



Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002

Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003

Current as at 1 March 2019

Reprint note

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Queensland

Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003

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Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003

Part 1 Preliminary

1 Short title

This regulation may be cited as the *Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003*.

2 Commencement

This regulation commences on 1 November 2003.

3 Definitions

The dictionary in schedule 5 defines particular words used in this regulation.

Part 2 Licences and equivalence

4 Licence required for performing plumbing work and drainage work other than unregulated work

A person may perform plumbing work or drainage work, other than unregulated work, only if the person has a licence to perform the work.

Note—

See sections 35 (Work that may be performed under licences) and 119 (Offences by persons not holding appropriate licence) of the Act.

5 Qualifications and practical experience for plumbers and drainers licences—Act, s 37(a)

- (1) For section 37(a) of the Act, the qualifications and practical experience required for a plumbers licence and for a drainers licence are stated in schedule 1.

- (2) The qualifications and practical experience prescribed for a licence mentioned in schedule 1 apply for a licence that is issued for work that is within the scope of work stated in schedule 1, column 4, for the licence.

6 Qualifications and practical experience for restricted licences—Act, s 37(a)

- (1) For section 37(a) of the Act, the qualifications and practical experience required for particular types of restricted licences are stated in schedule 2.
- (2) The scope of work for a particular type of restricted licence is the scope of work stated for the type of restricted licence in schedule 2, column 4.

7 Endorsements on licences

- (1) For section 37(a) of the Act, the qualifications and practical experience required for particular endorsements on plumbers licences, drainers licences, provisional plumbers licences or provisional drainers licences are stated in schedule 3.
- (2) The scope of work for a particular endorsement is the scope of work stated for the endorsement in schedule 3, column 4.

8 Duration of endorsement

An endorsement on a plumbers licence, drainers licence, provisional plumbers licence or provisional drainers licence remains in force for the period stated in the licence but for no longer than the licence itself remains in force.

9 Referral to registered training organisation

- (1) This section applies, for section 37 of the Act, if—
 - (a) a person applies, or indicates to the QBCC commissioner that the person proposes to apply, to the commissioner under section 36 of the Act for a licence; and

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- (b) it is, or will be, necessary for deciding the application for the QBCC commissioner to be satisfied a qualification held by the person (the *alternative qualification*) is at least equivalent to a qualification mentioned in schedule 1, column 2, item 1(a) or (b) or item 2(a) or (b).
 - (2) The commissioner may refer the person to a registered training organisation if the commissioner is satisfied the only practicable way to obtain the necessary information for deciding on the equivalence of the alternative qualification is for the applicant's actual competencies to be assessed.
 - (3) If the person is referred, and applies, to a registered training organisation, the commissioner must take all reasonable steps to ensure the registered training organisation, as soon as practicable after receiving the referral—
 - (a) carries out its assessment of the person's competencies; and
 - (b) advises the commissioner of the results of its assessment.
 - (4) The person must comply with any reasonable requirement of the registered training organisation for its assessment of the person's competencies.

Part 3 Miscellaneous

10 Fees payable to QBCC

The fees in schedule 4 are payable to the QBCC for the matters stated in the schedule.

10A Waiver of fee for processing an application for a licence

- (1) This section applies to a relevant person who—
 - (a) is making an application for which an application fee is payable; and

- (b) has paid the relevant fee at least once in the current financial year.
- (2) Despite section 10 and schedule 4, the fee under schedule 4, item 2 is not payable by the relevant person.

Example—

A applies for an endorsement of a particular type on a licence, pays the relevant fee, and that application is granted.

In the current financial year A makes a new application for a different endorsement on the same licence. The fee payable for the new application is only the application fee for an endorsement on a licence.

- (3) In this section—

application fee means a fee under schedule 4, item 1.

current financial year means the financial year in which the relevant person paid the relevant fee.

relevant fee means—

- (a) any fee under schedule 4, item 1; and
(b) the fee under schedule 4, item 2.

relevant person means an individual or licensee who may make an application under part 3 of the Act.

