

Plumbers and Drainers Licensing Board

PL 007 – Assessment of Plumbers with Overseas Qualifications

Licences or qualifications from countries other than New Zealand are not directly recognised for the granting of a Northern Territory registration or licence. Overseas qualifications and experience will need to be assessed by Trades Recognition Australia (TRA). This is the federal department that conducts skills assessments for overseas tradespersons. TRA have agents such as VETASSESS who are authorised Registered Training Organisations (RTO) that conduct the assessments on behalf of TRA and issue Offshore Technical Skills Records (OTSR).

TRA assessment takes into consideration the home country of the applicant and any international reciprocity agreements Australia may have with that country. This has a bearing on the identification of gap training and what training may be required for the person to meet the same training standard as a local plumbing apprentice who has completed Certificate III in Plumbing in Australia.

Following is the current process for overseas plumbers to gain recognition to work in Australia:

- Overseas worker enters Australia and applies to TRA for an OTSR.
An OTSR is an important part of this process of gaining recognition in Australia and being able to work here. It identifies any gaps in training to Australian Standards and what additional training needs to be undertaken;
- Apply to the NT Plumbers and Drainers Licensing Board (the Board) for a Conditional Journeyman Registration. This registration is required to allow gap training to take place legally. Conditional registration is issued based on evidence of enrolment with a Board endorsed RTO and evidence of employment with a local plumbing company. The application for a conditional journeyman registration form [Application for a conditional journeyman registration \(nt.gov.au\)](#) contains more information.
- Once gap training is complete, apply for full journeyman registration on [Application for upgrade to journeyman registration \(nt.gov.au\)](#) with certification from the RTO and evidence of practical experience from the employer.

Conditional journeyman registrations are issued for 12 months. However, if the person is unable to complete the required training or gain the 12 months practical experience in that time, they may request for extension of the conditional registration to facilitate completion.

Endorsed RTOs

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Useful Links

Trade Recognition Australia - [Home | Trades Recognition Australia](#)

NT Plumbers and Drainers Licensing Board - [Home - Plumbers and Drainers Licensing Board - NT Government](#)

Adopted by the Plumbers and Drainers Licensing Board



Brett South

Chairperson

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Version	Date	Approver
1.0	27 February 2012	Plumbers and Drainers Licensing Board
2.0	8 November 2023	Plumbers and Drainers Licensing Board
3.0	26 February 2026	Plumbers and Drainers Licensing Board