

# Plumbers and Drainers Licensing Board

## Evidencing Skills Maintenance for Plumbers and Drainers

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In recent years, as in other States and Territories, third party inspections of work in the Northern Territory have been curtailed, it is now imperative that plumbers maintain their skills and keep abreast of current installation requirements and standards.

In the plumbing industry we have had for many years a licence duration of 3 years. This provided the opportunity at the time of renewal, to check that the plumbing worker's skills had been maintained by having the worker detail work experience over the past licence period on the "Application for Renewal" form.

The Board understands that some plumbers may not support the requirement for skills maintenance. However, as the main reasons for licensing are to ensure the health and safety of plumbing workers and the community, it is difficult to argue that skills maintenance is not an important obligation for all of us in the industry.

Consequently, the Board will, at the time of future renewals, require evidence provided to be more meaningful and will carry out a more thorough assessment of the experience listed on the renewal form. An audit of the listed experience may also be performed if there is any doubt as to the veracity of the evidence provided or the continued skills maintenance or competency of the applicant.

To assist the applicant, the renewal form has been modified to provide more space to document work experience as evidence of skills maintenance. It will also have a statutory declaration form attached to allow an employer or supervisor to evidence an applicant's experience if needed.

Some acceptable methods of evidencing skills maintenance, would be any one of the following:

- Certifying Plumbers may use Certificates of Compliance as evidence, the numbers of the CoC's would need to be listed on the renewal form, **or**
- The provision of a statutory declaration from the applicant's employer or supervisor detailing the applicant's areas of work. It should be noted that in this case the employer or supervisor would have to be the holder of an Advanced Tradesman, **or**
- The provision of other evidence to demonstrate that the applicant has maintained a close and direct association with the current methods and practices of the plumbing industry. This method would suit managers of plumbing businesses, those employed in the teaching of the trade, full time designers of installations, regulators of the trade, or similar such employment, **or**
- The provision of evidence that a refresher course or other relevant course approved by the Board has been successfully undertaken.

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Cavenagh House  
38 Cavenagh Street  
Tel: 08 8999 8972

GPO Box 1680  
Darwin NT 0801  
Fax: 08 8999 8967