


# info brief

NOVEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

 Plumbers,  
Gasfitters and  
Drainlayers Board

## A word from the Chair

### STRATEGIC FOCUS ON UNAUTHORISED WORK BEGINS TO UNFOLD



The Board recently consulted with the industry to fast track the proposed changes to the *Gazette* notices and a decision will be made on how to proceed at the December meeting.

Changes to the current system of Continuing Professional Development have now been considered, and the Board has resolved to proceed with a proposal to introduce a new form of CPD for the 2017-18 licensing year.

This new model of CPD will provide greater opportunities to deliver important key training to the industry, and will mean that there is greater consistency of content and delivery. Further information will be released in early December.

The new strategic focus to target those working without authorisation is now beginning to unfold, and I am pleased to report that the new

Board investigator role and the pending launch of the mobile application R.A.C have been welcomed by the industry.

Prior to this fresh focus hitting full-force, the Board is granting fair warning to the industry to get its own house in order.

I encourage all those who are currently unlicensed to get themselves legal well before the period of leniency ends. See page 2.

After this date those whom we know should be licensed, but aren't, will be investigated and if found to be carrying out unauthorised work – will be prosecuted.

Peter Jackson  
**Board Chair**

**I**nstances of poor supervision continue to feature prominently in complaints that are received from the public.

As a result of this and 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 new supervision guidelines can now be found on the Board's website (see page 6 of this newsletter).



**2** | Board grants fair warning to unlicensed tradies.



**3** | Insurance industry step up with media support.



**4** | Timaru District Council a tough act to beat.



**6** | New supervision guidelines released.



Martin Sawyers  
Chief Executive

## Board grants fair warning

### INDUSTRY TO GET ITS OWN HOUSE IN ORDER PRIOR TO FRESH FOCUS ON COWBOYS

The announcement in last month's Info Brief that the Board will be focusing on non-registered cowboys with the new mobile phone application has been received well by the industry.

As part of focusing on those persons however, it is important that the industry has its own house in order. For that reason, it is vital that those people within the industry who should hold a licence do so.

Recently the Board undertook a work place sweep in Wellington where it located nine unauthorised persons working.

All of these persons were people who worked for a business which employs some authorised persons, and many of them are registered and have previously held licences.

On this occasion, because there were not any apparent competency or health and safety issues, the Board chose not to prosecute the employer and the employees, but instead issued a warning that allowed the business a few days to get all its workers relicensed and authorised.

The Board wants to give fair warning to the industry that such leniency will not continue. The Board is encouraging all those who are currently unlicensed, but should be, to apply for and get themselves authorised prior to 31 January 2016.

After that period the Board is unlikely to be lenient, and will be acting on the large amount of intelligence it has to focus on those who should be licensed but are not.

Those who we know should be licensed will be investigated and if found to be carrying out unauthorised work will be prosecuted.

If you know you should be licensed then this is your chance to sort it out. If you should be licenced or otherwise authorised but currently aren't, please get yourself legal prior to 31 January 2016.

Without the card  
it's money down the drain



## Look who's talking now

INSURANCE INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVE  
STEPS UP WITH MEDIA SUPPORT

# ICNZ

The Insurance Council of New Zealand have formally released a statement in support of the ask-for-the-card campaign for use in all media materials and campaign promotional collateral. Speaking in support of generating awareness among the New Zealand public that the use of unregistered and authorised tradespeople may invalidate homeowner insurance, the following statement has been released by the ICNZ.

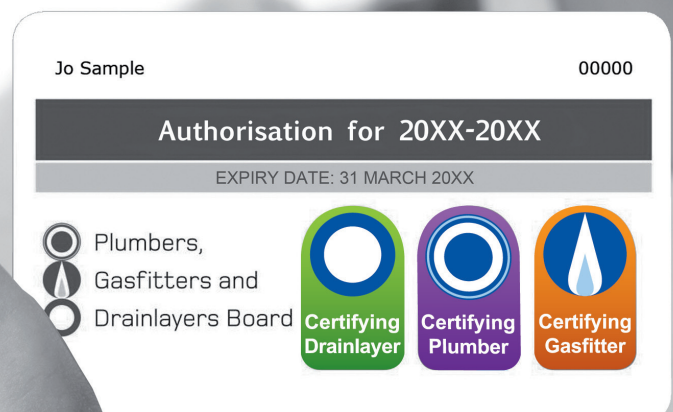
"The Insurance Council warns that the use of unregistered and unqualified persons to do plumbing, gasfitting or drainage work on an insured property, may invalidate the property's insurance cover in the event of a loss resulting from the work undertaken. Always ask to sight the authorisation card of tradespeople before work is undertaken."

