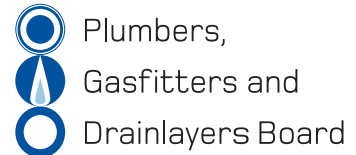


info brief

MARCH 2016 NEWSLETTER



A word from the Chair

SUBSTANDARD PRODUCT QUALITY AND INSTALLATION



The recent publicity regarding substandard products has helped educate the public that it is an authorised person they need to engage in for plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying work, and has allowed the Board to obtain some favourable publicity for the “ask for the card” campaign.

On the issue of substandard products, generally the Board considers that while there is

anecdotal evidence indicating a problem, there is a lack of research defining how big the problem is. The Board is supportive of the current research by BRANZ looking at this issue and is a member of the Multi Agency Building Industry Group facilitated by MBIE (Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment).

The Board has also contributed to funding a piece of research being conducted in Auckland by the Building Industry Federation. It will look at identifying the reason for properties in that area failing building control inspections. It is hoped that his research will identify to what extent products and/or workmanship are a problem.

It is pleasing to see the new CPD training days for 2016-17 are now starting to fill up. The Board has included the topic product

selection in this training. This is to refresh practitioners on obligations and the steps to take in verifying the suitability of products – don't forget to register.

Finally I would like to remind all practitioners to ensure they are up-to-play with supervision requirements. The Board has recently published some guidelines and I recommend that everyone revises themselves on them.

The supervision guidelines can be found at www.pgdb.co.nz/legislation-policies/policies.

Peter Jackson
Board Chair



2 | CE says the forward focus is on unauthorised work.



3 | Authorised plumber side-steps close call for rest home residents.



4 | Hunt for cowboy contractors heats up in Marlborough.

**Auckland
building
consents**

5 | Council says failed inspections can be easily avoided.



Martin Sawyers | Chief Executive



Our focus is forward

UNAUTHORISED PEOPLE ARE "EATING THE LUNCH" OF LICENSED TRADIES

One of key strategic goals identified in the Board's strategic plan focuses on the ongoing problem of unauthorised people performing sanitary plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying work.

Unauthorised persons are "eating the lunch" of hardworking licensed people, and in doing so, create a significant health and safety risk to the public. For that reason the Board has made the targeting of unauthorised work a priority and has implemented several strategies to deal with it.

The Board now has two full time investigators able to investigate and prosecute cases against unlicensed people performing restricted work. It has launched the mobile phone application RAC to allow the industry to easily report cases of unauthorised work for investigation.

The Insurance Council have helpfully issued a statement highlighting the insurance risk that unauthorised work presents to insurers, and the Board is now highlighting that issue to consumers.

The Board continues to promote the "Ask for the Card" campaign and is actively working to ensure that all territorial local authorities cooperate with the Board in targeting work that has been carried out by unauthorised persons.

We need the support of the industry to make this campaign a success

We need you to use the mobile phone application to report unauthorised work to us. We need you to display stickers on your vans highlighting the "ask for the card" campaign. Importantly, we need the industry to make sure that it has got its own house in order.

Relicensing for the 2016-17 year is open and all practitioners need to get relicensed. We know that not everyone will be able to administratively be relicensed by 1 April.

However, we consider that there is absolutely no reason why everyone shouldn't be fully relicensed by 30 April.

In past years the Board has had difficulties with many practitioners not relicensing for several months. At a lot of levels this isn't right. Importantly, with the new focus on unauthorised work, the industry must itself be licensed. I urge you to ensure that you make sure you relicense on time this year and avoid being caught up by our focus on those who are unauthorised.



RENEWING YOUR LICENCE

Relicensing opened for 2016/17 on 15 February 2016.

HERE'S HOW

- 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's website.

Or, give the licensing team a call on 0800 743 262 to request a form to be sent out to you.

Go to: www.pgdb.co.nz/licensing

Join the PGDB, The NZ Insurance Council, EQC, Consumer NZ, The Citizens Advice Bureau, www.builderscrack.co.nz, Yellow home maintenance app, national community and daily newspapers, Newstalk ZB, Radio NZ, Build & Renovate Today magazine, Progressive Building magazine, MICO Bathrooms, Plumbing World, My Plumbing Depot, licensed practitioners and local councils throughout New Zealand to help ensure the consumer is informed.



