

Building and Plumbing Newsflash 551

Changes to the licence requirements for getting an open occupational plumbers and/or drainers licence

Purpose

From 1 April 2016, the licence requirements for getting an open plumbers and/or drainers licence have now changed.

Background

On 29 January 2016, the Queensland Building and Construction Commission and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (QBCCOLAR) was made. The QBCCOLAR contained a range of amendments including changes to the *Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003* (PDR) to make it easier for provisional plumbers and drainers to upgrade to an open occupational licence (an open licence).

Pre-commencement date—1 April 2016

Previously if a person completed:

- a Certificate III in Plumbing or a Certificate II in Drainage, and could demonstrate they had either completed an apprenticeship or had 12 months practical trade experience, they could apply for a provisional plumbing and/ or drainers licence
- a person could only apply for an open occupational licence if they had completed the required units from Certificate IV in Plumbing and Services and completed 12 months trade experience as a provisional licence holder
- once an open occupational licence was obtained and the applicant had meet the financial requirement as specified by the Queensland Building Construction Commission (QBCC), the holder of an open licence would then be eligible for a plumbing or drainage contractor or nominee supervisor licence.

Issue

Many provisional plumbers and drainers chose not to complete the Certificate IV units and, as such, were unable to obtain an open licence, even if they had extensive industry experience.

Changes

From 1 April 2016, the Government's licensing changes will recognise the experience of long-serving provisional plumbers and drainers by allowing them to upgrade their licence. These changes will not affect the high standard of work expected of plumbers and drainers.

Provisional plumbers and drainers must still accrue one year's practical trade experience before upgrading to an open occupational licence, however it will no longer be a requirement to obtain a Certificate IV before being eligible for an open occupational licence.

Only plumbers and drainers who have undertaken the Certificate IV units will be eligible for a contractor's licence. In this way, the contractor's licence will act as an acknowledgement of those plumbers and drainers who have completed the Certificate IV units.

Applications for plumbing and or a drainage licences are made through the QBCC.

Contact for further information

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