

Plumbing rules tougher

The Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayer's Act has been fully implemented, bringing in a legal requirement for people working in the industry to carry a licence card while on the job.

Chairwoman of the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board, Hazel Armstrong, welcomes the act's full implementation and is pleased that all people involved in plumbing, gasfitting or drainlaying work are now required to carry a licence card.

"We encourage people to ask tradespeople for their licence card. This will give customers an assurance that the work is being legally carried out by an authorised and competent tradesperson who is currently licensed by the board," Ms Armstrong said.

"The mandatory requirement for tradespeople to carry their cards will give homeowners more assurance about the competency of the practitioners involved in the industry, leading to greater protection of public health and safety," she said.

If a person is required to be supervised, the name and registration number of their supervisor is printed on the reverse side of the card.

"It's important that the public has confidence in the tradespeople they engage and the industry itself has better monitoring and competency programmes.

"If a homeowner or building inspector

believes work has been done by someone who is not authorised, or has any other concerns about the competency of tradespeople, they can make a complaint to the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board.

"The act creates more opportunities for competent licensed practitioners by making it harder for those who are unauthorised to continue to operate. The requirements for supervision and testing have also been clarified."

Minister for Building and Construction Maurice Williamson said recently at the Master Plumber's Conference:

"We need to provide ways for practitioners to remain competent and in turn, this gives consumers more confidence in practitioners' skills," Mr Williamson said.

"I am looking for individual practitioners, employers and the industry as a whole to step up, be accountable and take responsibility for itself."

A publicly accessible register of tradespeople is available on the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board website at pgdb.co.nz.

A public education campaign is planned for later this year to inform the public of what they should expect when they engage plumbers, gasfitters or drainlayers.



Quality control: Plumbers, gasfitters and drainlayers now have to carry a licence