



Information for Plumbers and Drainers in Regional NSW

NSW Plumbing Reforms - 1 July 2012

With the introduction of the [Plumbing and Drainage Act 2011](#), from 1 January 2013 Fair Trading will become the state's single plumbing and drainage regulator for all on-site plumbing and drainage works.

NSW Fair Trading will be delegating inspection and enforcement powers to regional councils so they may continue conducting plumbing and drainage inspections

Plumbing reforms 2012

Plumbing reforms in 2012 were part of a state-wide initiative by the NSW Government to provide a more consistent and effective approach to standard setting, on-site regulation compliance in NSW.

As part of the plumbing regulatory framework, Fair Trading licenses plumbers and drainers under the *Home Building Act 1989*, and all plumbing and drainage work must be completed by a person who holds a licence, qualified supervisor certificate or tradesperson certificate. In addition, a system of on-site regulation ensures that NSW plumbing and drainage work is monitored, so it complies with technical standards and regulations.

What does this mean for Plumbers and Drainers in Regional NSW

For plumbers and drainers working in regional NSW (that is outside of where Sydney Water and Hunter Water are the water and sewer provider) you continue to call the local council in relation to booking inspections, paying inspection fees, submitting documentation and other enquires.

If Sydney Water or Hunter Water are the water and or sewer provider in the area you are working you need to contact NSW Fair Trading to book inspections, pay inspection fees, submit documentation and for enquires on 1300 889 099. For more information go to: http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/Tradespeople/Plumbers_and_drainers

Documents and forms

As part of the reforms which aim to introduce consistency in requirements of Fair Trading and local councils, plumbers and drainers are required to submit the following documents at certain stages of the work.

- A 'Notice of Work' (NoW) is to be issued to the regulator no later than 2 business days before the work concerned is carried out
- A 'Certificate of Compliance' (CoC) is to be issued to the regulator and a copy to the person for whom the work was carried out on completion of the final inspection
- A 'Sewer Service Diagram' (SSD) is to be issued to the regulator and a copy to the owner of the land or the owner's agent.

To obtain the above documents please contact the council where the work is intended to be carried out

What type of work should I book an inspection for?

By law, you must book an inspection for all work covered by a Notice of Work (NoW). The licensee is responsible for contacting the relevant local plumbing and drainage authority in the area that the work is intended to be carried out to ensure that all required inspections are booked.

When must I book an inspection?

Inspections are generally required when:

- drainage work is finished and before backfilling or covering the installation
- a connection to a Network Utility Operator sewer main is finished and before backfilling
- water supply work is finished and before cladding walls and/or ceilings
- when there is a need for re-inspection or for an inspection of non-compliant work
- at the completion of all the work (final inspection).

Codes and Standards

The Plumbing Code of Australia (PCA) is now the technical standard for all plumbing and drainage work in NSW. All plumbing and drainage work in NSW must comply with the PCA.

The new Code replaces the more prescriptive NSW Code of Practice for Plumbing and Drainage and other local requirements. This system means plumbers no longer need to remember a myriad of local variations to plumbing standards. Plumbers will be able to work more easily across different regions, without needing to know local variations.

The PCA sets out performance requirements for the design, construction, installation, replacement, repair, alteration and maintenance of plumbing and drainage installations.

The Code calls up AS/NZS 3500, and it has two provisions that plumbers and drainers can work to and achieve code compliance. One option is for the work to be done under the 'Deemed to Satisfy' provisions which means that it has been done in accordance with AS/NZS 3500. The other is the performance based provision where work (usually designed by a hydraulic engineer or consultant) meets or exceeds the requirements of AS/NZS 3500.

Plumbers and drainers can get copies of the PCA from the Australian Building Codes Board at www.abcb.gov.au

For more information in relation to performance based provision, Plumbers and Drainers can download a copy of the [Guideline for plumbing and drainage: Installing code compliant work and alternative solutions](#) (PDF size: 204kb) from the Fair Trading website.

Subscribe to keep up-to-date

Subscribe to [Foundations](#), Fair Trading's e-newsletter, to receive up-to-date information about the plumbing and drainage reforms and other home building matters.

For any further information please contact the relevant Council.