

PGD ACT COMES INTO FORCE 1 APRIL 2010

From 1 April 2010 some very important changes to the rules covering plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying work will come into force with the full implementation of the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Act 2006.

These changes are primarily aimed at improving public health and safety but they will also provide greater opportunities for qualified competent practitioners, while reducing the possibility of unsafe work being done by incompetent operators.

Following extensive industry consultation in 2007, and again in 2009, the Minister has accepted the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board (PGDB)'s recommendations on a wide variety of matters including changing the names of the main licence classes.

There will be two classes of practitioner for each discipline. Those currently known as 'registered', will be described as

'licensed'. This is intended to better reflect the fact that they have a licence to practise, rather than simply being registered, which is a status that applies to other categories of non-qualified persons on the register.

The other class currently known as 'craftsman' will be described as 'certifying', as this better reflects the current role of certifying gasfitters and allows for the possibility that plumbers and drainlayers may in the future be able to certify their work.

The PGDB is currently finalising details of some other new requirements, taking into account submissions received in the most recent consultation period which ended 26 January this year. The main proposed changes are:

- A new requirement for continuing professional development for plumbers and drainlayers – for example a few hours per year attending courses or seminars.
- Requirement for non-trainees currently working under a limited certificate to now work under an exemption.
- Clarification of requirements for supervision and testing of work.
- Requiring licence cards to be carried by all practitioners.

The PGDB will be contacting every licensed practitioner prior to 1 April to explain the changes and to ensure practitioners know what they need to do to meet any new requirements that affect them. We will be covering more detail about the changes in the next edition of the *Journal*. ■

The PGDB's latest annual report for the year-ended 31 March 2009 is now available for download at www.pgdb.co.nz, as is the 2008 annual report.



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