

Building and Plumbing Newsflash 584

Commencement of Queensland's new fire protection licensing framework and update to the Technical Qualifications for Licensing document - from 1 May 2021

Purpose

To advise that on 1 May 2021:

- Queensland's new fire protection licensing framework has commenced
- further minor regulation amendments took effect to support industry through the **transition** to the new fire protection licensing framework
- an updated Technical Qualifications for Licensing document took effect.

Background

On 1 May 2021, a new modernised and rationalised fire protection licensing framework commenced in Queensland (see also [Newsflash 580](#)). These important reforms will further strengthen the building and construction industry and protect Queenslanders in the built environment.

To ensure industry is supported through these changes, the Department of Energy and Public Works (DEPW) has been working closely with industry in the lead-up to commencement. As a result, some minor and technical amendments were made to improve the operation of the framework and the transition for industry.

The Technical Qualifications for Licensing document provides the technical qualifications required for each class of licence under the *Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991* and its associated regulation.

What are the key changes?

Fire protection licensing framework

The transition to the new fire protection licensing framework took effect on 1 May 2021 under the [Queensland Building and Construction Commission Regulation 2018](#). This transition is being implemented by the Queensland Building and Construction Commission.

For most fire protection licensees, there will be little or no change to the work they are currently undertaking. However, changes have applied to some existing licensees, depending on the class of fire protection licence they currently hold. The new, streamlined licensing framework includes important transitional arrangements to support implementation. Further information about transitional arrangements is available on the [QBCC fire protection web page](#).

Further amendments to support transition

In response to stakeholder feedback, further minor regulation amendments were made to support industry through the transition, including to:

- continue the existing scope of work for current hydrants and hose reels —inspect and test licensees for a further six months until 1 November 2021

- provide an option for electrical mechanics who can sufficiently demonstrate relevant experience to obtain a new contractor licence to install and maintain fire alarm systems with no upskilling required
- simplify the upskilling requirements for existing fire detection, alarm and warning systems contractor licensees who also hold an electric mechanic licence
- clarify that licensed electrical mechanics do not require a fire protection occupational licence to inspect and test emergency lighting systems
- make other minor and technical amendments to clarify terms and provide greater certainty under the new framework.

Please refer to the [DEPW fire protection web page](#) or the [QBCC fire protection web page](#) for more information on the new fire protection licensing framework.

Updates to the Technical Qualification for Licensing document

The current version of the Technical Qualifications for Licensing document has been updated to reflect:

- the outcomes of a recent, comprehensive review by Artibus Innovation of the construction industry qualification framework
- commencement of Queensland's new fire protection licensing framework
- other minor updates, such as technical changes to reflect updated titles or codes for certain units of competency.

The updated version of the Technical Qualifications for Licensing document (v7) took effect from 1 May 2021 and can be viewed at the [Department of Energy and Public Works website](#).

More information

For [general information](#) about the changes:

- visit the [Department of Energy and Public Works website](#).

For [specific information](#) about individual licences and existing licensees:

- visit the [Queensland Building and Construction Commission website](#).
- submit an [online enquiry to the QBCC](#).
- call the QBCC on 139 333.

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