



Drainlayers

## 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



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# Aligning drainlaying with gasfitting and plumbing

**The existing two-tier licence system for gasfitters and plumbers is being introduced for drainlayers. Names for the two-tiers however change with 'craftsman' becoming 'certifying' and 'registered' changing to 'licensed'.**

**All existing registered drainlaying licence holders will be eligible to be re-licensed as a certifying drainlayer but must satisfy the Board that they have sufficient experience and proficiency in drainlaying work.**

## Limited certificates

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

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

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

The certifying drainlayer 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 drainlayer who supervises them, or a licensed drainlayer who is supervised by the same certifying drainlayer. Following this the certifying drainlayer must continue to supervise these trainees.

## Certifying drainlayer supervision responsibilities

Certifying drainlayers are the only people who can supervise licensed drainlayers, limited certificate holders and exempt workers. The certifying drainlayer 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 the Building Code.

Where testing is necessary to ensure the work meets the requirements of the Building Code, the certifying drainlayer is responsible for the testing and verification of work done by people under their supervision. Typical tests required are described in G13 and AS/NZS 3500.

**A certifying drainlayer must notify the Board if they do not intend to continue 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 will be encouraged to ask to see a licence card before they engage someone to do drainlaying work. All certifying and licensed drainlayers, 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

The requirement for craftsman and registered gasfitters to demonstrate competence on an annual basis through completion of Board approved CPD programmes has been in place for several years. Generally one hour of participation in an approved CPD programme earns the gasfitter one CPD point.

The CPD requirement is now extended to plumbers and drainlayers who will have two years to gain the required points prior to 1 April 2012, in order to renew their licence.

The following shows the new requirement for CPD points:

Licence held	Minimum technical points required per licence	Minimum total points
Drainlaying	8	12
Drainlaying and plumbing or gasfitting	8 (16 total)	20
Drainlaying, plumbing and gasfitting	8 (24 total)	24

**Always carry your card**

