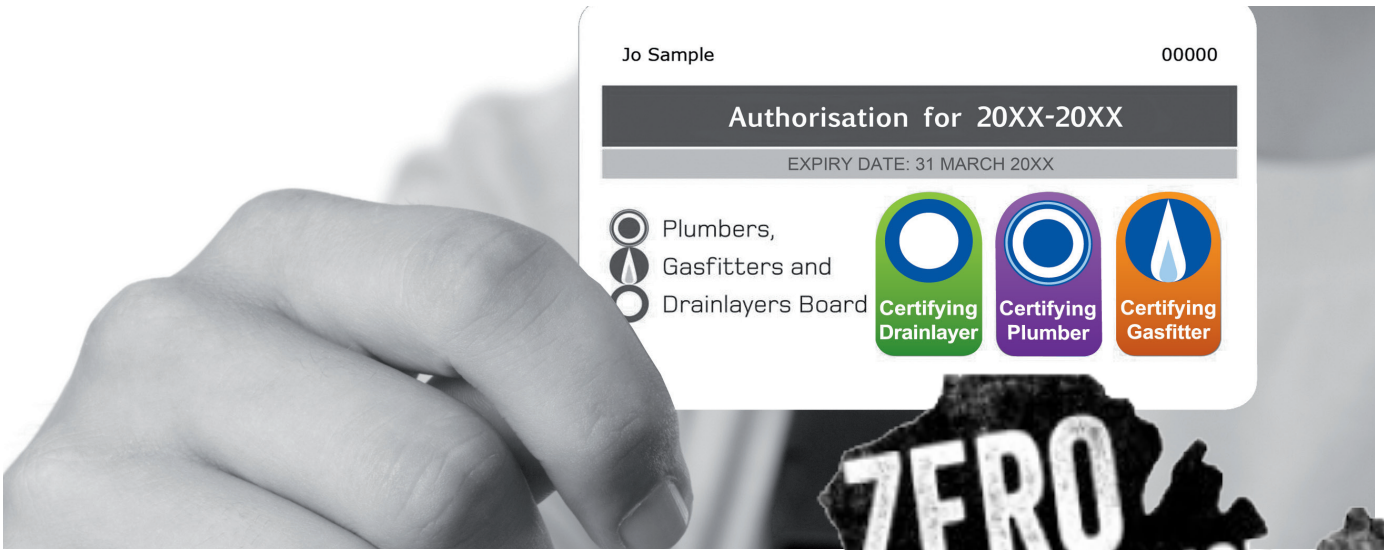
3 | Crime prevention with DNA



4 | New App to reduce unauthorised work

Fast tracking changes to supervision

5 | Feedback required by 20 November



0800 74 32 62

Report an illegal operator

New investigator appointed

IF YOU'RE WORKING ILLEGALLY - THINGS JUST GOT A WHOLE LOT TOUGHER!



A police officer for 13 years with most of his career spent as an investigator in the Criminal Investigation Branch (CIB), Jayson Thomas, the new Board investigator has also worked previously as a regulatory investigator for the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) before joining the Board.

"I am looking forward to contributing to the Board's efforts to clean up the industry, and as such my major focus will be on unauthorised work, which is where I need industry help", says Jayson.

Jayson can't be everywhere at once, but with a steady stream of information from practitioners, building consent authorities and industry stakeholders, he can coordinate investigations in a manner that will see him spending as much time as possible in the regions around the country that need his attention.

If you have information to assist Jayson in identifying illegal operators give him a call on 0800 74 32 62 or contact him via email at jayson@pgdb.co.nz or download the free RAC App (see page 4).

Crime prevention with DNA

INVESTIGATION RESULTED IN THE RECOVERY OF \$250,000 WORTH OF COMMERCIAL TOOLS

Police are noticing a rise in the theft of commercial power and hand tools. This offending includes the targeting of domestic and commercial premises and commercial trade vehicles.

