Plumbers,
Gasfitters and
Drainlayers Board

Consultation

Proposal to update the registration competencies for each trade and to change the names of the registration classes

Registration competencies and names consultation

Introduction

The purpose of this consultation is to seek your views on two matters:

- proposed changes to the plumbing, gasfitting, and drainlaying core competencies.
- changing the names of the current registration classes; Journeyman, Tradesman and Certifying.

These are discussed in two parts below.

Part 1 – review of the registration competencies

The Board sets registration competencies

The Board is responsible for setting the prescribed minimum standards for each class of registration in each of the trades[1]. Those standards include standards relating to competency (the registration competencies).

The Board's registration and licensing notices contain the current registration competencies. They set out the required skills, knowledge, experience, and understanding a practitioner must be able to demonstrate through the Board's registration exams to become registered in each class.

Copies of the registration and licensing notices can be found on the Board's website under Gazette notices.

The Board has reviewed the registration competencies

The Board has reviewed the registration competencies. The purpose of the review was to assess whether they were current, comprehensive, and fit for purpose.

The Board worked with groups of practitioners to go through the competencies and considered the following questions:

- Did the competencies cover all the fundamental knowledge and skills a practitioner requires to practice safely at the tradesman and certifier levels?
- Did the competencies allow for changes in technology, practice, and circumstances?
- Are there other skills or knowledge practitioners at those levels should be gaining that would contribute to them practising in a safe and competent manner?
- Are any of the competencies causing any problems for apprentices and/or practitioners?
- Is there anything else the Board should consider in relation to the competencies?
- is there anything the Board should do to futureproof the competencies?

[1] Section 30(1)(a) of the Plumbers, Gasfitters, and Drainlayers Act 2006.

Changes to the competencies

As a result of its review, the Board is proposing some minor changes to the registration competencies. Those changes are:

- simplifying descriptions used in the competencies
- modernising terminology
- re-ordering the competencies into a logical and consistent order
- introducing a competency relating to the efficient use of natural resources
- introducing a competency relates to working in a regulated occupation (this expands on an existing competency).

A copy of the registration competencies for each trade are attached with the proposed changes included in **red**.

Understanding the competencies

When you read through the competencies for tradesmen and certifiers in each trade you will see a lot of repetition or crossover between the two levels of registration. This is intentional.

The key differences between the levels of registration where the competencies are the same are:

- the competencies at the tradesman level related to *"the installation, identification, testing, commissioning, fault-finding, and maintenance"* of systems, while the competencies at the certifier level relate to *"the design, management, installation, identification, and verification/certification"* of systems
- certifier competencies build on tradesman competencies.

Part 2 – names for registration classes

Names of registration classes

There are currently three classes of registration for plumbers, gasfitters, and drainlayers:

- **Journeyman**. This is for those who have completed the level 4 National Certificate in plumbing, gasfitting, and/or drainlaying (which is no longer offered), third stage block course, or the practice certificate in their trade but **have not** passed the tradesman registration exam. Journeyman are required to work under supervision.
- **Tradesman.** This is for those who have completed the National Certificate in their trade and/or New Zealand Certificate in their trade **and passed** the tradesman registration exam. It is also possible to become a Tradesman with overseas qualifications and experience, as well as completing an assessment in New Zealand. Tradesmen are required to work under supervision, but less than a Journeyman, and in some circumstances can be nominated to supervise others.
- **Certifier.** This is for those who have held a tradesman licence in their trade for 24 months and passed the certifier registration exam. It is also possible to become a Certifying plumber/gasfitter/drainlayer with overseas qualifications and experience, as well as completing an assessment in New Zealand. Certifiers provide supervision for Journeymen and Tradesmen, and in limited circumstances can certify completed work.

Three issues have been raised with the Board about current registration class names:

- *Journeyman* and *Tradesman* are not gender inclusive, and ignore that women are plumbers, gasfitters and drainlayers.
- Current registration names do not make it clear to consumers what work practitioners are allowed to do, and under what level of supervision.
- *Certifying* is not reflective of the work done by *Certifiers* because their main function is to supervise and oversee work, and in many instances they cannot certify works.

Proposed new names for registration classes

The Board considered several options for change in response to the issues before settling on the options your views are being sought on. Registration class names used in Australia, the UK, South Africa and Canada were looked at to come up with alternatives that solve the issues raised.

In all of these countries, a similar tiered system was used for practitioners to enter into the plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying professions and then progress to higher classes of registration that come with more responsibility.

In summary:

- all countries reviewed had moved to gender-neutral terms (apart from *Journeyman* being in use in the UK, although by a membership body not a regulator)
- the concept of "certifying" work was not in use in the countries reviewed.

The table below shows the options for you to provide feedback to the Board on. To be clear, the Board is not considering changes to the requirements that need to be met to obtain the three

registration classes, the supervision requirements, or other limitations of the registration classes. This consultation is only about the registration class names.

Current	Journeyman Plumber Journeyman Gasfitter Journeyman Drainlayer	Tradesman Plumber Tradesman Gasfitter Tradesman Drainlayer	Certifying Plumber Certifying Gasfitter Certifying Drainlayer
Option one	Journeyperson Plumber Journeyperson Gasfitter Journeyperson Drainlayer	Tradesperson Plumber Tradesperson Gasfitter Tradesperson Drainlayer	Certifying Plumber Certifying Gasfitter Certifying Drainlayer
Option two	Restricted Plumber Restricted Gasfitter Restricted Drainlayer	Plumber Gasfitter Drainlayer	Certifying Plumber Certifying Gasfitter Certifying Drainlayer

Part 3 – Proposals and feedback on the proposals

What the Board is proposing

The Board is making two proposals in this consultation document:

1. The registration competencies for each trade are updated to include the recommended changes.
2. The names of the registration classes are changed to either option one or option two.

Seeking your feedback on the proposals

Before the Board makes a final decision on the content of the registration competencies and the names of the registration classes, it is seeking your feedback.

Do you support the Board's proposals above? If not why not?

Complete the consultation document below and tell the Board your views. The Board will then consider the feedback it receives before making a final decision.

Next steps after consultation and analysis – decision making and notification

Once all feedback has been received, the Board will consider that feedback and make final decisions. Decisions will be communicated to practitioners and a summary of the key themes and feedback will be uploaded to its website.

Consent to share non-personal information

By providing us with your feedback, you consent to us publishing anonymised information from your submission on the Board's website unless you advise us otherwise. Please note the Board is subject to the Official Information Act 1982 and so your feedback may be the subject of a request under that Act.

Privacy Statement

The Privacy Act 2020 establishes principles for the collection, use and disclosure of information about individuals by various agencies, including the Board. Any personal information you supply in providing feedback will be used only for the purpose of:

• making decisions in relation to the fees and levy proposals in this document

• to inform our approach to any future consultations on fees and levies.

Part 4 – Have your say

Proposal one

The registration competencies for each trade are updated to include the recommended changes.

Proposal two

The names of the registration classes are changed to option one or option two

The consultation period on the proposed fees runs from 22 September to 13 October 2023.

You can provide feedback by:

- Completing the online form at www.pgdb.co.nz/trade/consultation (preferred option)
- By sending an email to consultation@pgdb.co.nz
- Mailing your comments to: The Registrar

  Plumbers, Gasfitters, and Drainlayers Board

  PO Box 10655

  Wellington 6143

Include your contact details

Name, registration number (if applicable), organisation, email, phone

Ngā mihi

Thank you for your submission.

The Board appreciates the time you have taken to make your comments and can assure you that they will be carefully considered.