11 **Fee not payable for application for occupational licence for which there is an associated QBCCA licence**

- (1) This section applies, despite section 10 and schedule 4, if a person makes an application (the ***relevant application***) for the issue, renewal or restoration of a licence (the ***occupational licence***) mentioned in schedule 4A, column 1.
- (2) If the person holds an associated QBCCA licence for the occupational licence, no fee is payable for the relevant application for the occupational licence.
- (3) Subsections (4) and (5) apply if the person—
- (a) does not hold an associated QBCCA licence for the occupational licence; and

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- (b) has applied for, or asked for the restoration of, an associated QBCCA licence for the occupational licence under the *Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991*, section 33 or 39 (each the ***QBCCA application***).
- (4) The person is not required to pay the fee that would, other than for this section, be payable for the relevant application for the occupational licence unless the QBCCA application is refused.
- (5) If the QBCCA application is refused and the QBCC commissioner gives the person notice of the refusal, the person must pay the fee for the relevant application for the occupational licence within 5 business days after being given the notice.
- (6) In this section—

associated QBCCA licence, for an occupational licence mentioned in schedule 4A, column 1, means a QBCCA licence of the class mentioned opposite the occupational licence in column 2 of the schedule.

QBCCA licence means a contractor's licence, nominee supervisor's licence or site supervisor's licence under the *Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991*.

Part 4 Transitional provisions

Division 1 Transitional provision for 2009 SL No. 192

12 Solar and heat pump hot water system installation endorsement

- (1) This section applies if—

[s 13]

- (a) a person does not have an endorsement for solar and heat pump hot water system installation on the person's plumbers licence or provisional plumbers licence; and
 - (b) other than for this section, the person would require the endorsement on the person's licence to carry out particular plumbing work.
- (2) Despite section 7 and schedule 3, item 6, the person may carry out the plumbing work, if the person carries out the work before 31 December 2010.
- (3) Despite the Standard Plumbing and Drainage Regulation, schedule 2, plumbing work carried out under subsection (2) is taken not to be minor work.

Division 2 Transitional provisions for Plumbing and Drainage and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013

13 Definitions for div 2

In this division—

commencement means the commencement of this section.

drainer—on-site sewerage facility licence means the restricted licence of that name.

14 References to drainer—on-site sewerage facility licence—existing licence

- (1) This section applies to a drainer—on-site sewerage facility licence in force immediately before the commencement.
- (2) A reference in the licence to a drainer—on-site sewerage facility licence, however expressed, is taken to be a reference to a drainer—on-site sewerage facility licence issued for the scope of work mentioned in schedule 2, item 8, column 4, paragraph (a).

15 Existing applications relating to drainer—on-site sewerage facility licence

- (1) This section applies to an application relating to a drainer—on-site sewerage facility licence made but not decided before the commencement.
- (2) The application is taken to relate to a drainer—on-site sewerage facility licence that may be issued only for the scope of work mentioned in schedule 2, item 8, column 4, paragraph (a).

16 References to drainer—on-site sewerage facility licence—other documents

- (1) This section applies to a document, other than a document mentioned in section 14 or 15, in existence immediately before the commencement.
- (2) A reference in the document to a drainer—on-site sewerage facility licence, however expressed, may be taken, if the context permits, to be a reference to a drainer—on-site sewerage facility licence issued for the scope of work mentioned in schedule 2, item 8, column 4, paragraph (a).

Division 3 Transitional provision for Queensland Building and Construction Commission and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2016

17 Licence applications

- (1) This section applies if—
 - (a) an application was made for a plumbers licence or a drainers licence before the commencement; and
 - (b) the application was not decided before the commencement.

[s 17]

- (2) The application must be decided under this regulation as in force immediately after the commencement.

