



Board's discretion and change

The Plumbers Licensing Board may decide to depart from or amend its policy guidelines with respect to general direction and control dependent on the merits of individual cases.

The Board will also issue updates of its guidelines as changes occur in plumbing industry practices and technologies or due to government initiatives or other regulations.

These changes will be published on the Board's website www.plumbers.wa.gov.au

Questions on general direction and control?

If you have any questions as a licensed person on the subject of general direction and control, please call the Board's Technical Advice line on 1 300 360 897.

Statutory guarantee for six years

The Regulations require a licensed plumbing contractor to certify that all plumbing work they carry out, as well as work undertaken by a licensed tradesperson, working under their general direction and control, is consistent with the Regulations and plumbing standards.

This is evidenced by the licensed plumbing contractor signing and lodging with the Board the required Notice of Intention, Certificate of Compliance (for major plumbing work) or Multi-Entry Certificate (for minor plumbing work).

As a statutory period of protection for consumers is six years for all plumbing work, the Board will apply the Regulations on the basis that a licensed plumbing contractor has exercised general direction and control over these works.

To assist licensed plumbing contractors in the exercise of general direction and control the Board also publishes technical notes and other advice on plumbing work matters.



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This publication is available on request in other formats to assist people with special needs.



Plumbers Licensing Board

General direction and control of plumbing work



Obligations for licensed plumbing contractors and tradespersons

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Plumbing laws and standards

The Water Services Licensing (Plumbers Licensing and Plumbing Standards) Regulations 2000 (the Regulations) are in place to ensure that water supply, sanitary and drainage plumbing work in Western Australia is of the highest standard.

Only a licensed plumbing contractor or a licensed tradesperson, working under the general direction and control of a licensed plumbing contractor, can carry out plumbing work.

The Plumbers Licensing Board takes action against people doing unlicensed plumbing work.



Supervision of tradespersons

The Board reminds all licensed tradespersons of particular obligations under the Regulations with respect to general direction and control.

A licensed plumbing contractor must exercise 'general direction and control' and it is not sufficient to rely on the fact that a tradesperson holds a current licence issued by the Plumbers Licensing Board.

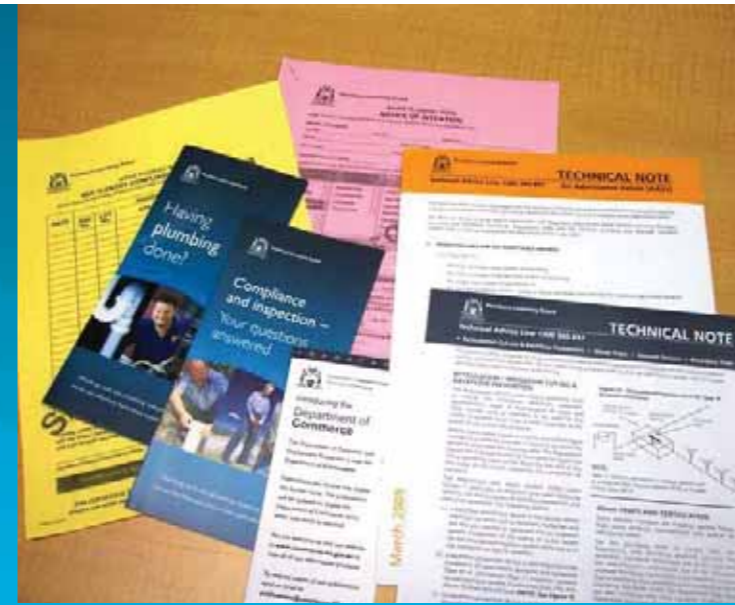
Significant penalties can apply to both parties where the Board finds, in cases of licence lending, that no general direction and control relationship exists between a licensed plumbing contractor and a tradesperson.

Tradespersons may supervise the work of an apprentice but this must also be under the general direction and control of a licensed plumbing contractor.

Guidelines for general direction and control

The Plumbers Licensing Board will generally consider that a licensed plumbing contractor has exercised general direction and control over a licensed tradesperson if the licensed plumbing contractor:

- has a practical management system in place that provides appropriate assurance (checks and balances) that the plumbing work performed has been carried out in accordance with the legislative requirements ie appropriate plumbing standards;
- conducts regular assessments of each tradesperson's performance and skills highlighting areas of competence and areas where further training may be required; and
- provides instruction and/or guidance on a regular basis to the licensed tradesperson.



How do you determine general direction and control?

A licensed plumbing contractor should consider the following matters when determining general direction and control under (a) (b) and (c) above:

- the level of competence of the licensed tradesperson;
- the geographical location of the job;
- the complexity of the plumbing work being carried out;
- the type of plumbing work being undertaken; and
- the potential risk of the plumbing work to public safety and health and the environment.

What is and is not subject to general direction and control?

These guidelines are provided to assist licensed persons understand the Board's policy on general direction and control required by the Regulations.

Clearly the regulations apply only to plumbing work (such as installing and repairing backflow prevention devices serving reticulation off a mains supply) and do not apply to activities outside of the Regulations.

Examples of activities that are currently not required to be performed by a licensed plumbing contractor or a licensed trades person, working under general direction and control, can include the installation, repair and maintenance of:

- septic tanks, leach drains and aerobic treatment units
- fire sprinkler pipes and fittings
- mechanical heating, cooling and ventilation pipework
- roof plumbing
- bore and storage tank plumbing
- reticulation from a bore or tank
- refrigerated air-conditioning
- stormwater drainage.

Note: If you need to clarify the circumstances where activities may be exempt from the Regulations or the level of general direction and control, please ring the Board's Technical Advice Line on 1300 360 897.