

Plumbers and Drainers Licensing Board



INFORMATION SHEET – number 9

HOW DO YOU BECOME A PLUMBER/DRAINER IN THE NT?

JOURNEYMAN REGISTRATION

To become a plumber and drainer in the NT, you must complete an **apprenticeship** with a registered training organisation (RTO). The apprenticeship includes a Certificate III in Plumbing Services as well as practical on-the-job training under the supervision of a licensed tradesman.

If you completed training in Plumbing and/or Draining overseas, you must still meet the current NT requirements before you can be issued with Journeyman registration. The Board's policy PL007 explains this fully.

Once you have completed an apprenticeship and you meet the requirements of the Certificate III in Plumbing, you can apply to the Board for a **Journeyman** registration, which allows you to work for a licensed tradesman. A **Journeyman cannot run his own business and cannot contract for work direct to the public.** He must be employed by a licensed tradesman.

ADVANCED TRADESMAN LICENCE

To qualify for an Advanced Tradesman's licence, you must hold a Journeyman registration card in Australia for two years and complete ten Certificate IV competencies through a registered training organisation. You should then apply to the Board for an Advanced Tradesman's licence (ATL), which allows you to operate your own business and contract for work direct to the public.

An ATL does not allow you to sign off work. To sign off work you must be registered as a Certifying Plumber & Drainer with the Building Practitioners Board. The requirements for registration are an ATL and Home Building Certification Fund (HBCF) insurance. Being registered as a Certifying Plumber & Drainer does not mean you can allow your licence to lapse. You must maintain both an ATL and HBCF insurance at all times or the Building Practitioners Board will suspend your registration as a Certifying Plumber & Drainer.

MUTUAL RECOGNITION

Even if you are licensed interstate, you must have a NT licence or registration before you can work in the NT. On application, the Plumbers & Drainers Licensing Board will give you the NT equivalent of your interstate

licence. You can find the equivalent of your licence in other states at the COAG website at:
<http://www.licencerecognition.gov.au/LRSearch.aspx>.

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WA MIGRANT PLUMBING COURSE

The Board frequently receives enquiries about the migrant plumbing course offered in Western Australia and whether someone enrolled in that course is eligible for an NT registration or licence.

First you need to apply to the WA licensing board for a licence. The WA Board will make you undergo a basic hand skills/practical skills assessment. If you pass that assessment, the Board will give you a referral to a registered training organisation in WA so that you can register for a migrant plumbing course to complete the theory component of the training. One RTO offers the training in a two-week block but only a handful of times during the year. Others may offer it 2/3 nights a week over several weeks.

The WA Board will issue you with a conditional WA Tradesperson's licence so that you can work for a plumbing contractor in WA while waiting for the course. This licence

card will have conditions requiring you to enrol in the migrant plumbing course within two weeks and complete the course within six months.

While you have this condition on your WA card, you are not eligible for NT Journeyman registration.

Once you have completed the migrant plumbing course and the condition has been removed from your WA card, you will have a Tradesperson's licence in WA which is equivalent to a Journeyman registration in the NT and you can apply for NT registration under mutual recognition.

To get an Advanced Tradesman's licence you will need to fulfil the same requirements as any other Journeyman, ie complete ten Certificate IV competencies and two years work experience as a Journeyman, as detailed in the Board's policy PL006.

PDLB WEBSITE – www.nt.gov.au/plumberslicensing

The Plumbers & Drainers Licensing Board website contains licensing information, application forms, Board members' names, links to related sites, FAQ's etc..
You can also find previous information sheets.

Check out the site and use the feedback button to change your address, request an application form, or provide suggestions about how the site can be improved.