

Building newsflash 502

Continuing professional development for pool safety inspectors

Purpose

To advise that continuing professional development (CPD) for pool safety inspectors (PSIs) commences on 1 September 2012.

Background

The Pool Safety Council (PSC) is responsible for the licensing of PSIs. Under the *Building Act 1975* (BA) a PSI seeking to renew or restore their licence must provide evidence to the PSC that they have, in the previous 12 month period, undertaken CPD prescribed under a regulation.

Currently, vocational training for PSIs, excluding licensed building certifiers, consists of a three or four day approved training course. This is a prerequisite for the initial granting of a licence.

To keep informed about relevant legislative changes, emerging issues and solutions to common practical and technical problems, PSIs must currently rely on the PSC's newsletter – *Newsplash* – and the department's web page, factsheets, guidelines, telephone and email enquiry services.

A draft CPD model was released for public consultation on 22 May 2012 and a large number of responses were received. There was general support for the introduction of a CPD scheme and a number of minor concerns raised by PSIs have been addressed in the new scheme.

CPD scheme

Amendments to the Building Regulation 2006 through the Building Amendment Regulation (No.3) 2012 will introduce the CPD scheme from 1 September 2012.

The scheme requires PSIs (who are not also licensed building certifiers) to accumulate a minimum of six CPD points (generally equivalent to six hours) in the 12 months prior to licence renewal or restoration. As a result of consultation feedback, this was reduced from the proposed eight points.

For PSIs who are also licensed building certifiers, the scheme requires a minimum of four points of relevant activities in the 12 months prior to licence renewal or restoration. The reduced point requirement for building certifiers recognises their existing expertise in pool safety as well as the existing CPD requirements associated with a building certifier licence.

The CPD scheme consists of professional memberships, training courses, workshops, conferences and departmental seminars relevant to the functions of a PSI. They include distance education options to promote accessibility for PSIs in regional areas. The point value of activities will be determined by the PSC and published on the department's [website](#). Recognised memberships are:

- Australian Institute of Building Surveyors
- RICS Australasia Pty Ltd
- Swimming Pool and Spa Association of Queensland

Transitional arrangements

A transitional scheme will operate until full CPD points are required. Initially, there will be three month's grace, until 1 December 2012, during which no CPD points will be needed when an application is submitted to have a licence renewed or restored. A staged implementation will commence for applications made after 1 December 2012, as follows:

- **2 CPD points:** for an application to renew or restore a PSI licence made on or after 1 December 2012 and before 1 January 2013.
- **4 CPD points:** for PSIs who are not building certifiers where an application to renew or restore a PSI licence made on or after 1 January 2013 and before 1 February 2013.

Recognition of past professional development

Recognition of past professional development may be sought from the PSC during the transitional period if the activity was undertaken before 1 September 2012. However, the PSC will only consider this if it occurred in the nine months prior to 1 September 2012. This is to be consistent with the provisions of the BA, which require that CPD must be completed within the 12 months prior to renewal or restoration.

The PSC is able to approve CPD activities outside the categories mentioned above, provided they are relevant to the functions or matters incidental to the functions of a PSI. This is intended to include work experience in the field of pool safety, for which CPD points would be available to PSIs employed by the department or local government.

Legislation

Building Amendment Regulation (No.3) 2012

Contact for further information

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