



Building and Plumbing **NEWSFLASH**



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Building and Plumbing Newsflash 641

Clarification regarding licensing requirements for plumbing work associated with mechanical heating or cooling systems in a building.

Purpose

This newsflash clarifies the licensing requirements for practitioners who perform work on mechanical heating or cooling system in a building, including for air conditioning chiller units under the Queensland licensing system.

It outlines the specific circumstances under which holders of a Mechanical Services licence issued under the *Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991* or a Plumbing and Drainage licence issued under the *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2018* (PD Act) are authorised to carry out such work.

Who should use it?

This information is relevant to QBCC licensees, industry practitioners and local governments to ensure compliance with the Queensland licensing system.

Background

The type of licence required to perform work on a mechanical heating or cooling system depends on the configuration of the system and whether it is connected to a water service.

The QBCC Act in defining what is mechanical services work, provides as an exclusion that mechanical services work does not include the connection or disconnection of a mechanical heating or cooling system from a water supply other than disconnection of the system from a water supply at an isolating valve adjacent to a mechanical component of that system.¹

¹ QBCC Act Schedule 2.

Licensing requirements to work on air conditioning chillers

Air-conditioning chiller systems connected to a water service

Air-conditioning chiller systems are considered a part of mechanical heating and cooling system for buildings. Generally, the isolating valve intended for the connection of the air-conditioning chiller system to the water service would be considered a fitting installed as plumbing work under the PD Act.

In these circumstances:

- Work involving the water supply up to and including the service isolation valve or backflow prevention device (intended for connection to the mechanical heating or cooling system) would be considered as regulated plumbing work under the PD Act requiring the work to be undertaken by a Plumbing and Drainage licensee².
- All other work downstream of the service isolation valve or backflow prevention device (including work on an enclosed chiller system) is not regulated plumbing work and can be undertaken by a contractor or occupational licensee holding either a Mechanical Services– Plumbing³ or Mechanical Services – Air-conditioning and refrigeration class⁴.

Other work not associated with the connection to a water service

In these circumstances:

- The installation, maintenance or repair of the chiller can be undertaken by a Mechanical Services – Air-conditioning and Refrigeration contractor or occupational licensee⁵.
- The holder of a Mechanical Services – Plumbing contractor or occupational licence may also undertake this work with the exception of any work requiring the handling of refrigerant gases⁶.
- The holder of a Mechanical Services – Air-conditioning and Refrigeration contractor or occupational licence may undertake work on air-conditioning systems in relation to the handling of refrigerant gases⁷.

² For further details, refer to the Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2019 Schedule 4 Part 1 Column 1, Section 1.

³ For further details, refer to the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Regulation 2018, Schedule 2, Part 48 (contractor licence). or Schedule 3A, Part 2 (occupational licence)

⁴ For further details, refer to the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Regulation 2018, Schedule 2 Part 48A or Part 48B (contractor licence). or Schedule 3A Part 3 (occupational licence)

⁵ For further details, refer to the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Regulation 2018, Schedule 3A, Part 3 (occupational licence) and Schedule 2, Parts 48A or 48B (contractor licence).

⁶ For further details, refer to the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Regulation 2018, Schedule 3A, Part 2 (occupational licence) and Schedule 2, Part 48 (contractor licence).

⁷ For further details, refer to the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Regulation 2018, Schedule 3A, Part 3 (occupational licence) and Schedule 2, Part 48A or 48B (contractor licence).

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