Schedule 1 **Qualifications, practical experience and scope of work for plumbers and drainers licences**

section 5

Licence	Qualifications	Practical experience	Scope of work
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
1 Plumbers licence	(a) the competencies in the plumbing and draining apprenticeship for a plumbers licence; or (b) a certificate of competency in plumbing approved by the QBCC commissioner; or (c) a foreign licence as a plumber approved by the QBCC commissioner; or (d) a qualification at least equivalent to the qualification mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b) approved by the QBCC commissioner	(a) at least 1 year's practical plumbing experience after successful completion of the plumbing and draining apprenticeship; or (b) practical experience at least equivalent to the practical experience mentioned in paragraph (a)	plumbing work, other than plumbing work for which an endorsement on a plumbers licence is required to perform the work

Schedule 1

Licence	Qualifications	Practical experience	Scope of work
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
2 Drainers licence	(a) the competencies in the plumbing and draining apprenticeship for a drainers licence; or (b) a certificate of competency in draining approved by the QBCC commissioner; or (c) a foreign licence as a drainer approved by the QBCC commissioner; or (d) a qualification at least equivalent to the qualification mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b) approved by the QBCC commissioner	(a) at least 1 year's practical draining experience; or (b) practical experience at least equivalent to the practical experience mentioned in paragraph (a)	drainage work below ground level, other than drainage work for which an endorsement on a drainers licence is required to perform the work

Schedule 2 Qualifications, practical experience and scope of work for restricted licences

section 6

Restricted licence	Qualifications	Practical experience	Scope of work
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
1 Water plumber— gas	(a) hold, under the <i>Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004</i> , a gas work licence; and (b) either— (i) successful completion of a course approved by the QBCC commissioner; or (ii) a qualification at least equivalent to the qualification mentioned in subparagraph (i)	no prescribed practical experience	disconnect and connect water plumbing associated with replacing a gas hot water heater

Schedule 2

Restricted licence	Qualifications	Practical experience	Scope of work
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
2 Water plumber— electrical	(a) hold, under the <i>Electrical Safety Act 2002</i> , an electrical mechanic licence or an electrical fitter licence; and (b) either— (i) completion of a course approved by the QBCC commissioner; or (ii) a qualification at least equivalent to the qualification mentioned in subparagraph (i)	no prescribed practical experience	disconnect and connect water plumbing associated with replacing an electric resistance hot water heater
3 Water plumber— irrigation	successful completion of a course approved by the QBCC commissioner	practical experience for each of the competencies in a course approved by the QBCC commissioner	water plumbing work restricted to irrigation
4 Water plumber— fire protection (hydrants and hose reels)	(a) relevant competencies in the plumbing and drainage apprenticeship; or (b) the competencies in an apprenticeship in fire protection	no prescribed practical experience	water plumbing work that is installing, maintaining and testing fire hydrants and hose reels

Restricted licence	Qualifications	Practical experience	Scope of work
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
5 Water plumber—fire protection (commercial and industrial)	the competencies in an apprenticeship in fire protection	no prescribed practical experience	water plumbing work that is installing, maintaining and testing commercial and industrial fire sprinkler systems
6 Water plumber—fire protection (domestic and residential)	(a) a restricted licence for a— (i) water plumber—fire protection (hydrants and hose reels); or (ii) water plumber—fire protection (commercial and industrial); and (b) successful completion of course approved by the QBCC commissioner	no prescribed practical experience	water plumbing work that is installing, maintaining and testing domestic and residential fire sprinkler systems
7 Water plumber—water and sanitary	successful completion of a course approved by the QBCC commissioner	no prescribed practical experience	water plumbing work and sanitary plumbing work

Schedule 2

Restricted licence	Qualifications	Practical experience	Scope of work
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
8 Drainer—on-site sewerage facility	successful completion of a course approved by the QBCC commissioner for a licence issued for the scope of work mentioned opposite in column 4, paragraph (a) or (b)	at least 6 months practical experience in the work within the scope of work for which the licence is issued mentioned opposite in column 4, paragraph (a) or (b)	(a) maintaining on-site sewerage facilities; or (b) maintaining on-site sewerage facilities and OSTP installation work

Schedule 3 Qualifications, practical experience and scope of work for endorsements

section 7

Endorsement	Qualifications	Practical experience	Scope of work
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
1 Backflow prevention (endorsement on a plumbers licence or provisional plumbers licence)	(a) if the plumbers licence or provisional plumbers licence is not currently endorsed for backflow prevention—successful completion of a course approved by the QBCC commissioner; and (b) if the plumbers licence or provisional plumbers licence is currently endorsed for backflow prevention—successful completion, before the end of each 5 years after the licence was first endorsed, of a test approved by the QBCC commissioner for the relevant competencies	no prescribed practical experience	commission, test and maintain backflow prevention devices
2 Thermostatic mixing valve (endorsement on a plumbers licence or provisional plumbers licence)	successful completion of a course approved by the QBCC commissioner	no prescribed practical experience	commission, test and maintain thermostatic mixing valves

