

Building Regulation News Updates are issued as and when necessary, to keep the Tasmanian Building Industry informed of developments occurring in the industry, legislation, the Building Code of Australia (BCA) and its referenced documents.

## **New Scheme for the Accreditation of Building Practitioners 2008**

### **Purpose**

This *News Update* is to inform building practitioners, councils, permit authorities, and industry associations of the Gazettal of the *Scheme for the Accreditation of Building Practitioners 2008* and the effect that the operation of the new Scheme has on the scope of work of certain categories of building practitioners.

### **Background**

- The *Building Act 2000* requires that a Scheme for the Accreditation of Building Practitioners be approved by the Minister and notified in the Government Gazette. A new Scheme was approved on 6 July 2008 by Mr David Bartlett MP, Minister for Planning and Workplace Relations and it was Gazetted on 23 July. It replaces the authorised Scheme in operation since the *Building Act 2000* commenced in 2004.
- Many accredited building practitioners will not be affected by the making of the new scheme. However the new Scheme does make significant changes to the accreditation classes for builders and engineers which affects the Scope of Work that these building practitioners may undertake.

### **Fact sheets available for accredited builders and engineers**

All accredited *engineers* and *builders* must read the Fact Sheets specifically prepared for these categories. In particular the Fact Sheets outline:

- How engineers are transferred from the existing classes to new classes;
- How builders are transferred from the existing classes to new classes;
- The types of work that accredited builders may now tender for and work on. For example builders must now know the Type of Construction, height in storeys and the floor area of buildings.

### **Contents of the Scheme**

The Scheme document provides the broad framework for the operation of the Accreditation Scheme under the provisions of the *Building Act 2000*, and it contains the following information:

- Categories and Classes of Accredited Practitioners;
- Qualifications and experience required for new accreditation applicants;
- Code of Conduct that all accredited building practitioners must adhere to;
- Models for Continuing Professional Development of accredited building practitioners;
- Methods of upwards progression between the levels of builder accreditation;
- Provisions relating to practitioners with limitations on their scope of work.

Detailed administrative processes about the operation of accreditation and application forms will be developed in a Handbook at a later time.

## What are some of the reasons for the changes?

- Aspects of the previous Authorised Scheme for the Accreditation of Building Practitioner has been reviewed in the light of four years' experience under the operation of the *Building Act 2000*.
- Peak building industry associations and professions have been involved in this review;
- National consistency to align Tasmanian builder licensing with the Builders Licensing Australasia Model (which is the same as the Queensland Model);
- Consistency with the Australian Qualification Framework qualifications for builders;
- Reduction of the number of accreditation classes of engineers from ten to three, saving engineers accreditation fees and administrative time.

## Will any Building Practitioners be disadvantaged?

- Existing accredited building practitioners will not be disadvantaged by the proposed changes in the Scheme.
- Most accredited builders will automatically move to one of the three new builder classes in July 2008;
- Most accredited engineers will automatically move to one of the three new engineer classes in July 2008;
- These changes will be carried out by the Director of Building Control with little, if any, requirement for input from practitioners and the new online Register of Accredited Building Practitioners developed;
- Individual building practitioners affected will receive written notification of their new accreditation class and Scope of Work.

## Availability of the Scheme for the Accreditation of Building Practitioners 2008 document

- The Scheme is available on the Workplace Standards Tasmania website [www.wst.tas.gov.au/building](http://www.wst.tas.gov.au/building)
- For a printed copy of the *Scheme for the Accreditation of Building Practitioners 2008* or Fact Sheets for Builders or Engineers, please contact the Workplace Standards Tasmania Helpline:

Phone: 1300 366 322 or (03) 62 33 7657 (outside Tasmania).

Email: [wstinfo@justice.tas.gov.au](mailto:wstinfo@justice.tas.gov.au)

For further information contact the Workplace Standards Tasmania Helpline:

Phone: 03 6233 7657 (Outside Tasmania)

Local rate: 1300 366 322 (Inside Tasmania)

Fax: 03 6233 8338

Email: [wstinfo@justice.tas.gov.au](mailto:wstinfo@justice.tas.gov.au)

[www.wst.tas.gov.au/building](http://www.wst.tas.gov.au/building)

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**Director of Building Control**

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