The police recover this type of property in circumstances that indicate it is clearly either stolen or unlawfully obtained, and on many occasions cannot reunite owners and their property due to a lack of identification.

The task of identifying or marking tools can be a laborious one. But identifying your tools is a very simple step that you can take, and if they are stolen and reported, this will assist police in not only recovering and identifying your property, but also play a large part in arrests and successful prosecution of these offenders.

One recent example of this was an investigation of a large scale organised group of offenders based in Rodney but offending further afield. The investigation resulted in the execution of search warrants at four separate addresses, and the recovery of more than \$250,000 worth of commercial tools, the clearance of between 40 and 50 burglary offences, and the arrest of three people. A large portion of the recovered property remains unidentified. However, one diligent victim—a builder—had a photograph of all of his tools stored on his cell phone

and from this simple process police were able to identify and return all of his stolen tools.

MARK AND IDENTIFY YOUR PROPERTY

There are very cost-effective ways to effectively identify your tools: ensuring they are photographed, that serial numbers are noted, or that tools are engraved/marked with a unique identifier. These can be entered into the police national database and linked to related offences.

ADVANCED FORENSIC MARKING

Thieves know police use DNA to convict criminals on a daily basis. The product, SelectaDNA can help place them at a crime scene and ultimately lead to their conviction. It's feared by criminals, making premises protected by SelectaDNA a no-go area. Use SelectaDNA in your home, business or farm to prevent burglary. www.selectadna.co.nz



Recent prosecution

HB COUNCIL CLAMPS DOWN ON ILLEGAL TRADIES

While the vast majority of tradespeople in Hawkes Bay do the right thing by the consumer and ensure they hold a current authorisation, there remain a few who are undermining their efforts. But thanks to the diligent work of local building consent authorities such as the Hastings District Council, those working illegally in the industry are being uncovered.

Two Havelock North men were recently convicted and fined for carrying out sanitary plumbing and drainlaying work. The combined fine imposed on the men was \$1100 plus a further \$452 in solicitors costs.

Both Timothy Barley and Roderick Mackenzie were identified as working unlawfully by a building compliance officer of the Hastings District Council.

Sentenced in the Hastings District Court; Timothy

Barley was convicted and fined \$500, and ordered to pay \$226 solicitors fee for doing sanitary plumbing, or assisting in doing sanitary plumbing, when he was not authorised. Mr Roderick MacKenzie was convicted and fined \$600, and ordered to pay \$226 solicitors fee for doing drainlaying, or assisting in doing drainlaying, when he was not authorised.

ILLEGAL OPERATORS BE AWARE

The Board is conducting regular enforcement projects throughout New Zealand. Enforcement officers are actively checking that those providing plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying services are competent and hold a current authorisation. Those who choose to cheat the system and put public health and safety at risk will be caught.



R.A.C 'em up and finish the game

PUTTING ILLEGAL OPERATORS BEHIND THE EIGHT BALL

“ Available **FREE** to consumers, practitioners, and all stakeholder organisations in late November ”

As part of the Board’s increased focus on unauthorised work, a new APP will be launched in late November to compliment the new investigation and intelligence functions which have recently been put in place.

Effectively the APP will enable the consumer and industry stakeholders to help in squeezing out illegal operators, by being the eyes and ears assisting the Board with its strategic operations.

R.A.C 'em up and finish the game

The R.A.C app will be a key weapon that the whole industry and the consumer can use in helping to effectively deal with unauthorised work quickly.

The R.A.C APP (report-a-cowboy) will allow easy on-the-spot submission

of reports to the new Board investigator of non-compliant or other installations, with attached photo and/or video as well as the ability to enter any other basic vital information. The R.A.C app will have the ability to log GPS coordinates, and allow those reporting through the app to request that their personal details remain confidential.

This new initiative aims to ensure unauthorised work is quickly identified by the Board and dealt with. The R.A.C APP will be made available on both Apple (iOS) and Android (Google) stores to the general public, and function on both phone and tablet style devices.

