Plumbing newsflash number 430

Changes to the non-accredited solar and heat pump hot water system course

Purpose

To advise the Plumbing Industry Council (PIC) has approved changes to the non-accredited solar and heat pump hot water system (SHP) installation course.

Background

A plumber or provisional plumber can apply to PIC for a SHP installation endorsement on the plumber's licence to install, replace, test, repair and maintain SHPs (see Newsflash 390). To obtain the SHP endorsement, a licensee must have successfully completed a course approved by PIC. Plumbers and provisional plumbers have until 31 December 2010 to obtain the endorsement.

In response to comments from plumbing industry stakeholders regarding stage 1 of the course, PIC has approved changes to the non-accredited course to reduce the amount of documentary evidence that is required before candidates are eligible to take the online test.

Legislation
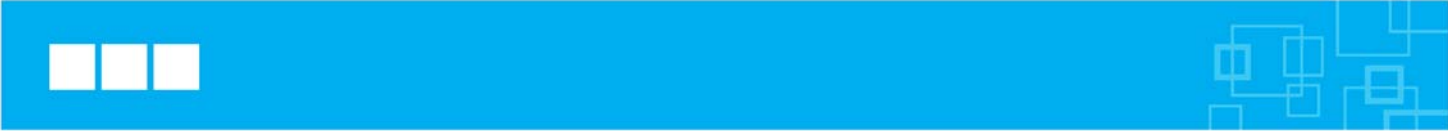
Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002 Sections 37(a) to 43
Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003 Sections 7, 8, 10, Schedule 3 (item 6) and Schedule 4
Standard Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003 Section 17 and Schedule 2.

Course approved by PIC

PIC endorsed an online non-accredited course that is intended for use by experienced plumbers and provisional plumbers who have been installing SHPs under the Form 1 and 2 process. In addition, an accredited course is being provided by Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) for plumbers or provisional plumbers who do not regularly install SHPs, but intend to in the future.

1. **Online non-accredited course—steps:**

   a) provide evidence of the successful installation of one solar and/or heat pump system during the past 12 months with the associated local government Certificates of Compliance (a statutory declaration may be submitted by the applicant instead of the forms and departmental officers will confirm with the local government, where possible, that Forms 1 and 2 were submitted and a certificate of compliance issued; and

b) provide evidence of having assessed and taken appropriate action regarding the structural integrity of roofs associated with the installations of solar hot water systems that the applicant performed (for example, provide a statement that the plumber took appropriate action to ensure the roof was capable of accepting the additional load of a solar hot water system); and

c) after reading the material supplied by PIC, complete an online open book test comprising 25 questions relating to plumbing laws and technical standards for SHPs. The licensee will be provided with two opportunities to undertake the examination. A minimum 92 per cent pass rate is required on the second attempt. PIC staff will follow up with the applicant with respect to any incorrectly answered questions. If unsuccessful, the licensee will be directed to complete the accredited course offered by RTOs.

2. Accredited course provided by RTOs
This course is more comprehensive than the competency currently provided in the Certificate III in Plumbing course and comprises elements from a Certificate V level.

Contact for further information

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