Schedule 3

Endorsement	Qualifications	Practical experience	Scope of work
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
3 On-site sewerage facility maintenance (endorsement on a drainers licence or provisional drainers licence)	successful completion of a course approved by the QBCC commissioner	no prescribed practical experience	maintain on-site sewerage facilities
4 Fire protection—commercial and industrial (endorsement on a plumbers licence or provisional plumbers licence)	(a) successful completion of a plumbing and draining apprenticeship and successful completion of a course approved by the QBCC commissioner; or (b) successful completion of the competencies in an apprenticeship for fire protection	no prescribed practical experience	install, maintain and test commercial and industrial fire sprinkler systems
5 Fire protection—domestic and residential (endorsement on a plumbers licence or provisional plumbers licence)	successful completion of a course approved by the QBCC commissioner	no prescribed practical experience	install, maintain and test domestic and residential fire sprinkler systems
6 Solar and heat pump hot water system installation (endorsement on a plumbers licence or provisional plumbers licence)	successful completion of a course approved by the QBCC commissioner	no prescribed practical experience	install, replace, test, repair and maintain solar and heat pump hot water systems

Schedule 4 Fees

section 10

	\$
1 Application—	
(a) for a plumber’s licence or drainer’s licence (Act, s 36(1)(c)(ii))	139.95
(b) for a restricted licence (Act, s 36(1)(c)(ii))	86.55
(c) for a provisional licence (Act, s 36(1)(c)(ii))	64.90
(d) for an endorsement on a licence (Act, s 145(3)(b))	15.25
(e) to renew a licence, for each year of renewal (Act, s 48(2)(c)(i))	73.85
(f) to renew a licence for a licensee who is an employee of a registered training organisation, for each year of renewal (Act, s 48(2)(c)(i))	21.65
(g) to renew a licence for an applicant who is retired, for each year of renewal (Act, s 48(3))	21.65
(h) to restore a licence (Act, s 52(1)(b)(i))	73.85
(i) for a review of the conditions of a licence (Act, s 55(3)(b))	64.90
(j) to replace a licence (Act, s 73(2)(c))	27.95
(k) for an alternative qualification to be assessed for equivalence (Act, s 145(3)(b))	27.95
2 Processing an application for a licence (Act, s 42(3))	67.45
3 Certified copy of a licence (Act, s 74)	27.95
4 Notice of notifiable work (Act, s 87(4)(c))—	
(a) if the notice is given by a person, other than a relevant entity—	
(i) electronically under section 87A of the Act	30.75

Schedule 4

	\$
(ii) in another way	41.50
(b) if the notice is given by a relevant entity that is a public sector entity	nil
(c) if the notice is given by another relevant entity	41.50

Schedule 4A Associated QBCCA licences for occupational licences

section 11

Column 1 Occupational licence	Column 2 Associated QBCCA licences
plumbers licence	<p>plumbing and drainage licence mentioned in the <i>Queensland Building and Construction Commission Regulation 2018</i>, schedule 2, part 18</p> <p>plumbing and draining restricted to plumbing licence mentioned in the <i>Queensland Building and Construction Commission Regulation 2018</i>, section 60(1)</p> <p>plumbing and draining restricted to tanks—water supply licence mentioned in the <i>Queensland Building and Construction Commission Regulation 2018</i>, section 60(1)</p>
drainers licence	<p>plumbing and drainage licence mentioned in the <i>Queensland Building and Construction Commission Regulation 2018</i>, schedule 2, part 18</p> <p>drainage licence mentioned in the <i>Queensland Building and Construction Commission Regulation 2018</i>, schedule 2, part 19</p>

