

Licence cards mandatory for tradesmen

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

Chairperson 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, from 1 April, 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," said Ms Armstrong.

"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."

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

"We need to provide ways for practitioners to remain competent, this gives consumers more confidence in practitioner's skills.

"I am looking for individual practition-

ers, employers and the industry as a whole to step up, be accountable and take responsibility for itself," Maurice Williamson said.

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