

Building and Plumbing Newsflash 575

New transitional arrangements for mechanical services licensing

Purpose

To advise existing businesses and workers of some changes to transitional arrangements for the new mechanical services licensing framework.

Background

On 1 January 2020, new licensing requirements for mechanical services work were introduced in Queensland.

Mechanical services work involves the mechanical heating or cooling of commercial and residential buildings using motors, machines or the flow of temperature-controlled fluids, for example air conditioning, refrigeration and air handling systems or boilers. Mechanical services work also includes medical gas work.

Mechanical services systems contribute to the overall health, safety and comfort of the community and can have fatal consequences if incorrectly installed or maintained.

The [Queensland Building and Construction Commission](#) (QBCC) regulates the licensing framework.

Transitioning to the new licences

The licensing framework recognises businesses and workers who were undertaking work immediately before the mechanical services licence commenced, that now falls within the scope of work for the new licence.

Currently, businesses and their nominees wishing to transition to the new framework must hold a mechanical services contractor (or nominee supervisor) licence by 1 July 2020. Occupational employees and site supervisors working for a licensed contractor (or one who is undertaking the application process) do not need to be licensed until 1 January 2022.

New transitional arrangements

We have introduced the following changes to assist industry:

- Medical gas businesses will have a further six months, that is until 31 December 2020, to meet certain minimum financial requirements.
- The scope of the alternative skills and experience recognised for the medical gas and mechanical services plumbing licence classes have been broadened.
- Businesses and workers who have been operating in highly specialised and niche fields but are unable to demonstrate competence in the entire scope of works for the licence class applied for, will be able to continue their specialised work under a conditional licence.

How the changes will be implemented

The QBCC is processing applications for the 1 July 2020 licensing deadline for contractors and nominees.

Businesses are urged to [contact the QBCC](#) about their application if they have not already done so.

More information

For further information regarding the mechanical services licensing framework and requirements visit:

- Business Queensland www.business.qld.gov.au/mechanicalserviceslicences
- Queensland Building and Construction Commission www.qbcc.qld.gov.au/mechanical-services-licences/

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