Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board

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Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition information guide

Australian qualified tradespeople can apply for registration and licensing in New Zealand under the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act 1997 (TTMRA).

Under the TTMRA, people who are registered or licensed to practise an occupation in Australia can transfer to the equivalent occupation in New Zealand, and vice versa if the relevant requirements are met.

An Australian plumber, gasfitter, or drainlayer seeking registration in New Zealand must give notice in writing to the Plumbers, Gasfitters, and Drainlayers Board (Board) of their intention to become registered and licensed in New Zealand. In doing so, an applicant must provide the information prescribed by section 19(2) of the TTMRA.

This information guide explains the process and requirements to apply.

What is the difference between registration and a licence in New Zealand?

Registration

Registration shows that a practitioner meets the following minimum standards:

- has the required competence, qualifications, and experience to work in the relevant registration class.
- meets the fit and proper person requirements as set by the Board
- pays the prescribed registration fee.

Licence

A licence allows a practitioner to legally carry out restricted work in the relevant trade and class.

For each class you are licensed in, you are authorised to carry out sanitary plumbing, gasfitting and/or drainlaying work.

To hold a licence, you must hold registration in the licence class that you are applying for.

Registration classes

Plumber, gasfitter, drainlayer registration

People who are registered have demonstrated they possess the fundamental competencies required to work as a plumber, gasfitter, or drainlayer. They must work under the supervision of a currently registered and licensed certifier.

Certifying registration

The certifying registration class is the highest level of registration that can be achieved. Certifiers have demonstrated they possess the advanced competencies required to test, verify, and certify their own work. They are also responsible for the work of those they supervise. Certifiers are the only practitioners that can verify and certify work for official purposes (eg sign-off compliance documents for local councils).

Submitting an application

To apply, the following documents and information need to be supplied:

1. the completed application form.
2. the completed statutory declaration that has been witnessed and signed by a Justice of the Peace or lawyer.
3. certified copies of the following documents:
    a. certified National Police Certificate that has been issued within the past month by the Australian Federal Police.
    b. police certificates from any other country you have lived in for 12 months or more within the past 10 years.
    c. registration certificate(s).
    d. your current Australian licence(s) - front and back.
    e. qualification certificates(s) eg TAFE certificate III in plumbing.

A certified copy means that the document has been sighted and signed by a lawyer or Justice of the Peace to declare that the document is a true copy of the original.

Drainlaying stormwater work

If you are applying with a licence/registration from Western Australia, New South Wales or Australian Capital Territory, stormwater work is not included in the activities that can be carried out under the drainlaying licence/registration.

In New Zealand, the definition of drainlaying includes stormwater work. If you have carried out stormwater work in Australia and are confident that you can carry out this work competently, safely, and compliantly you will need to provide us with evidence showing that you are able to do so. This evidence will be assessed by a Technical Advisor who is a certifying drainlayer.

Examples of this may include:

- photos of work that you have completed
- references from current or previous employers outlining the specific stormwater work that you have carried out
- a written letter from yourself detailing the stormwater work you have completed
- any other documentation you may consider relevant.

What happens when an application is received

When an application is received by the Board, we will contact the relevant Australian regulatory body in the state(s) you are authorised in, to confirm the details of your licence/registration.

If you are confirmed to hold an equivalent licence/registration, you will be granted New Zealand registration and a practising licence in the equivalent class.

Once the application has been processed, your registration and licence will be listed on the Board's public register, and we will send you a registration certificate.

Processing your application

Once your application is received by the Board, we will contact the relevant Australian regulatory body to confirm the details of your licence/registration. This process can take some time, depending on how quickly the requested information is received.

We will review your Australian licence(s) and determine the equivalent licence in New Zealand. You will be sent an email by the Board to advise of the outcome of your application.

If you disagree with the outcome of the application, you will have the opportunity to provide your comments and more information to the Board.

Application outcomes

- If the registration class applied for is equivalent to the licence/registration held in Australia, your application will be approved.
- If the registration class applied for is substantially equivalent to the licence/registration held in Australia, we will impose a condition on your registration to achieve equivalence. Under section 25 of the TTMRA Act, the Board has discretion to place terms and conditions on your registration and/or practising licence in accordance with the restrictions of your Australian licence type. For example, if your licence in Australia does not allow you to carry out work on a fire sprinkler, we will impose a condition on your registration that you need to carry out the work under the direct supervision of a currently registered and licensed certifying plumber.
- If the registration class applied for is not equivalent to the licence/registration held in Australia, the Board will either recommend that you apply for a different registration class or advise that you cannot apply for registration in New Zealand.
- The Board may decline the application for registration if any of the information provided is false or misleading, if the required information has not been provided, or if the prescribed fees have not been paid.