

Building and Plumbing Newsflash

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Licensing requirements for the installation of fire collars

Purpose

To advise of changes to the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Regulation 2018 (the Regulation) to clarify that plumbers and some other trades can install fire collars in Queensland without being required to hold an additional Queensland Building and Construction Commission (QBCC) licence.

Background

Fire collars are used to maintain the integrity and fire insulating rating of a penetrated wall, ceiling or floor of a building. Typically, the installation of a fire collar is required where a fire-rated wall or floor is penetrated by cable, ductwork or pipework to allow for the passage of services (e.g. plumbing services).

The installation of a fire collar is critical, as without it, the penetration will reduce the fire rating of the wall, ceiling or floor by providing a pathway for fire to spread beyond the compartmentation which is intended to contain it.

Historically, the Department of Housing and Public Works (the department) and the QBCC have advised the industry that plumbers may install fire collars in particular circumstances. However, there has been recent uncertainty within the industry about whether plumbers and other relevant trades are required to hold an additional QBCC licence for this work.

The QBCC and the department have worked closely with key industry stakeholders to resolve any uncertainty and clarify the intent of the licensing requirements.

What are the changes?

The scopes of work for particular contractor licences under the Regulation have been updated to include the installation of fire collars. However, this is limited to fire collars that are incidental to work being performed by the licensee. For example, a plumber can fit a fire collar as part of a plumbing pipe installation but is unable to seal penetrations made by an electrician to install cabling.

The changes apply to the following licence classes:

- Part 18 - Plumbing and drainage
- Part 25 - Special hazard suppression systems
- Part 26 - Sprinkler and suppression systems (reticulated water-based)
- Part 30 - Fire detection, alarm and warning systems
- Part 36 - Gas-fitting
- Part 47 - Refrigeration, air conditioning and mechanical services including unlimited design



- Part 48 - Refrigeration, air conditioning and mechanical services including limited design
- New Part 47 - Mechanical Services – medical gas (from 1 January 2020 only)
- New Part 48 - Mechanical Services – plumbing (from 1 January 2020 only)
- New Part 48A - Mechanical Services – air-conditioning and refrigeration (unlimited design) (from 1 January 2020 only)
- New Part 48B - Mechanical Services – air-conditioning and refrigeration (limited design) (from 1 January 2020 only).

The Regulation has also been amended to clarify that those installing electrical, data or communications cabling do not need a separate QBCC licence to install fire collars that are incidental to their work.

There are no changes to the scopes of work for existing occupational licences e.g. plumbing occupational licences. As the installation of fire collars is currently 'building work', employees and subcontractors do not need to be licensed if the building work is carried out for a licensed contractor.

When do the changes take effect?

The changes take effect 13 December 2019.

More information

To find out more about the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Regulation 2018, please visit the [Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel website](#).

Contact us

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