



Building and Plumbing newsflash number 463

Building information for flood affected property owners, Queensland Plumbing Wastewater Code and plumbing forms

Purpose

To advise that:

- information relating to the rebuilding or repair of flood affected buildings is now available on the Department of Local Government and Planning's website
- newly amended plumbing laws allow like-for-like replacement of electric hot water systems damaged in natural disaster events
- simplified plumbing forms are now available
- plumbing licenses lost in flood will be replaced at no cost.

Building information for flood affected property owners

Following the recent widespread flooding across Queensland, there has been significant damage to buildings, with many buildings requiring repair or rebuilding.

As the community takes action to repair and restore buildings, it is important to remember that all building work must comply with the relevant codes and standards, including the Building Code of Australia and the Queensland Development Code.

Owners need to consider before commencing any rebuilding and repairing activities if a planning or building approval is required. A series of questions and answers to assist owners in deciding whether their repair or rebuilding activities require approval are available on the Department's website at <http://www.dlgp.qld.gov.au/fact-sheets/building-factsheets.html>. Homeowners may contact their local Government or a licensed building certifier for advice on what approvals are required.

The website also has information to assist people who are repairing a flood affected property. The fact sheet provides information about the use of building materials and techniques that may assist to make a home more flood resilient in the future. Homeowners need to consider whether materials and products used in repairs are suitable for their intended use and ensure that they comply with the relevant standards. Homeowners should also check the license and insurance details of tradespeople who approach them for flood repairs.

Amended Queensland Plumbing and Wastewater Code (QPW Code)

The QPW Code has been amended to permit owners of houses and townhouses (class 1 buildings) in natural gas reticulated areas to replace an existing electric hot water system with another electric system where a natural disaster event has occurred. A licensed plumber must certify that the existing electric hot water system needs to be replaced due to damage caused by a natural disaster event.



Revised Plumbing and Drainage forms

To simplify plumbing forms—Forms 1 and 2 have been combined and Form 4 has been amended. Changes include amalgamating Forms 1 and 2 removing unnecessary fields and adding information relating to the Distributor-Retailers.

Form 4 now has a field for plumbers to declare if an electric resistance hot water system (EHWS) has been replaced with an existing EHWS due to a natural disaster. It also clarifies section 7 which states the person or licensee completing and signing the Form 4 must be the person who undertook the work.

The amended mandatory Forms are now available on the Department's website www.dlgp.qld.gov.au

Replacement of lost/damaged Plumbing and Drainage licences

The Department will not be charging for licence replacements for licensees who have had their licence lost or damaged in the recent floods.

Contact for further information

Department of Local Government and Planning
Building Codes Queensland Division

tel +61 7 3239 6369

buildingcodes@dlgp.qld.gov.au

DISCLAIMER: The information contained in this Newsflash is provided by the State of Queensland in good faith. The material is general in nature and before relying on the material in any important matter, users should carefully evaluate its accuracy, currency, completeness and relevance for their purpose. It is not intended as a substitute for consulting the relevant legislation or for obtaining appropriate professional advice relevant to your particular circumstances. The State of Queensland cannot accept responsibility or liability for any loss, damage, cost or expense you might incur as a result of the use of or reliance on information contained in this Newsflash. It is not intended to be, and should not be relied upon as the ultimate and/or complete source of information.