

Plumbing Regulation News Update

Plumbing Regulation News Update 13/09

Issued 28 August 2009

NATIONAL LICENSING SYSTEM UPDATE

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Plumbing Regulation News Update is to provide information on the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) National Licensing System (NLS) initiative.

BACKGROUND

On 3 July 2008, COAG acknowledged that Australia's overlapping and inconsistent regulations impede productivity growth and agreed to the development of a national licensing system for specified occupations, in the context of its broader agenda for regulatory reform.

The NLS will include relevant occupational and business licensing in the following initial occupational areas:

- refrigeration and air conditioning mechanics
- building and building related occupations
- electrical
- land transport (passenger vehicle drivers and dangerous goods only)
- maritime
- plumbing and gasfitting
- property agents

WHAT STAGE HAVE WE REACHED?

On 30 April 2009 COAG endorsed an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) and released a Decision Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) for a national licensing system for specified occupations. Through the signing of the IGA, States and Territories have agreed to begin the implementation process for the National Licensing System (NLS) which is scheduled to commence on 1 July 2012. The IGA and RIS can be accessed from the website www.govdex.gov.au/confluence/display/COAGNL/Home

The website also provides information on the latest developments for the National Licensing System (NLS) and a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) based on questions and comments raised during the series of consultations and workshops with industry and regulators.

Other information covered in the website includes:

- What the National Licensing System will look like
- Interim Advisory Committees
- Draft legislation
- National register

Initially, the NLS will apply to the specified occupational areas listed above but it will have the capacity to extend to other licensed occupations over time. The specified occupations will be admitted to the NLS through a two staged approach.

National licensing will commence in mid 2012 in the following occupational areas:

- electrical
- plumbing and gasfitting
- refrigeration and airconditioning mechanics
- property agents (excluding conveyancers and valuers)

The other occupational areas will commence national licensing in 2013

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE INTERIM PERIOD?

Licensing of plumbers and gasfitters under the OLA commence as early as possible in the new year. To keep track on the progress of the implementation of these provisions updates will be published on the WST website as information becomes available.

More detailed information about the OLA as it applies to electricians, plumbers and gas fitters may be found in Workplace Standards Tasmania publication *GB193, Occupational Licensing in Tasmania*. This publication covers matters such as classes of licence, transitional arrangements, contractor licences, contractor licence responsibilities and practitioner licences.

The publication may be accessed through the following link:

www.wst.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/115733/GB193.pdf

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information visit the COAG National Licensing Taskforce website:

www.govdex.gov.au/confluence/display/COAGNL/Home

You may also contact them via email at: info@coagskillstaskforce.gov.au

A series of fact sheets on key issues will also be posted on the Govdex website in the near future.

For more details about plumbing legislation contact the Workplace Standards Tasmanian Helpline:

Phone: (in Tasmania) 1300 366 322 | Phone: (outside Tasmania) (03) 6233 7657 | Fax: (03) 6233 8338

Email: wstinfo@justice.tas.gov.au | Website: www.wst.tas.gov.au/building

Address: PO Box 56, Rosny Park TAS 7018

Plumbing Regulation News Updates are issued to assist in the interpretation of Tasmanian plumbing legislation and to provide advice on technical issues within the plumbing industry.

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