

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- [Review of Registration and Licensing Requirements Submission](#)

IN OTHER NEWS

Have Your Say!!

Make sure you have your say in the Plumber Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board current consultation.

You may not agree with the Federation submission or only agree with part of it, but we encourage you to have your say.

If you do agree then you can simply send the Board an email telling them you agree with the Federation's submission.

If you wish to make your own submission then you should visit the Board's web site.

www.pgdb.co.nz/consultation/current.html

Let's keep up the proud tradition of Federation Member's sending in submissions and showing they care about the industry they work in!

Submissions are requested by 17 March 2016

Review of Registration and Licensing Requirements Submission



As we reported in February, the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board are consulting for the second time on Registration and Licensing Requirements. They have put forward seven items for consideration and comment from the public and industry.

As a result of feedback the Federation has made the following submission:

1. Do you support the proposed names for the licence classes?

Certifying - **NO** , Tradesman - **NO** , Journeyman - **YES**.

Comments We do not support the classes of Certifying and Tradesman. There is support for one qualification class of "Registered". This would require the combining of the Certifying and Licensed (proposed Tradesman) classes. For a long time there has been debate about the worth of the "Licensed" class and when compared to other industries, it seems to be the only qualification that on completion of the apprenticeship, the individual is not able to apply the skills qualified in unless under supervision for the rest of their time in that class.

The word *apprenticeship* comes from the Old French *aprentiz* meaning "someone learning" and the Anglian suffix -scip, meaning "state, condition of being". An apprenticeship is when someone is in a state or condition of learning from a master in a field. A person who is learning a trade from a skilled employer, having agreed to work for a fixed period, is an apprentice.

The current system and class of registration appears to be a partial qualification which creates supervision and responsibility issues within the industry, and also supplies the black market with a ready supply of partially qualified people wanting to earn extra money.

In reality the current "Licensed" class tradespeople are doing the work of a Certifier but are not getting the remuneration of a Certifier simply because they are under supervision. The industry needs to train apprentices so when they complete their apprenticeship they are sufficiently trained to do the job and take responsibility for their work.

Journeyman class



Another government Ministry is reported to have a payroll problem and as fate would have it it's the same Ministry that helped the Government to impose retrospective legislation upon our industry to cover the unlawful taking of money from us.

Yes, it not that long ago that the Government slammed our industry with retrospective legislation for covering "mistakes in law". The Government stated then, in the House, that they didn't have the money to pay back to tradespeople, so let's see how they go finding the money to pay their staff.

It seemed very easy for them to change the law to take money from our industry so perhaps the Government could use the same powers to take money from its own workers.

If the law is so bad that those who enforce it can't get it right then how does the government expect the rest of the country to get it right???

What was it that the Government said about our debacle - "it was simply a mistake in law" or words to that

2. Do you support the new journeyman class for those who have completed apprenticeship but not passed the registration exam?

Yes

3. Do you support the new journeyman class applying to those who have obtained sufficient trade experience?

No

4. Do you have any further comments with regard to the Journeyman class

The Journeyman class recognises the efforts and sacrifices the individual has made as an apprentice and should not be applied to those whom have hung around in a job for a set period of time without study or sacrifice. The apprentice has undergone training to a level well above a person who has "done time" in the industry. The time served person may have been simply digging ditches for the period of time where the apprentice would have undergone various training. They are simply different and the journeyman class of registration recognises that difference.

Removal of registration pathways

5. Do you support the removal of the following registration pathways? The five year pathway that requires a person to have held a limited certificate under the 1976 Act for five years, or for three years under the 1976 Act and then to have worked under a section 19,21, or 25 exemption for two years (plus pass the relevant examination).

Yes

The pathway that requires a plumber or gasfitter to have completed the third stage block course in the other trade (plus pass the relevant examination) to be registered in the other trade.

Yes

Do you support the following terms and conditions of registration

6. A term and condition requiring a registered person to pay any monies owing to the Board as they become due, subject to any exceptions agreed to by the Board.

Yes

7. A term and condition requiring a registered person to ensure they provide the Board with all information required for the public register.

Yes

8. A general condition about behaving in such a way that you do not

affect.

MBIE's chief financial officer, Stewart McRobie, says most of the issues involve holiday pay and are likely to be "relatively minor at an individual employee level". It might be minor on an individual basis but what's the total going to be - ours was less than two million.

So is it a mistake in law, incompetence, or our guess will be that it was just a common mistake that anyone could have made.

bring the industry into disrepute.

Yes

Comments Do you have any further comments with regard to the terms and conditions of registration?

Terms and conditions such as (8) above "A general condition about behaving in such a way that you do not bring the industry into disrepute" have to be implemented in such a way that they are supported by clear policy to prevent them from being abused in the future. It is very easy for the intent of the term and condition to be lost or interpreted differently.

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