Column 1 Occupational licence	Column 2 Associated QBCCA licences
water plumber—gas licence mentioned in schedule 2, item 1 for the scope of work stated in item 1, column 4 of that schedule	gasfitting licence mentioned in the <i>Queensland Building and Construction Commission Regulation 2018</i> , schedule 2, part 36
water plumber—irrigation licence mentioned in schedule 2, item 3 for the scope of work stated in item 3, column 4 of that schedule	irrigation licence mentioned in the <i>Queensland Building and Construction Commission Regulation 2018</i> , schedule 2, part 21
water plumber—fire protection (hydrants and hose reels) licence mentioned in schedule 2, item 4 for the scope of work stated in item 4, column 4 of that schedule	fire hydrants and hose reels licence (install and maintain) mentioned in the <i>Queensland Building and Construction Commission Regulation 2018</i> , schedule 2, part 28, section 1(2)
water plumber—fire protection (commercial and industrial) licence mentioned in schedule 2, item 5 for the scope of work stated in item 5, column 4 of that schedule	sprinkler and suppression systems (reticulated water-based) licence (install and maintain) mentioned in the <i>Queensland Building and Construction Commission Regulation 2018</i> , schedule 2, part 26, section 1(4) sprinkler and suppression systems (reticulated water-based) licence (install and maintain—restricted to commercial or industrial type) mentioned in the <i>Queensland Building and Construction Commission Regulation 2018</i> , schedule 2, part 26, section 1(5)

Column 1 Occupational licence	Column 2 Associated QBCCA licences
water plumber—fire protection (domestic and residential) licence mentioned in schedule 2, item 6 for the scope of work stated in item 6, column 4 of that schedule	<p>sprinkler and suppression systems (reticulated water-based) licence (install and maintain) mentioned in the <i>Queensland Building and Construction Commission Regulation 2018</i>, schedule 2, part 26, section 1(4)</p> <p>sprinkler and suppression systems (reticulated water-based) licence (install and maintain—restricted to domestic or residential type) mentioned in the <i>Queensland Building and Construction Commission Regulation 2018</i>, schedule 2, part 26, section 1(6)</p>
drainer—on-site sewerage facility licence (maintenance) mentioned in schedule 2, item 8 for the scope of work stated in item 8, column 4, paragraph (a) of that schedule	drainage—on-site sewerage facility licence (maintenance) mentioned in the <i>Queensland Building and Construction Commission Regulation 2018</i> , schedule 2, part 20, section 1(1)
drainer—on-site sewerage facility licence (maintenance and installation) mentioned in schedule 2, item 8 for the scope of work stated in item 8, column 4, paragraph (b) of that schedule	drainage—on-site sewerage facility licence (maintenance and installation) mentioned in the <i>Queensland Building and Construction Commission Regulation 2018</i> , schedule 2, part 20, section 1(2)

Schedule 5 Dictionary

section 3

alternative qualification see section 9(1)(b).

apprenticeship see the *Further Education and Training Act 2014*, schedule 2.

certificate of competency, for plumbing or drainage, means a certificate in plumbing or drainage that is in force and recognised under the Australia-New Zealand Reciprocity Association Agreement.

chief executive (training) means the chief executive of the department in which the *Further Education and Training Act 2014* is administered.

competencies, for a particular licence or endorsement, means the competencies decided by the QBCC commissioner for the licence or endorsement.

foreign licence means a licence issued by a foreign licensing authority that is in force and recognised under the Australia-New Zealand Reciprocity Association Agreement.

holding tank means a sealed tank used for the temporary storage of sewage.

on-site sewerage application area see the Standard Plumbing and Drainage Regulation, schedule 6.

OSTP installation work means—

- (a) installing an on-site sewage treatment plant, other than a holding tank, septic tank, or a chemical, composting or incinerating toilet; and
- (b) establishing on-site sewerage application areas.

plumbing and draining apprenticeship means employment-based training in plumbing and draining that is declared by the chief executive (training) to be an

apprenticeship under the *Further Education and Training Act 2014*.

registered training organisation see the *National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Act 2011* (Cwlth), section 3.

sanitary plumbing see the Standard Plumbing and Drainage Regulation, schedule 6.

sanitary plumbing work means installing, changing, extending, disconnecting, taking away or maintaining sanitary plumbing.

water plumbing see the Standard Plumbing and Drainage Regulation, schedule 6.

water plumbing work means installing, changing, extending, disconnecting, taking away, maintaining or testing water plumbing.