



Gasfitters



New legislation means some changes to the way plumbers, gasfitters and drainlayers can operate.

The new Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Act comes into force on 1 April 2010.
This means:

- improved public health and safety by reducing the risk of unsafe work being carried out
- more opportunities for qualified, competent tradesmen

Broader definition of gasfitting

The new Act now also covers gas appliances which are:

- fitted into ships, boats, caravans, trains and any other vehicles
- fixed within homes and supplied by gas bottles of any size.

Work on all of these appliances can now only legally be done by a licensed gasfitter.

The main exception to this is portable gas appliances which have the gas bottle attached. These include barbecues, indoor cabinet heaters and patio heaters.

Some other specialist work is also exempt. See the definition of gasfitting in the new Act at www.legislation.govt.nz for details.



For more information go to
www.pgdb.co.nz

Owners who are having installation or servicing done must ensure the person doing the work holds a gasfitting licence. This is not only for safety and property protection, but also because insurance cover may be invalidated if damage is the result of gasfitting work undertaken illegally by an unlicensed person.

What is changing from 1 April 2010?



A change of licence name from 'craftsman gasfitter' to **'certifying gasfitter'**

A change of licence name from 'registered gasfitter' to **'licensed gasfitter'**

Limited certificates

For workers not in formal training, limited certificates are replaced with a new exemption type called 'exemption for gasfitting under supervision'.

For the first two years, exempt workers must work 'in the presence of' the certifying gasfitter who supervises them, or a licensed gasfitter who is supervised by the same certifying gasfitter. Following this the certifying gasfitter must continue to supervise people working under this exemption type.

Time served under a 'limited certificate' prior to the introduction of the new 'exemption under supervision' counts towards the two year requirement.

Exempt workers must not work on any appliance connected to a gas supply and their work must be tested and certified by a certifying gasfitter before being connected to the gas supply.

The certifying gasfitter is responsible for notifying the Board and paying the required fee (which is the same as for the previous limited certificate) for all exempt workers they supervise.

Limited certificate trainees (apprentices)

Limited certificates for those in formal training remain largely unchanged. However, for the first year these trainees are required to work 'in the presence' of the certifying gasfitter who supervises them, or a licensed gasfitter who is supervised by the same gasfitter. Following this the certifying gasfitter must continue to supervise these trainees.

Certifying gasfitter supervision responsibilities

Certifying gasfitters are the only people who can supervise licensed gasfitters, limited certificate holders and exempt workers. The certifying gasfitter must have sufficient control and direction of all work to ensure:

- the work is performed competently
- appropriate safety measures are adopted while the work is being done
- the completed work complies with regulations under the Gas Act 1992.

When a gas certificate is required, the certifying gasfitter supervising the work is responsible for issuing the gas certificate once they are satisfied the work meets the above requirements.

Where testing is necessary to ensure the work meets the requirements of the gas regulations, the certifying gasfitter is responsible for the testing and certification of work done by people under their supervision.

A certifying gasfitter must notify the Board if they do not intend to supervise someone they have previously supervised. They continue to be responsible for the supervised person's work until this notification is received.

Requirement to carry a licence card

Consumers are encouraged to see a licence card before they engage someone to do gasfitting work. All certifying and licensed gasfitters, as well as limited certificate holders and exempt workers, must carry their card and produce it on demand. This is to reassure customers that their work is being carried out by a professional.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Gasfitters are currently required to complete 16 points per year to qualify to hold a licence. This will continue to be the case for the year to April 2011.

All plumbers, gasfitters and drainlayers will need to earn CPD points prior to 1 April 2012 in order for their licences to be renewed.

The following shows the new requirement for CPD points:

Licence held	Minimum technical points required per licence	Minimum total points
Gasfitting	8	12
Gasfitting and plumbing or drainlaying (two licences)	16 (8 per licence)	20
Gasfitting, plumbing and drainlaying (three licences)	24 (8 per licence)	24

Always carry your card