Phone 0800 743 262 or email comms@pgdb.co.nz for free promotional material. There are plenty of options available:

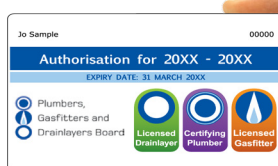
- Stickers and posters
- Consumer guides
- Website and signage imagery
- Newspaper advertisements, flyers etc

Hiring a Plumber, Gasfitter or Drainlayer?

Before you do ...

Ask to see their card to check they have our authorisation.

Without it, it's illegal for anyone to do this work in NZ.



You can also check if someone's authorised

www.pgdb.co.nz **0800 743 262**

Recent prosecutions

AUTHORISED PLUMBER SIDE-STEPS CLOSE CALL FOR REST HOME RESIDENTS

Earlier this month in the Manukau District Court, Atish Kumar of Good News Plumbing, after submitting a guilty plea, was sentenced to a \$2000 fine for carrying out restricted plumbing work without the authorisation of the PGDB at a residential care facility in Auckland.

Mr Kumar carried out sanitary plumbing work in four bathrooms at the rest home, involving toilet, shower and basin fixtures.

A registered certifying plumber and the complainant in the Boards prosecution, was engaged to repair the defects in Mr Kumar's work, side-stepping a close call for the health and safety of residents.

The defects were in the waste water pipework that was installed incorrectly – posing risk of blockage, and creating a breeding ground for bacteria, disease and health risk.

The ventilation pipe had in fact become blocked with foul water solids, stopping gases or smells from escaping, and returning them back into the dwelling.



RAC 'em up

PUT ILLEGAL OPERATORS BEHIND THE EIGHT BALL

Speed up the prosecution process

Help squeeze out illegal operators. All registered tradespeople who are engaged by consumers to repair defective work of unauthorised people, should be feeding this information directly through to the Board's investigations team using the RAC app.

Go to www.pgdb.co.nz to download.

ROTORUA MAN CAUGHT AND FINED

Murray Robinson was charged in March with doing, or assisting in doing, sanitary plumbing when not authorised at the Rotorua District Court.

Mr Robinson submitted a plea of guilty to the charge. He was consequently sentenced to \$600 in reparation, \$130 court costs and a \$113 solicitor's fee.

www.stuff.co.nz reports

HUNT FOR 'COWBOY' CONTRACTORS HEATS UP IN MARLBOROUGH

MEET THE INVESTIGATIONS TEAM



Jayson Thomas
PGDB Investigations Manager

An ex police officer with 13 years of his career spent as an investigator in the Criminal Investigation Branch, Jayson has also worked previously as a regulatory investigator for the Civil Aviation Authority before joining the Board.

Dean Wakelin
PGDB Investigator

An ex police officer with nine years investigative experience. Dean has also previously worked within the Police communications and court prosecutions environment.



DEREK FLYNN/FAIRFAX NZ

Max the Plumber owner Max Lichtnecker says 'cowboy' contractors undercut his rates and pose a risk to health and safety.

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

Rogue contractors are in the firing line as the Board ramps up its efforts to catch unlicensed operators. A recent visit to the Marlborough region by Investigations Manager, Jayson Thomas caught media attention and hit the headlines.

Jayson met with commercial operators, local practitioners, and got out and about with Marlborough District Council inspectors. Jayson also reports that he has been looking at those who have been working under an exemption licence for a long period of time without the appropriate supervision. And, that the Board is cracking down on 'cowboys' nation-wide in a bid to prevent them from undercutting licensed tradespeople and endangering the public.

WHAT THE LOCALS HAD TO SAY

Max the Plumber owner, Max Lichtnecker, said illegal work was harder to get away with in smaller towns like Blenheim, as Marlborough District Council inspectors kept a close eye on tradespeople to make sure they were registered.

However, he thought it was a good thing the Board was ramping up its efforts. On the subject of unauthorised work, Max said, "It undermines my job. I went through and did my apprenticeship, sat the exam, and these people can undercut me because they don't pay any tax."

"Members of the public need to be aware tradespeople have to be licensed, it is important they find out the dangers of employing unlicensed contractors are huge", he said.

