



Plumbing newsflash number 392

Course approved for the new solar and heat pump hot water system installation endorsement

Purpose

To advise a course has been approved by the Plumbers and Drainers Board (the board) for plumbers wishing to obtain a solar and heat pump hot water system (SHP) installation endorsement.

Background

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

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 the board

To expedite the transition to the new endorsement, the board has approved a half-day non-accredited course. An additional accredited course will also soon be available, which will be provided by Registered Training Organisations (RTOs).

1. A half day non-accredited course

This course is intended for use by experienced plumbers who have been installing SHPs under the Form 1 and 2 process.

Under this process the applicant will be required to:

- provide documentation satisfying workplace health and safety requirements (e.g. white card or blue card)
- provide evidence of either:
 - where systems are from two different manufacturers, two solar and two heat pump hot water systems that the applicant has installed during the last 12 months with the associated local government certificates of compliance, without defect notices being issued or
 - where systems are installed from the same manufacturer, three solar and three heat pump hot water systems that the applicant has installed during the last 12 months with the associated local government certificates of compliance, without defect notices being issued
- provide a statement from a local government plumbing inspector that all work associated with SHPs was defect-free

- provide evidence which indicates a licensee:
 - assessed and took action as appropriate 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 and building structure were capable of accepting the additional load of a solar hot water system)
 - prepared a work method statement (mandatory requirement under workplace health and safety laws) for each of the installations performed, particularly where the height of a solar hot water system installed was located higher than 3 m from the ground
- read material supplied by the board and complete an examination comprising 25 questions relating to plumbing laws and technical standards for SHPs. A licensee must answer all questions correctly. The licensee will be provided with two opportunities to undertake the examination. If unsuccessful, the licensee will be directed to complete the accredited course offered by RTOs.

2. A three-day 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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