EQC PLANS TO SETTLE DRAINAGE CLAIMS  
INCLUDE ASK-FOR-THE-CARD PUSH

# EQC

EQC plans to settle drainage claims resulting from the Canterbury earthquake are underway, and they are taking their consumer responsibility seriously within that project by ensuring the ask-for-the-card messaging reaches their customers. Use of registered and authorised contractor suppliers will be the critical to the overall success of the project.

In supporting the project the Board will be working in partnership with the EQC to ensure targeted information sheets are available to them for distribution to claimants, and will be actively issuing joint subsequent media releases during the project stressing the importance of using registered and authorised tradespeople.







Jayson Thomas  
Investigator

## A tough act to beat!

### TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL RUN A TIGHT SHIP

Board investigator, Jayson Thomas reports positive results after two days spent visiting sites with Timaru District Council (TDC) Building Advisor, Peter Gallagher.

"I conducted some site inspections while out with Pete, who added to my impression of the well-oiled machine that is the TDC building control team.

We asked for the card during site inspections and there it was.

In one case the tradesperson had his card in his hand as we arrived."

If you are looking for a team who are getting it right look no further.

"The TDC building advisors have a great rapport with local industry, and they run a tight ship. They are in sync with each other, they get things done, and with the backing of their great administration team - they can't go wrong", says Jayson.



### REPORT-A-COWBOY

Rac 'em up and finish the game

New app to put illegal operators behind the eight ball.

Available FREE to consumers, practitioners, and all stakeholder organisation early December.

## Recent prosecution

### ILLEGAL OPERATORS IN CHRISTCHURCH WILL GET CAUGHT

The Board is warning Christchurch tradies who are working illegally that they will get caught.

Grant Longman was sighted conducting restricted gasfitting work unlawfully by a registered and certifying gasfitter working on the same building site; where Longman removed the gas caps from a live LPG gas system; and installed gas flares by fixing them to a gas installation and connecting them to a live gas supply.



### NO CARD - RED CARD

After pleading guilty to carrying out unauthorised gasfitting, His Honour Judge Kellar sentenced Grant Longman to a fine of \$2,500, court costs of \$130, and a solicitor's fee of \$113, in the Christchurch District Court.

The certifying gasfitter took immediate steps to make the system safe and reported the matter.

The Board is conducting regular licence checks in this area, and enforcement officers are checking those providing plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying services are competent and hold a current authorisation. Those working illegally in this area will get caught.



# Water filters considered restricted work

ARE YOU AWARE OF ANY INSTALLATIONS? LET THE BOARD KNOW

Filtration systems that have been installed incorrectly and connected to the plumbing system have been a common subject of many enquiries received by the Board recently.

## THE VIEW OF THE BOARD

**I**t is the Board's view that generally the installation of water filters is considered to be sanitary plumbing and must be carried out by an authorised person.

This includes the range of filters from those supplying the whole building to those with a single tap installed under the kitchen sink.

Exceptions to this would be filters that have a push on connection fitted to the outlet of a tap or stand-alone tank/bottle type filters.

Practitioners who are aware of any installations should let the Board know.

Phone : 0800 743 262

# need to know

## Get it right!

### A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO SUPERVISION

The Industry has provided feedback to the Board that there is a lack of clarity around how supervision should be implemented.

New guidelines have now been developed for the purpose of giving practical guidance on what the Board considers to be best practice supervision.

Supervision serves two main purposes:

- it ensures standards of competency and safety are achieved by those who are licensed to undertake restricted work (quality control); and
- it helps to build the overall capability of the industry.

What the guidelines detail

- The purpose of supervision
- Interpretation
- Who is responsible for supervision
- Who must be supervised
- Definition in the Act
- What does proper supervision look like
- What systems and processes the certifier needs in place
- Appropriate level of direction and control for a job

The key questions the guidelines answer

- Is it OK to supervise remotely?
- How many people can a certifier supervise?
- How to keep yourself safe?

The following supervision information is a guideline only, as opposed to rules, and therefore are not binding.

However, as best practice statements they will be used by the Board to assist it in determining when to take action against individuals for not exercising proper supervision.

For that reason, the industry is urged to carefully read, understand and follow these guidelines.