Kevin Morgan Plumbing owner, Kevin Morgan said, "The do-it-yourself culture means many people, particularly in rural parts of Marlborough, do jobs themselves or got a local handyman to help them."

"This makes Monday the busiest day of the week, as we are often called in to fix things when something has gone wrong", he said.

Read the full scoop at:
www.stuff.co.nz/business/small-business/78306575/Hunt-for-cowboy-contractors-heats-up-in-Marlborough

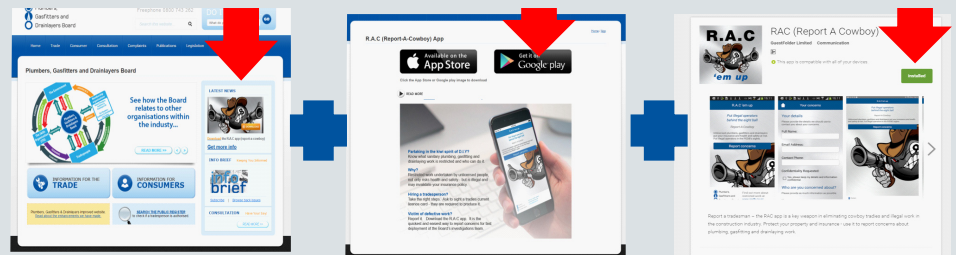
It's working - download it - use it

HELP SQUEEZE OUT ILLEGAL OPERATORS



Here's how - doing it the easy way

Go to www.pgdb.co.nz - click on the R.A.C image to start the process.



It's working. Reports are now being received through the RAC app which are highlighting hot-spot areas and deploying the investigations

team in to the areas where unauthorised work is being conducted. Make sure you download the RAC app from the Board's website.



Stop inspection delays

COUNCIL SAYS FAILED INSPECTIONS CAN BE AVOIDED

Council inspectors have been developing excellent working relationships with construction industry practitioners over the years and this has resulted in a fairly well streamlined inspection process which helps keep times and failures to a minimum. Unfortunately, it's not all smooth sailing and they do have the occasional issue which slows or holds up a job.

Re-inspections slow down and delay jobs. A lot of failed inspections can be avoided. Below are three common issues Auckland Council are seeing more of these days. Brush-up on the following requirements to avoid delays.

1. All drainage and plumbing pipework must be on test at the time of inspection. Turning up to site and finding the drainlayer hasn't filled the drains or inserted plugs yet delays the inspection.

Depending on time - this may result in the inspector having to fail the inspection and ask to have it re-booked when they are ready. This goes for plumbing pressure tests as well.

However, the Auckland Council do have a process in place where plumbers can provide a producer statement PS3 cert for this test. Unfortunately,

this PS3 cert is only for the pressure testing of plumbing and not for drainage.

2. The plumber or drainlayer license must be provided to the inspector at the time of the inspection.

Due to increasing instances of inappropriate use of licenses being identified, inspectors are only accepting a copy of a license if the practitioner can be contacted on the phone to verify their involvement in the job.

If a photocopied license is provided, the inspector will also require the license to have the specific site address written across it to avoid the copy being used on other sites.

3. As-built plans are required to be provided at the time of the inspection. Without the as-built plan being onsite, the inspector receiving it later will have no idea whether it is accurate or not. Therefore, it is important this plan is provided to the inspector at the time of inspection.

Auckland Council do understand the logistics of progressive as-builts or other reasons for withholding them and can take a copy (possibly a photo) at the inspection and leave the original onsite if needed.

DID YOU KNOW?



CPD "the new scheme"

Things just got easier

ENROL THE WHOLE TEAM WITH JUST ONE CALL

Having trouble booking the whole team in for CPD workshops for 2016/17 online?

SKILLS are now taking bulk bookings and payment details by phone.

Give them a call on 0508 SKILLS (0508 754 557) to secure spots for your team.

