

Building and Plumbing Newsflash 571

New mechanical services licensing framework commences on 1 January 2020

Purpose

To advise that new licensing requirements for mechanical services work, including medical gas work, commences on 1 January 2020.

Background

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.

Extensive consultation occurred on the new framework, including through a Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS). The RIS invited feedback on the technical details of a licensing framework for mechanical services work. Stakeholder feedback, which is summarised in the [Decision RIS](#) helped to inform the licensing requirements

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

New licences being established

Contractor, nominee supervisor, site supervisor and occupational licences will be offered in the following specialist streams of work:

- Mechanical services – medical gas
- Mechanical services – air conditioning and refrigeration
- Mechanical services – plumbing.

How will the changes be implemented?

The licensing framework commences from 1 January 2020 and will be implemented in stages.

For new entrants, contractors and nominee supervisors

If you finish an apprenticeship, contract or perform nominee supervisor functions for mechanical services work from 1 January 2020, you will need to hold a mechanical services licence. However, as a new licence, a six-month moratorium from compliance action applies for businesses that were carrying out mechanical services work up to 31 December 2019. This gives these businesses time to submit and have their applications decided, allowing time to transition to the new licensing requirements.

From 1 July 2020, if you are a new entrant (finished a relevant apprenticeship from 1 January 2020), contractor or perform nominee supervisor functions without a mechanical services licence you risk being fined.

For existing employees, including site supervisors

If you currently perform mechanical services work for your employer (excluding nominee supervisors or new entrants), you will have until 31 December 2021 to demonstrate that you meet the licensing eligibility requirements.

You can continue to perform mechanical services work during this time, as long as your employer holds the relevant mechanical services licence.

From 1 January 2022, you will need to hold a mechanical services licence to lawfully perform mechanical services work.

For further information

For further information regarding the mechanical services licensing framework and requirements, visit the Business Queensland website www.business.qld.gov.au/mechanicalserviceslicences.

Contact us

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