Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board

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New Zealand Experience Pathway Information Guide

You may be eligible for the New Zealand Experience pathway if you have seven years of full-time work experience and authorisation history in New Zealand as a plumber, gasfitter, or drainlayer but do not have a formal qualification.

There are five steps you need to successfully complete:



Get your New Zealand experience assessed

You need to email the completed New Zealand Experience Pathway Application and the evidence listed on the form to RFR@pgdb.co.nz.

As part of this application, you need to show that you have

- the required practical experience and knowledge for registration in your trade
- seven years of full-time plumber, gasfitter, or drainlayer work experience
- seven years of plumber, gasfitter, or drainlayer authorisation history with the Board.

Submit your application

Once you have submitted your application and required evidence:

- we will send you a link to pay for the application
- once we have received payment, our assessor will review your application and evidence.

We can only review your application if payment is received, the application form has been filled out correctly, and all evidence is submitted.

Please be aware that as part of our consideration of your application, we may seek personal information about you from another party such as a referee or former employer. You have the right to access and correct any personal information the Board holds about, including any information obtained from another party.

Complete the interview

As part of reviewing your application, our assessor will need to complete an interview to discuss:

- your knowledge and practical experience across the competencies in your trade
- supervision, registration, licensing, and regulatory requirements
- any questions that the assessor may have about your experience or application.

To prepare for the interview, we recommend reviewing the below content:

- Supervision guidance
- Responsibilities of a supervisor
- Responsibilities of a supervisee
- Understanding registration and licence classes
- New Zealand building regulatory systems (free online modules)
- Electricity Act 1992, section 74 (gasfitting only)
- Gasfitting installation and certification (gasfitting only)
- Gas (Safety and Measurement) Regulations 2010 (gasfitting only)

Our assessor will contact you to organise a time for the interview. The interview can be completed through phone call or Microsoft Teams.

Application outcomes

Once your application has been reviewed, we will email you a Recommendation for Registration outcome letter.

Application is approved

If your application is approved, you will be eligible to sit the registration exam. Once you have passed the exam, your next step will be to apply for registration.

As part of your registration application, you will need to meet the Board's fit and proper person requirements.

Application is declined

Your application may be declined if you have not:

- provided sufficient evidence showing that you have seven years of full-time work experience in your trade
- held a plumber, gasfitter, or drainlayer authorisation with the Board for seven years
- shown you have the required knowledge required registration in your trade.

If your application is declined, your options for registering in New Zealand are:

- gain further full-time work experience and knowledge in your trade, or
- apply for an exemption under supervision authorisation and gain further work experience in an authorised capacity, or
- enrol with a training provider, to complete the New Zealand certificate in plumbing, gasfitting, or drainlaying (level 4).

Sit and pass the relevant registration exam

If your New Zealand Experience pathway application is successful, your next step is to sit the relevant registration exam for plumbing, gasfitting, and/or drainlaying.

This is a computer-based exam which tests that you have the required theory knowledge for registration in New Zealand. You can find out more about the exams on our website.

Apply for registration

Once you have passed the registration exam, you will need to apply for registration and a practising licence.

You can find more about applying for registration on our website.

Are you wanting to become a certifier?

Once you are registered as a plumber, gasfitter, or drainlayer, you may work towards certifying registration in your trade.

You will need to complete the following steps:

- hold an active licence as a registered practitioner for 24 months
- sit and pass the relevant certifying exam (this can be done at any point after passing the registration exam).

Fees

The New Zealand Experience application fee is based on a full-cost recovery basis. This means that the fee charged is the cost for the Board to deliver the service.

If your application takes longer to review or is incomplete upon submitting, an additional fee may be charged before you receive an outcome.

It is important that you correctly fill out the application form and submit all the required evidence to avoid any additional fees.

The total fee to get registered (per trade) under the New Zealand experience pathway is outlined below:

Type of fee:	**Fee amount NZ$**
New Zealand Experience pathway application	$1,080.00
Registration exam fee	$330.00
Registration, licence, and Disciplinary and Prosecution levy fees	$725.00 (first trade) $450.00 (additional trades)

More information about the fees can be found on our website.