



## Newsflash number 471

### Solar and heat pump hot water heater systems compliance reminder and free seminars

#### Purpose

To remind plumbers of their obligations regarding solar and heat pump hot water heater systems work and advise of Building Codes Queensland's free information seminars.

#### Background

The Plumbing Industry Council recently conducted an investigation of solar and heat pump hot water heater system installations performed under the Queensland Government's Solar Hot Water Rebate Program.

The investigation revealed many plumbers were failing to submit the relevant compliance documentation with local government as required under plumbing legislation. Failure to comply may result in fines or prosecution action. Also, disciplinary action may be taken against a licensee by the Plumbing Industry Council.

From 1 January 2011, a plumber cannot install, replace, test, repair and maintain solar and heat pump hot water heater systems within Queensland without holding a solar and heat pump licence endorsement. Details about this endorsement are provided in Newsflashes 390 and 392.

#### Legislation

*Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002*—section 87(2)

*Standard Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003*—section 10 and schedule 2

*Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003*—sections 11 and 12 and schedule 3

#### Requirements

##### Supervising endorsed provisional plumbers

A fully licensed plumber who is responsible for supervising work performed by an endorsed provisional plumber must also hold the solar and heat pump hot water heater system endorsement. This is to meet the requirements of section 123 (2) of the Act which provides that the holder of a provisional licence must not perform work unless the work is performed under the supervision of a licensee entitled to do the work being performed.

##### Solar and heat pump hot water heater system endorsed plumbers

Plumbers or provisional plumbers who hold the solar and heat pump hot water heater system endorsement only need to lodge a Form 4—Notifiable minor work, as inspection of the work is not required under the Form 4 process. Local governments may, however, randomly audit completed installations to monitor compliance.

In accordance with section 87 (2) of the Act, the person who carried out the work must give the local government notice of the work in the approved Form 4 within 40 business days after completing the work.

While an employer may submit a Form 4 on the plumber's behalf, the **plumber who carried out the work is responsible** for signing the form and ensuring that the form been received by the local government.



## Tips

Here are some tips to aid licensees in meeting the legislative requirements when undertaking solar and heat pump hot water heater system work.

### Employers who lodge Form 4 on behalf of employee

Make sure your employees complete a Form 4 for each solar and heat pump hot water heater system installation undertaken and set up a process where they either lodge the forms with local government themselves or give you, as their employer, the forms to lodge on their behalf.

Please note that a local government may not accept lodgement of a Form 4 until the \$25 fee has been paid.

### Plumbers who are employees

If you are a plumber who is an employee and you have installed a solar or heat pump hot water heater system, it is your responsibility to complete a Form 4 and lodge it with the local government. If your employer lodges the Form 4 on your behalf, make sure you request a copy of the form and proof of its lodgement. Proof can include a:

- copy of facsimile transmission report
- print out of emailed acknowledgment/receipt (if form lodged electronically)
- copy of form stamped by local government (if form was lodged in person at local government office).

### Obtaining copies of forms lodged with local government

Under section 143 of the Act, a local government has a responsibility to keep a copy of compliance forms lodged and make the copies available for public inspection, and for copying.

### Defective SHP installations

A list of the top ten errors for solar and heat pump hot water heater system installations identified by local government plumbing inspectors is [attached](#). A typical inspection [checklist](#) used by local government when auditing solar and heat pump hot water heater work is included to assist licensees.

Local government advises plumbers are failing to commission an installed hot water system. Plumbers must allow time for water to heat in the tank after installation to properly commission the system so that the water heats to the correct temperature as provided in Australian Standard AS/NZ 3500.4.2003 (part 4—heated water systems). This may require a plumber to return to the job to check the water temperature.

## Free information seminars

### Background

Queensland has recently experienced the effects of several natural disasters with the majority of the state declared as disaster zones. Various building and plumbing laws has been amended to assist the recovery process. Building Codes Queensland are providing **free** information sessions in regions to provide advice about the changes to the building and plumbing laws that apply to matters that could affect people's homes.



### Information sessions

Information sessions will provide details about:

- solar and heat pump hot water systems (SHP) installation requirements
- electronic lodgement of building and plumbing applications
- swimming pool safety laws
- sustainable housing
- building fire safety systems including standards for residential care buildings
- national licensing and the new National Construction Code.

Seats are limited, so book now. For more information please call 1800 534 972 or email [buildingcodes@dlgp.qld.gov.au](mailto:buildingcodes@dlgp.qld.gov.au)

### Dates and locations

Date	Location	Venue	Time
Thursday 9 June 2011	Whitsundays	Whitsunday Reef Gateway Hotel	4.30pm
Thursday 14 July 2011	Logan	Fitzzy's Loganyholme	4.30pm
Wednesday 27 July 2011	Roma	Roma Explorers Inn	4.30pm
Monday 15 August 2011	Emerald	Emerald Town Hall	4.30pm
Wednesday 17 August 2011	Banana	DPI Building, Biloela	4.30pm
Tuesday 20 September 2011	Bundaberg	Bundaberg Civic Centre	4.30pm
Wednesday 28 September 2011	Gladstone	Port Curtis Room, Boyne Island, Community Centre, Boyne Island	4.30pm
Wednesday 26 October 2011	Mt Isa	Mount Isa Civic Centre	4.30pm
Tuesday 8 November 2011	Townsville	Tony Ireland Stadium Function Room	4.30pm

### Contact for further information

Department of Local Government and Planning

**Building Codes Queensland Division**

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