



# Plumbing newsflash number 462

## Flood recovery work—plumbing, drainage and on-site waste water management systems

### Purpose

To advise on emergency plumbing, drainage and waste water management systems work; and arrangements in place for the licensing of interstate plumbers and drainers.

### Background

The *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002* (PDA) and Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003 provides that regulated plumbing, drainage and on-site sewage/greywater treatment plant work must be completed by an appropriately licensed person.

Before regulated work commences licensed persons must obtain a permit and the work must be assessed upon completion in accordance with the Standard Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003 (SPDR).

### Issues

#### Licensing

Defective plumbing and drainage work poses serious risks posed to health and safety and defects can cause significant damage to buildings. Using licensed plumbers and drainers will help ensure that plumbing and drainage work complies with regulations so as to minimise risks to health and safety. In addition Queensland's plumbing regulator, the Plumbing Industry Council can compel licensees to rectify defective work.

The PDA provides that it is an offence for a person to:

- perform regulated work unless the person has a licence to undertake the work and
- direct or supervise the performance of work without having the appropriate licence to undertake the work.

If you are unsure whether a tradesperson who is performing plumbing, drainage or on-site sewage/greywater treatment plant work is appropriately licensed, please contact the Plumbing Industry Council phone +61 7 3235 4149, free call 1800 682 021 or email [plumbers@dip.qld.gov.au](mailto:plumbers@dip.qld.gov.au)

#### Plumbing, drainage and on-site waste water management systems work

The SPDR provides that emergency work may be undertaken without using the permit and inspection process, through Notifiable Minor Work. Emergency work can include the repair of on-site sewage/greywater treatment plants, otherwise known as septic systems. However, emergency work must be performed by an appropriately licensed person.



For emergency work, the licensed plumber/drainer, after completing the work, must notify the Local Government of the work, within 40 business days after the work has been completed by lodging a Form 4 (Notifiable Minor Work).

Emergency work notified to Local Government through a Form 4 process will enable Local Government to keep proper records about the work performed at a property. A Local Government may also audit work performed under a Form 4 process for non-compliance.

### **Interstate licensing**

Building Codes Queensland has received calls from interstate plumbers and drainers offering to come to Queensland to assist with the flood recovery work. Building Codes Queensland has made arrangements with plumbing regulators in jurisdictions across Australia to enable interstate tradespeople to obtain a Queensland equivalent licence to undertake the flood recovery work.

Under the *Mutual Recognition Act 1992 (Cwth)*, if a person holds a licence from another state, territory or New Zealand, their accreditation will be recognised in Queensland and that person may apply for a licence equivalent to the one the licensee already holds.

Any interstate licensee who wishes to perform regulated work in Queensland is to contact the Plumbing Industry Council's licensing team on (07) 3247 3618 or the plumbing regulator in their jurisdiction, who will advise of the process to obtaining an immediate Queensland licence.

### **Information to assist the community in flood affected areas**

Building Codes Queensland has prepared frequently asked questions to assist people who have a property that has been affected by the recent flooding. The questions also provide information about building, plumbing, swimming pools and water use. The frequently asked questions are available on the department's website: [www.dip.qld.gov.au/plumbing-building/flooding](http://www.dip.qld.gov.au/plumbing-building/flooding) or by contacting Building Codes Queensland.

## **Contact for further information**

### **Department of Infrastructure and Planning**

Building Codes Queensland Division

tel +61 7 3239 6369

[buildingcodes@dip.qld.gov.au](mailto:buildingcodes@dip.qld.gov.au)

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