Don't leave it too late! Make sure you have registered. Go to:

www.pgdb.co.nz/CPD

the **skills**.organisation

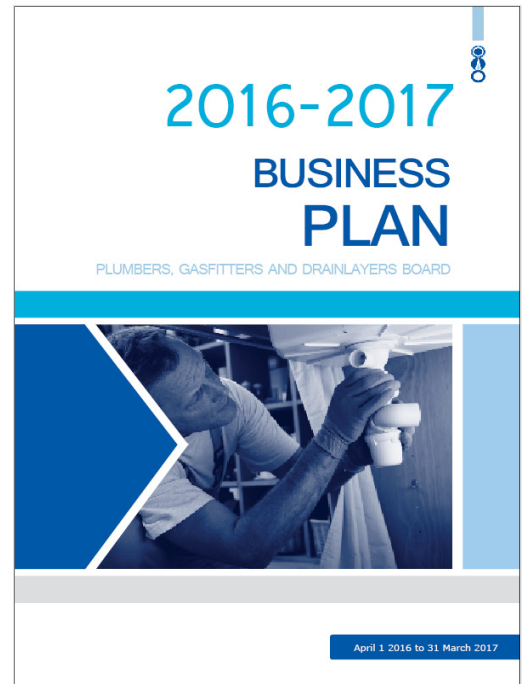
View it now

THE BOARD'S 'NEW' BUSINESS PLAN

The 2016/17 business plan has now been adopted, and is available for viewing on the Board's website.

The business plan specified the activities that will be undertaken by the Board to achieve the goals defined in its strategic plan and other associated business opportunities.

If you have any questions around the Board's business plan or strategic direction - please feel free to give the Board's Chief Executive a call on 0800 743 262.



SUPERVISION GUIDELINES

All practitioners should ensure that they are familiar with the supervision guidelines published on the Board's website at:

www.pgdb.co.nz/legislation-policies/policies

UPDATED BOARD POLICIES

The Board has updated and reviewed the following operational policies. View the updated versions at:

www.pgdb.co.nz/legislation-policies/policies

- Registration policy
- Exemptions policy
- Employer licence policy
- Complaints and discipline policy

REMINDER

Enrolments for the June 2016 round of examinations are open.

Application forms are available from the Board's exams page and tradespeople wanting to sit their certifying examinations can enrol online through their trade login.

Note paper application forms must be post-marked no later than Friday 29 April and online enrolments for certifying examinations will close at 5pm on Saturday 30 April.



TAKE A LOOK Supervision BOARD APPROVED GUIDELINES

All practitioners should ensure that they are familiar with the supervision guidelines published on the Board's website at:

www.pgdb.co.nz/legislation-policies/policies



Product testing

SUPPORTING DIVERSE INDUSTRIES



As you probably know, recently the media has focused on substandard plumbing supplies entering New Zealand.

In light of this Hayes Laboratories would like to inform the industry that they perform IANZ accredited composition and dezincification testing on brass fittings as well as other tests.

If you would like peace of mind by completing some quality testing feel free to contact them.

See their our website for our full scope of testing and contact details - www.hayeslabs.co.nz.



Employment agreement builder

WHY HAS IT BEEN DEVELOPED?

EAB is an online tool that makes it easy for small businesses to create an employment agreement.

