

# CONSULTATION

CHANGES TO  
REGISTRATION  
PATHWAYS



Plumbers,  
Gasfitters and  
Drainlayers Board

# Introduction

The purpose of this consultation is to seek your feedback on two proposed changes to the pathways to registration set out in the registration and licensing Gazette notices (*Gazette notices*).

THE PROPOSED  
CHANGES ARE TO:

A

Recognise a new trade qualification that will soon be available, the New Zealand Certificate in Plumbing, Gasfitting, or Drainlaying.

B

Introduce a new process for overseas qualified practitioners wishing to become registered in New Zealand.



## THE CHANGES TO REGISTRATION PATHWAYS

# THE CHANGES

### THE NEW ZEALAND CERTIFICATE

From 2018 onwards, people training in plumbing, gasfitting or drainlaying will complete the new level 4 New Zealand Certificate in the trade. This qualification replaces the old National Certificate.

The New Zealand Certificate will include the Board's registration exam as part of the training. A person enrolled in the New Zealand Certificate programme will not be awarded a New Zealand Certificate in the trade until they have successfully passed the registration exam. However, once they have obtained the New Zealand Certificate they will be able to register immediately.

### OVERSEAS-QUALIFIED PRACTITIONERS

At present the Gazette notices require non-Australian overseas qualified practitioners to have their overseas qualifications assessed by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (**NZQA**) to determine whether their qualification is equivalent to, or greater than the National Certificates in plumbing, gasfitting, or drainlaying at level 4. However, NZQA has recently made changes to its assessment process which means it no longer provides the Board with the required information to safely recognise a practitioner's overseas qualification.

To replace the NZQA assessment, the Board is proposing overseas qualified practitioners have their overseas qualification assessed by The Skills Organisation (**Skills**). If Skills determines the overseas practitioner's qualification and experience covers all the same competencies as the New Zealand Certificate in that trade at level 4, the practitioner will be able to sit the Board's Advance Proficiency Assessment (if they are at the certifier level) or the Board registration exam (if they are at the tradesman level) and register in the same way as a New Zealand-trained practitioner.

If Skills determines that the overseas practitioner's qualification does not cover all the same competencies as the New Zealand qualification, the practitioner can choose to work with Skills to put in place a training programme to achieve the missing competencies. Once they have obtained those missing competencies and passed the Board's registration exam they will be issued with a New Zealand Certificate and will be eligible to register in the same way as a New Zealand practitioner.

---

<sup>1</sup> Australian qualified practitioners can have their Australian registrations recognised under the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act 1997



## THE CHANGES TO REGISTRATION PATHWAYS

# THE CHANGES

### MATTERS THE BOARD MUST CONSIDER

The Board has considered the matters it must consider in section 32 of the Plumbers, Gasfitters, and Drainlayers Act 2006 when prescribing matters by notice in the Gazette and is satisfied that the proposed changes are necessary for the purposes set out in that section. The Board is also satisfied that the changes do not unnecessarily restrict the registration of practitioners or impose undue costs on practitioners or the public.

### WHAT THE CHANGES WILL LOOK LIKE

The following is an example of the changes (in orange) that would be made to the Gazette notices. The example below covers plumbing only, but the same changes would also be made to the gasfitting and drainlaying notices.

- (1) To be registered as a certifying plumber a person must have:
  - (a) ...
  - (b) when applying on the basis of an overseas plumbing qualification:
    - (i) submitted a completed pre-registration application form to the Board that includes the following documentation:
      - A. an assessment from The Skills Organisation concluding that the applicant's plumbing qualification is equivalent to, or greater than the New Zealand Certificate in Plumbing at Level 4; and
      - B. ...
- (1) To be registered as a tradesman plumber a person must have:
  - (a) obtained the National Certificate in Plumbing and passed the examination specified in paragraph 11(2) below; or
  - (aa) obtained the New Zealand Certificate in Plumbing; or
  - (b) where the person is applying on the basis of an overseas qualification:
    - (i) submitted a completed pre-registration application form to the Board that includes the following documentation:
      - A. an assessment from The Skills Organisation concluding that the applicant's plumbing qualification is equivalent to, or greater than the New Zealand Certificate in Plumbing at Level 4; and
      - B. ...

# YOUR FEEDBACK

The Board now seeks your feedback on this proposal. To provide the Board with your feedback, please read and answer the following questions.

**A. Do you agree** with the Board recognising the new qualification, the New Zealand Certificate in Plumbing, Gasfitting or Drainlaying??

**Yes** | **No** (please circle)

**B. Do you agree** with the Board replacing the requirement for overseas trained practitioners to get their overseas trade qualifications assessed by New Zealand Qualifications Authority with the requirement for them to get their qualifications assessed by The Skills Organisation?

**Yes** | **No** (please circle)

**C. If you do not agree** with the Board's proposals above please state why you do not agree.

.....

.....

**D. Is there anything further** about the Board's proposals that you wish to add?

.....

.....

## Your Contact details

Name: .....

Registration number (if applicable): .....

Organisation: .....

Address: .....

.....

Email: .....

Phone: .....

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.

## Privacy statement

The Board may publish submissions on its website. If you are happy for your personal details to be included, please tick the following box.