



**Master
Plumbers®**
Representing Excellence

ADVOCACY



Master Plumbers, Gasfitters & Drainlayers NZ is a non-profit membership-based organisation that advocates on behalf of nationwide member businesses.

Collectively, these businesses represent the majority of registered plumbers, gasfitters and drainlayers in the residential and commercial sectors.



Our members play a significant role in protecting the health of New Zealanders by contributing to the delivery of clean water and the removal of waste.

Master Plumbers actively seek to help address current skills shortages by increasing the number of plumbing businesses taking on apprentices. This will ensure skills are passed on to the next generation of plumbers, gasfitters and drainlayers.

We make it our priority to advocate for members on all plumbing issues that impact their business or public health and safety.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G. Wallace". The signature is fluid and cursive.

CEO
Master Plumbers, Gasfitters & Drainlayers NZ Inc

SELF-CERTIFICATION FOR PLUMBERS AND DRAINLAYERS

Current situation

Gasfitters and electricians self-certify their work, whilst plumbers and drainlayers must get local authority sign-off for work that requires a plumbing consent.

Our position

- The ability for plumbers and drainlayers to self-certify would eliminate the significant time delays this causes, increasing efficiency and helping lower building costs.
- It would also bring consistency across the plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying trades.

WE WANT

⇒ Plumbers and drainlayers to be able to self-certify their work.





QUALITY OF PLUMBING PRODUCTS

Current situation

There is no regulatory regime for plumbing products being sold in the New Zealand market.

Our position

- Master Plumbers is concerned for public health and safety. With no monitoring or enforcement framework for plumbing products sold either in store or online, there is significant risk of faulty, substandard and poorly performing products being installed in New Zealand buildings.
- We have carried out independent testing on a random selection of tapware sold in New Zealand. This showed one product to be leaching lead 70% higher than accepted levels in the drinking-water product standard.
- Unacceptably high levels of lead in substandard plumbing tapware is a particular health risk.

WE WANT

- ⇒ The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) to introduce mandatory independent third-party verification for plumbing products and compliance to be enforced at point of sale.

PLUMBERS, GASFITTERS, AND DRAINLAYERS (PGD) ACT REVIEW

Current situation

The PGD Act sets out the restrictions on sanitary plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying work. It is in the process of a government review, which is seven years overdue and keeps being delayed.

Our position

- Master Plumbers is acting in the interests of our industry.
- We survey our members for feedback and this informs our submissions to government.

WE WANT

- ⇒ The Review to occur and be completed.
- ⇒ A compulsory product standards regime to be introduced under the Act.



REFORM OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION (RoVE)

Current situation

The Ministry of Education have announced major reforms for apprentice training in their RoVE review. Proposed changes include the creation of a single national institute with a network of regional polytechnic campuses.

Our position

- The existing model needs reform.
- Issues including tutor shortages, substandard facilities and a lack of innovative training methods to convey rapidly evolving technologies must be addressed.
- With critical plumbing skills shortages in New Zealand, we do not want any reforms to discourage employers from taking on apprentices.
- We are working with Master Builders and Master Electricians to present collaborative industry feedback as the reforms are implemented.

WE WANT

- ⇒ The best outcome for industry apprentices in world-class facilities.
- ⇒ Industry-led training delivered by high-quality, innovative and financially viable providers.

CONSTRUCTION SECTOR ACCORD

Current situation

The Construction Sector Accord is a government and industry partnership. Its focus is on improving government procurement practices, consent processes and the building regulatory framework.

Our position

- The Construction Sector Accord is a positive step.
- We are working closely with other industry stakeholders to improve the construction sector and welcome the opportunity to work more closely with government.

WE WANT

- ⇒ Changes made to the Construction Contracts Act (CCA) including best practice for retentions to be made compulsory.
- ⇒ Enforced CCA compliance with penalties imposed on contractors who do not comply.
- ⇒ To ensure the aims and outcomes of the Construction Sector Accord flow through to subcontractors.





BUILDING SYSTEM LEGISLATIVE REFORM

Current situation

The Government is proposing major changes to New Zealand's building laws. These are the most significant reforms since the current Building Act was introduced in 2004.

Proposals include the removal of householder and plumbing work under supervision exemptions and the reform also looks to strengthen the existing building product certification scheme.

Our position

- We are advocating on behalf of our members for the changes they would like to be made to strengthen our industry and protect consumers from substandard work and/or products.
- We welcome the building product proposals but believe plumbing product certification should be addressed as a matter of urgency due to potential consumer health risks.

WE WANT

- ⇒ The removal of sanitary plumbing work exemptions.
- ⇒ The introduction of plumbing product certification as a matter of urgency.

LEGIONELLA MANAGEMENT

Current situation

A 2019 Otago University study report has revealed New Zealand to have the world's highest number of reported cases of Legionnaires' disease. Legionella bacteria in plumbing infrastructure in buildings pose a serious risk to public health.

Our position

- Mandatory Legionella testing and management of plumbing systems is a matter of urgency in light of the new data, which showed that 22 per cent of reported cases of Legionnaires' disease were caused by water-borne strains of Legionella bacteria.
- Any regime must include regular water testing and maintenance programmes.

WE WANT

- ⇒ The Government to implement mandatory Legionella testing for all private and public high-risk facilities in New Zealand.
- ⇒ High-risk facilities to be required to have nationally-consistent maintenance programmes in place to minimise the risk of bacteria and treat any detected contamination.