### WHAT YOU NEED TO SUCCEED



Go to;

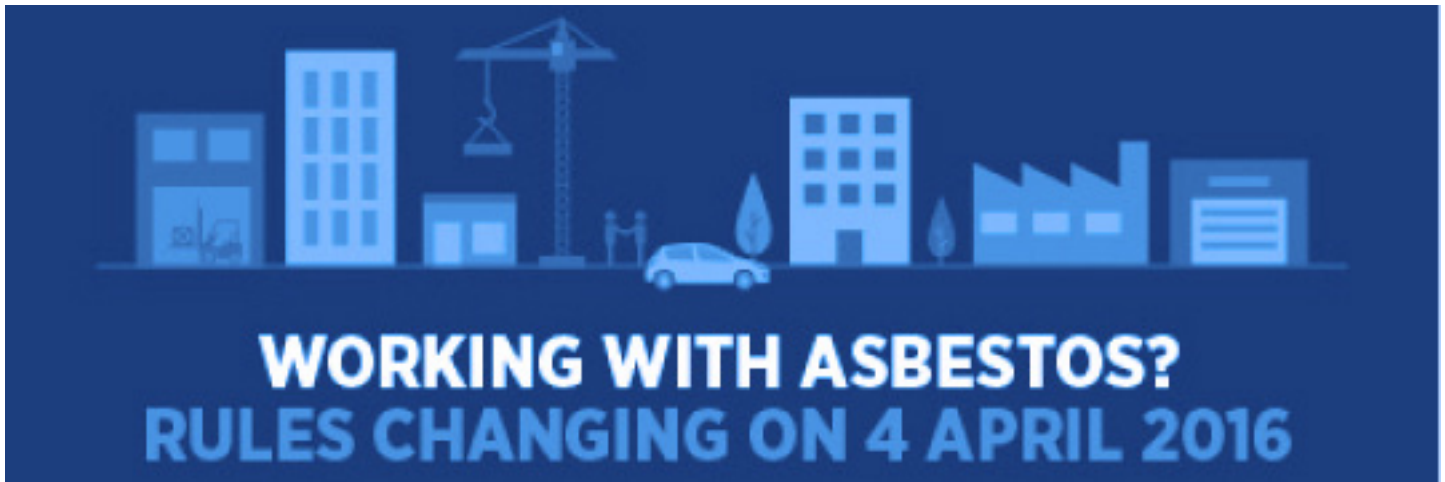
[www.pgdb.co.nz/legislation-policies/policies](http://www.pgdb.co.nz/legislation-policies/policies)

 **Guidelines to supervision**

 **Audit check list**

 **Job description template for supervision**

Or email [comms@pgdb.co.nz](mailto:comms@pgdb.co.nz) for copies.



## Play by the new rules

### HEADS-UP ON NEW NATIONWIDE LICENSING SYSTEM

**W**orking with asbestos carries well known and significant health risks. With more than 170 New Zealanders dying each year from asbestos related diseases, controls around work involving asbestos are being overhauled to keep more people safe.

#### What's changing

From 4 April 2016, the 'Health and Safety at Work Asbestos Regulations' will introduce new rules for asbestos removal and work involving asbestos.

#### Who is affected by the changes

From 4 April 2016, most asbestos removal work will require a licence. This will affect not only asbestos removal businesses, but also builders, roofers and other tradespeople who remove asbestos.

#### What you need to do now

Check the licensing page of the WorkSafe website to find out what you need to do to continue working with asbestos after 4 April 2016.

Current Certificate of Competence holders will be able to continue removing asbestos and 'act' in a supervisor role, until your certificate expires. WorkSafe do not need to approve this.

Asbestos rules change in April 2016 - three licences under new regulations:

<b>Class A</b>	<p>Any type/quantity of asbestos or asbestos containing material, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>any amount of friable asbestos or asbestos containing material (ACM)</li> <li>any amount of asbestos contaminated dust or debris (ACD)</li> <li>any amount of non-friable asbestos or ACM.</li> </ul>
<b>Class B</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any amount of non-friable asbestos or ACM.</li> <li>ACD associated with removing any amount of non-friable asbestos or ACM.</li> </ul>
<b>Asbestos Assessor</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An asbestos assessor provides air quality monitoring during removal work, inspect the finished job and provide a clearance certificate.</li> <li>A licensed Asbestos Assessor will be required to assess Class A asbestos removal work.</li> </ul>
<b>No licence required</b>	<p>Up to and including 10 m<sup>2</sup> of non-friable asbestos or ACM, cumulatively, over the whole course of the removal project for the site ACD that is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>associated with removing 10 m<sup>2</sup> or less of non-friable asbestos or ACM</li> <li>and any associated minor ACD.</li> </ul>

Go to :