Further information on the APP will be released mid-November.



Email comms@pgdb.co.nz for campaign, stickers, posters, signage imagery and on-line advertising options.

Show - The - Card

IF YOU'RE NOT ON BOARD - NOW IS THE TIME!

Show your card and spread the word that only authorised tradespeople can undertake restricted plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying work.

There is always strength in numbers. Each month the list of practitioners grows who are backing the Ask-for-the-card campaign by displaying stickers, making use of signage and advertising the value of the licence.

The message is becoming more wide spread and proving to be an effective way to squeeze out illegal operators and alerting consumers to the risks associated with using unauthorised people.

TACTICALLY TARGETING THE CONSUMER OVER WINTER MONTHS

The reach of the Board's recent two month digital display advertising campaign was exceptional, delivering the ask-for-the-card message over 5 million times to consumers.

Mobile phones were the predominant device used by the target audience (those interested in home improvement 'do-it-yourself'), and the top performing advert consumers associated with was 'without the card it's money down the drain'.

Over
5 million hits
in two months



Without the Card
it's money down the drain

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

[SUPERVISION]



Fast tracking the changes

“ It’s important that you comment ”

The Board has been carrying out a comprehensive review of the minimum standards, and terms and conditions of the registration and licensing of plumbers, gasfitters and drainlayers.

The minimum standards, and terms and conditions of the registration and licensing of plumbers, gasfitters and drainlayers was last comprehensively reviewed to coincide with the introduction of the current Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Act in 2010. They are contained in the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers (Registration and Licensing) *Gazette* notices.

The purpose of the initial consultation was to hear the opinions of tradespeople so that they could be considered early in the process. One of the questions asked during that initial round of consultation was what changes (if any) should be made to supervision.

The feedback in relation to that part of the consultation indicated that the majority of submitters thought changes are required.

The Board also commissioned an independent report which identified some areas that could be improved.

As the result of the feedback from the industry the Board have resolved to make some changes to the *Gazette* notices in relation to supervision as well as create some guidelines for the industry.

The Board have decided to fast track the proposed changes to the *Gazette* notices and would like your feedback.

Once the Board has considered your feedback it will finalise its position and then draft proposed new *Gazette* notices.

“ The Board needs your comments by 20 November 2015. ”

Submit feedback at www.pgddb.co.nz/consultation/current



Connecting small business with Government

HOW TO (LEGALLY) REDUCE YOUR TAX BILL

- No one wants to pay more tax than they need to, right? Here are our tips on how to trim your tax bill.

www.business.govt.nz/tax-and-finance/reducing-your-tax-bill/how-to-reduce-your-tax-bill

H&S – WHAT DOES "REASONABLY PRACTICABLE" MEAN?

- New laws task businesses with ensuring health and safety "so far as it is reasonably practicable". Discover what this might mean for your business.

www.business.govt.nz/news/h-s-what-does-reasonably-practicable-mean

TPP: WHAT IT MEANS FOR SMALL BUSINESS

- Negotiations for the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade agreement have concluded. But what does it mean for your business?

www.business.govt.nz/news/tpp-what-it-means-for-small-business

MONEY – WHERE DOES IT ALL GO?

- Tax and finance are essential parts of being in business. So, business.govt have added a new section dedicated to money matters, from tax types to tips on how to get paid on time.

www.business.govt.nz/news/money-where-does-it-all-go

SPECIAL TAX CODES & DEDUCTION RATES: WHAT TO DO

- Do you make PAYE or student loan deductions that aren't at the standard rate? Here are some tips from Inland Revenue.

www.business.govt.nz/news/special-tax-codes-and-deduction-rates-what-to-do

ACC LEVIES: HAVE YOUR SAY

- ACC is proposing more changes to levies – and wants to hear from small businesses to find out if it's on the right track.

www.business.govt.nz/news/acc-levies-have-your-say