

Important information for all Accredited Engineers

New Classes of Engineer will apply from July 2008.

As a result of the new *Scheme for the Accreditation of Building Practitioners 2008*, from July 2008 the engineer accreditation Classes will be changing.

This change affects all accredited engineers.

Depending on your current Scope of Work entitlements you will be moved to one or more of three new engineer Classes:

1. Fire Safety
2. Building Services
3. Civil

What are the reasons for the changes?

- Aspects of the previous Authorised Scheme for the Accreditation of Building Practitioners have been reviewed in the light of four years experience under the operation of the *Building Act 2000*. Engineers Australia has been involved in this review;
- The previous authorised Accreditation Scheme contained ten classes of engineer which was costly to administer and costly to engineers accredited in multiple classes;
- A review of the previous ten classes identified that most classes fitted within building services or civil engineering. The specialist class of Fire Safety Engineering has been retained.

What am I required to do?

Existing accredited engineers will not be disadvantaged by the proposed change. Most accredited engineers will be assigned to one (or more) of the three new accreditation Classes in July 2008. These changes will be carried out by the Director of Building Control without any requirement for input from engineers and the new Register of Accredited Engineers developed. You will receive written notification of your new Class and Scope of Work.

Many accredited engineers had conditional accreditation which required recognition by the NPER. The new qualifications, experience and competence requirements are less restrictive. Most conditionally accredited engineers will be transferred by a process involving administrative and industry peer review. Should further documentation be required this will be sought by the Registrar of Building Practitioner Accreditation.

Previous Classes of Engineer	Equivalent Class of Engineer in 2008 Accreditation Scheme
Fire Safety	Engineer - Fire Safety
Building Services Mechanical Electrical Hydraulic Energy Management Acoustics	Engineer - Building Services
Structural Geotechnical Civil Environmental	Engineer - Civil

What is the Scope of Work for each new class of Engineer?

Definitions:

- A **Deemed to Satisfy** design solution means a building solution that meets the Deemed to Satisfy Provisions of the Building Code of Australia and is distinct from an **Alternative Solution**.
- An **Alternative Solution** means a building solution which complies with the Performance requirements of the Building Code of Australia other than by reason of the Deemed to Satisfy Provisions of the Code.

Engineer - Fire Safety

The scope of work for those accredited as Engineer – Fire Safety is unrestricted in the field of Fire Safety Engineering. Fire Safety Engineering is the application of engineering principles, rules and expert judgement based on a scientific appreciation of fire and its effects, and of the reaction and behaviour of people in the event of fire in order to:

- save life, protect property and preserve the environment and heritage from destructive fire;
- quantify the hazards and risk of fire and its effects;
- mitigate fire damage by proper design, construction, arrangement and use of buildings, materials, structures, industrial processes and transportation systems;
- evaluate analytically the optimum protective and preventive measures, including design, installation and maintenance of active and passive fire and life safety systems, necessary to limit, within prescribed levels, the consequences of fire.

Qualifications, Experience and Competence requirements for accreditation:

1. Listing on the National Professional Engineers Register (NPER) with the specific area of practice of Fire Safety;

or

2. Recognition by Engineers Australia as a Chartered Professional Engineer in the specific area of practice of Fire Safety;

or

3. an appropriate degree (AQF 7) with a Graduate Diploma in Fire Safety such as *the Graduate Diploma of Building Fire Safety & Risk Engineering* from Victoria University or *Master of Fire Safety Engineering* from University of Western Sydney and three years design experience in the area of fire safety engineering attested to by a senior engineer within the practice of Fire Safety. 'An appropriate degree' may include degrees in Architecture or Building Surveying in addition to engineering degrees.

Engineer - Building Services

The scope of work for those accredited as Engineer – Building Services is unrestricted in the field of Building Services and includes Alternative Solutions. Building Services may include:

- mechanical building services
- hydraulic building services
- electrical building services
- fire safety systems (as defined in regulation 3 of the *Building Regulations 2004*);
- building acoustics
- energy management in buildings

In addition, those accredited as Engineer – Building Services may undertake **Deemed to Satisfy** solutions for any engineering designs that fall within the individual's area of competence.

Qualifications, Experience and Competence requirements for accreditation:

1. Listing on the National Professional Engineers Register (NPER) with the general areas of practice of Building Services;

or

2. Recognition by Engineers Australia as a Chartered Professional Engineer in the general areas of practice of Building Services;

or

3. A degree in engineering (AQF 7) with a graduate certificate (or higher post graduate qualification) in building services, building mechanical services, air conditioning, building electrical services, building hydraulic services, building acoustics or energy management in buildings, and three years experience practising as a design engineer within the scope of work for Engineer – Building Services.

or

4. A degree in engineering (AQF 7) and five years experience practising as a design engineer within the scope of work for Engineer – Building Services attested to by a senior engineer within the area of practice of Building Services.

Engineer - Civil

The scope of work for those accredited as Engineer – Civil is unrestricted in the field of civil engineering and includes Alternative Solutions. Civil engineering may include:

- Civil;
- Structural;
- Geotechnical;
- Environmental engineering.

In addition, those accredited as Engineer – Civil may undertake **Deemed to Satisfy** solutions for any engineering designs that fall within the individual's area of competence.

Qualifications, Experience and Competence requirements for accreditation:

1. Listing on the National Professional Engineers Register (NPER) with the general areas of practice of Civil, Structural or Environmental Engineering;

or

2. Recognition by Engineers Australia as a Chartered Professional Engineer in the general areas of practice of Civil, Structural or Environmental Engineering;

or

3. A degree in engineering (AQF 7) and a graduate certificate (or higher post graduate qualification) in civil, structural, geotechnical or environmental engineering, or soil science, and three years experience practising as a design engineer within the scope of work for Engineer – Civil.

or

4. A degree in engineering (AQF 7) and five years experience practising as a design engineer within the scope of work for Engineer – Civil attested to by a senior engineer within the practice of civil, structural, geotechnical, or environmental engineering.

Important Note - Scope of Work limitations

Regardless of the Scope of Work allowed by the 2008 Accreditation Scheme, it must be stressed that the *Building Act 2000* requires that **any designer should only work within their area of competence** (see section 13 (1) of the *Building Act 2000*).

For more information or a copy of the *Scheme for the Accreditation of Building Practitioners 2008* please contact the Workplace Standards Tasmania Helpline:

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

Email: wstinfo@justice.tas.gov.au Fax: (03) 62 33 8338