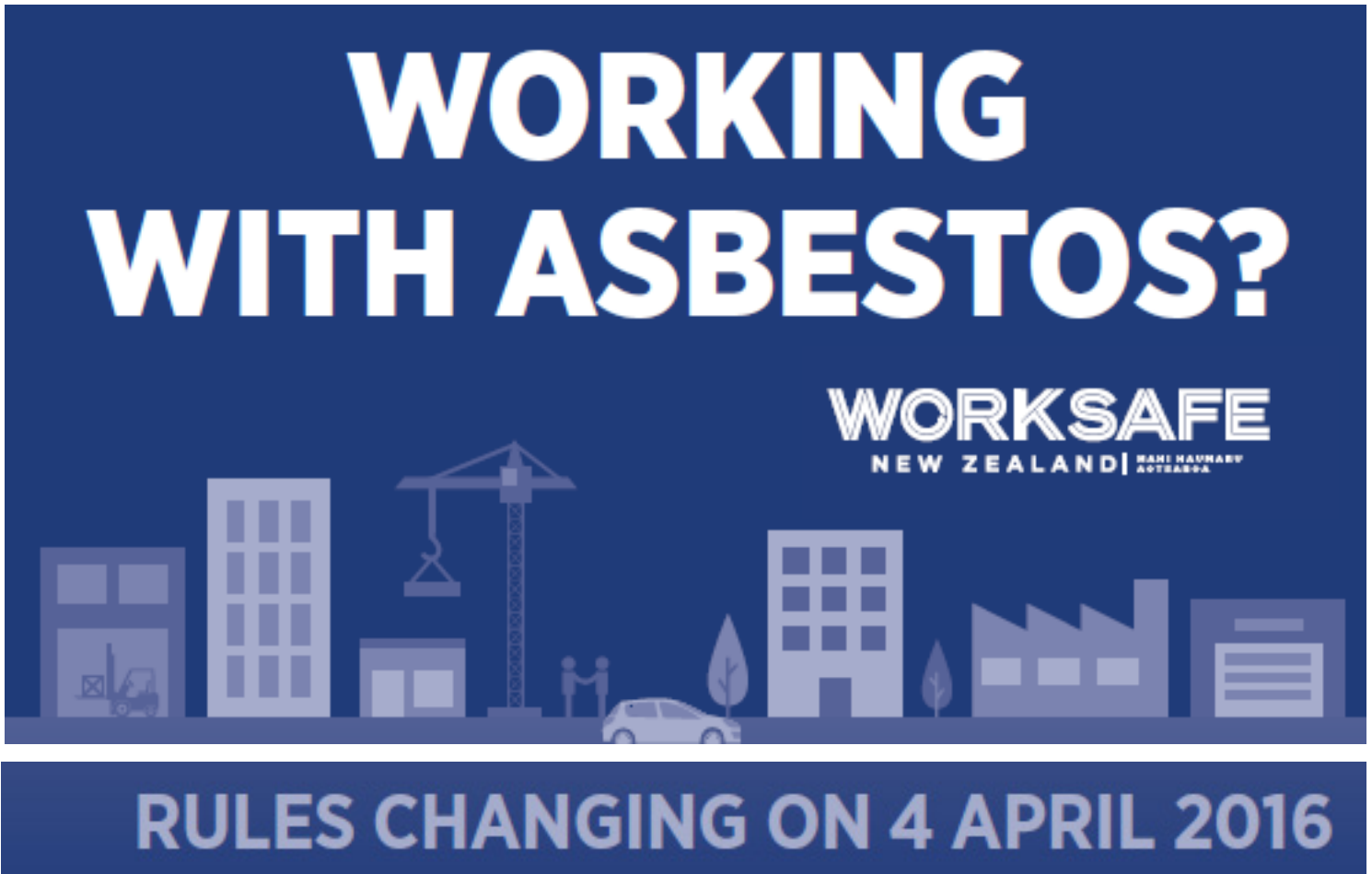
Business.govt.nz have created it because employment is a real pain point for small businesses. By making it easy to create employment agreements, they're making it easier for small businesses to get their employment relationships off to a good start, and meet the legal requirement for all staff to have one.

EAB makes it easy to draft an employment agreement that is tailored to the business and the person you are employing. EAB is:

- packed with tips and information to help small business decide what to put in an agreement - and what not to put in it
- covers what you must do by law, and also sets out common mistakes made and how to avoid them
- easy to use even on a mobile device.

Check it out at:

Go to: <http://dol.govt.nz/tools/employment-agreementbuilder>



What do I need to know? | Do I need one?

Find out everything you need to know about the new licences for asbestos removal, who needs one. Find out how a removal licence works, the role of a supervisor and how to apply at the trade section of the Board's website here: www.pgdb.co.nz/trade

OR

Phone 0800 743 262 or email comms@pgdb.co.nz to have the information sent out to you in the post.

ITEM	FEE PAYABLE (INCL GST)	NOTES
Application for Class A asbestos licence (Each licence must have at least one nominated supervisor on it - see cost below)	\$490	Licence valid for five years
Nominated Supervisor in Class A asbestos licence application	\$470	Each Supervisor
Application for Class B asbestos licence (Each licence must have at least one nominated supervisor on it - see cost below)	\$490	Licence valid for five years
Nominated Supervisor in Class B asbestos licence application	\$80	Each Supervisor
Application to add a new nominated Supervisor to Class A asbestos removal licence	\$550	