

- Plumbers,
- Gasfitters and
- Drainlayers Board



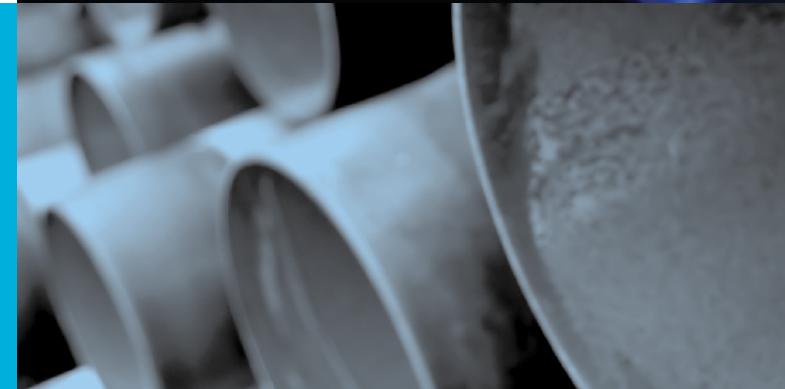
New legislation means some changes to the way plumbers, gasfitters and drainlayers can operate.

The new Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Act comes into force on 1 April 2010. This means:

- improved public health and safety by reducing the risk of unsafe work being carried out
- more opportunities for qualified, competent tradesmen

There have been a few changes to supervision and testing requirements under the new Act. This document explains those requirements to make sure that certifying practitioners understand their responsibilities.

For more information go to
www.pgdb.co.nz



Changes to licence names



| Description under old legislation | Description under new legislation |
|---|---|
| Craftsman Plumber | Certifying Plumber |
| Craftsman Gasfitter | Certifying Gasfitter |
| (not existing) | Certifying Drainlayer |
| Registered Plumber | Licensed Plumber |
| Registered Gasfitter | Licensed Gasfitter |
| Registered Drainlayer | Licensed Drainlayer |
| Limited Certificate Apprentice Plumber | Limited Certificate Trainee Plumber |
| Limited Certificate Apprentice Gasfitter | Limited Certificate Trainee Gasfitter |
| Limited Certificate Apprentice Drainlayer | Limited Certificate Trainee Drainlayer |
| Limited Certificate Plumber | Exemption Plumbing under supervision |
| Limited Certificate Gasfitter | Exemption Gasfitting under supervision |
| Limited Certificate Drainlayer | Exemption Drainlaying under supervision |

Which practitioners must be supervised?

All licensed practitioners (previously known as 'registered'), limited certificate holders and exempt workers (exemption under supervision) must be supervised by a certifying practitioner.



What does supervision mean?

The certifying practitioner must have sufficient control and direction of all work done by licensed practitioners, limited certificate holders and exempt workers to ensure that:

- (a) work is performed competently; and
- (b) while work is undertaken, appropriate safety measures are adopted; and
- (c) completed work complies with the requirements of
 - (i) regulations; and
 - (ii) in the case of sanitary plumbing and drainlaying, regulations under the Building Act 2004; and
 - (iii) in the case of gasfitting, regulations under the Gas Act 1992.

Testing

Where testing is necessary to meet the requirements of the Building Code or the gas regulations this testing is the responsibility of the certifying practitioner. Typical tests required are described within the following documents:

| | |
|-------------|---------------------|
| Plumbing | G12 and AS/NZS 3500 |
| Gasfitting | NZ 5261 |
| Drainlaying | G13 and AS/NZS 3500 |

Testing may be undertaken by licensed practitioners and limited certificate holders. However, regardless of who does the testing, the certifying practitioner has ultimate responsibility for ensuring the work is performed competently, and the completed work complies with regulations and legislation. When gasfitting work requires a gas certificate, the certifying gasfitter supervising the work must issue the gas certificate.

A certifying practitioner must notify the Board if they do not intend to continue to supervise someone that they have previously agreed to supervise. They continue to be responsible for the supervised persons work until this notification is received.



Additional requirement for limited certificate holders and exempt workers

In addition to the ongoing responsibility of the certifying practitioner to supervise limited certificate holders and exempt workers, for an initial period these people must also work in the presence of an appropriately qualified person.

Those working under an 'exemption under supervision' must, for their first two years, work 'in the presence of' the certifying practitioner who supervises them, or a licensed practitioner who is supervised by the same certifying practitioner. Time served under a 'limited certificate' prior to the introduction of the new 'exemption under supervision' counts towards this two year requirement.

Trainee limited certificates holders are also now required, for their first year, to work 'in the presence of' the certifying practitioner who supervises them, or a licensed practitioner who is supervised by the same certifying practitioner.

Furthermore, gasfitting exempt workers must not work on any appliance connected to a gas supply. Once completed, their work must be tested, certified and connected to the gas supply by a certifying gasfitter.