



Technical Qualifications for Licensing

Plumbing and Drainage Occupational Licences under the *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2018*

Queensland Building and Construction Commission licence requirements
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Contents

Purpose.....	3
Relevant legislation.....	3
<i>Plumbing and Drainage Act 2018 and Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2019</i>	3
Part 1 - Technical Qualifications and Experience Requirements for a Plumbers Licence.....	4
Plumbers Licence.....	4
Part 2 - Technical Qualifications and Experience Requirements for a Drainers Licence.....	5
Drainers Licence.....	5
Part 3 - Technical Qualifications and Experience Requirements for Restricted Licences.....	6
1. Water plumber – gas.....	6
2. Water plumber – electrical.....	6
3. Water plumber – irrigation.....	7
4. Water plumber – fire protection (hydrants and hose reels).....	7
5. Water plumber – fire protection (commercial and industrial).....	7
6. Water plumber – fire protection (domestic and residential).....	8
7. Water plumber – water and sanitary.....	8
8A. Drainer – on-site sewage facility (maintaining on-site sewage facilities).....	9
8B. Drainer – on-site sewage facility (carrying out OSTP installation work and maintaining on-site sewage facilities).....	9
Part 4 - Technical Qualifications and Experience Requirements for Endorsements – plumbers or provisional plumbers licences.....	10
1. Backflow prevention.....	10
2. Thermostatic mixing valve.....	10
3. Fire protection – commercial and industrial.....	10
4. Fire protection – domestic and residential.....	11
5. Solar and heat pump hot water system installation.....	11
Part 5 - Technical Qualifications and Experience Requirements for Endorsements – drainers or provisional drainers licences.....	12
On-site sewage facility maintenance.....	12

Purpose

The Queensland Building and Construction Commission (the QBCC) is the statutory body which regulates Queensland's building and construction sector. The QBCC is responsible for administering the licensing system as outlined under the *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2018* (the PD Act).

Sections 14 and 26 of the PD Act outline that the QBCC Commissioner (the Commissioner) must decide the qualifications and practical experience required for licence classes, restricted licence classes and endorsements. This document sets out these requirements as determined by the Commissioner.

Relevant legislation

Plumbing and Drainage Act 2018 and Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2019

Section 12 of the PD Act and Schedule 4 of the *Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2019* (PD Reg) outline the following classes of licence that a person may apply for a:

- plumbers licence - entitles the licence holder to carry out plumbing work, other than plumbing work for which an endorsement on a plumbers licence is required to perform the work.
- drainers licence - entitles the licence holder to carry out drainage work below ground level, other than drainage work for which an endorsement on a drainers licence is required to perform the work.
- restricted licence - entitles the licence holder to carry out work as prescribed by regulation.

Section 25 of the PD Act establishes endorsements on licences that the holder of a licence may apply for:

- licence endorsements - entitles the endorsement holder to carry out specialist work in addition to their occupational licence.

Sections 14 and 26 of the PD Act allow the Commissioner, through this document, to decide the qualifications and practical experience that an individual must have to be entitled to a licence, restricted licence or endorsement. The Commissioner must publish the technical qualifications and experience requirements on the QBCC website.

Please note:

- Under section 19 (1) and (2) of the PD Act, the Commissioner may grant a provisional licence to an applicant.
- Under sections 20 and 52, 1 (c) of the PD Act, the Commissioner may grant, change or impose new licence conditions considered necessary or desirable for the licensee to competently practise the plumbing and drainage trade.
- Under section 17 (2)(b) of the PD Act, the Commissioner may, by notice given to the applicant require the applicant to undergo an examination to assess the applicant's ability to competently practise the plumbing and drainage trade. For example, an examination may be required by the Commissioner where an applicant is relying on a qualification which was completed prior to 1 January 2011 or through an apprenticeship in another country.

Part 1 - Technical Qualifications and Experience Requirements for a Plumbers Licence

Part 1 of this document relates to section 14 of the PD Act and schedule 4, part 1 of the PD Reg which relates to the issuing of a plumbers licence.

Plumbers Licence

The requirements for a plumbers licence include both the qualifications and practical experience as stated below.

Qualifications

- (a) A Certificate III in Plumbing (CPC32413) completed through an apprenticeship in an Australian jurisdiction; or
- (b) A qualification completed through an apprenticeship in Australia which has been assessed and verified by a registered training organisation as at least equivalent to a Certificate III in Plumbing (CPC32413); or
- (c) A qualification completed through an apprenticeship in another country which has been assessed and verified by a registered training organisation as at least equivalent to a Certificate III in Plumbing; or
- (d) A qualification completed through an apprenticeship in another country which has been assessed and verified by a registered training organisation as at least equivalent to a Certificate III in Plumbing (CPC32413) because the applicant has also successfully completed relevant gap training competencies recognised in the National Register on Vocational Education and Training (VET) in Australia; or
- (e) A Certificate III in Plumbing (CPC32413) or a qualification which has been assessed and verified by a registered training organisation as at least equivalent to a Certificate III in Plumbing (CPC32413), that was not completed through an apprenticeship, provided the certificate or qualification excludes reliance on recognition of prior learning for any period where unlawful work (including work without the required licence) was carried out.
- (f) A qualification in plumbing completed through an apprenticeship in Australia prior to 1 January 2011 if the applicant has also completed the following units of competency from the Certificate III in Plumbing (CPC32413):
 - i) CPCPCM2043A – Carry out WHS requirements
 - ii) CPCCOH2001A – Apply OHS requirements, policies and procedures in the construction industry
 - iii) CPCCPFS3038A – Test and maintain fire hydrant and hose reel installations.

Practical experience

- (a) Where the required qualification is obtained pursuant to paragraphs (a), (b), (c) or (d) above, at least one (1) year's practical plumbing experience after successful completion of the required qualification.
- (b) Where the required qualification is obtained pursuant to paragraph (e) above, four (4) years practical plumbing experience after successful completion of the required qualification.
- (c) Where the required qualification is obtained pursuant to paragraph (f) above, at least one (1) year's practical plumbing experience after successful completion of the applicant's apprenticeship.

Practical plumbing experience means performing a wide range of plumbing work relative to competencies within the Certificate III in Plumbing (CPC32413).

Part 2 - Technical Qualifications and Experience Requirements for a Drainers Licence

Part 2 of this document relates to section 14 of the PD Act and schedule 4, part 2 of the PD Reg which relates to the issuing of a drainers licence.

Drainers Licence

The requirements for a drainers licence include both the qualifications and practical experience as stated below.

Qualifications

- (a) A Certificate II in Drainage (CPC20712) completed other than through a recognition of prior learning process; or
- (b) A Certificate II in Drainage (CPC20712) completed through a recognition of prior learning process provided the qualification (in whole or part) was not obtained through a recognition of prior learning process that relied on the applicant performing unlawful work (including work without the required licence); or
- (c) A Certificate III in Plumbing (CPC32413) (that includes completion of the drainage stream) completed as part of an apprenticeship in an Australian jurisdiction; or
- (d) A qualification, other than a qualification completed through a recognition of prior learning process, which has been assessed and verified by a registered training organisation as at least equivalent to a Certificate II in Drainage (CPC20712); or
- (e) A qualification completed in another country, completed other than through a recognition of prior learning or like process, which has been assessed and verified as at least equivalent to a Certificate II in Drainage (CPC20712) because the applicant has also successfully completed relevant gap training competencies recognised in the National Register on Vocational Education and Training (VET) in Australia; or
- (f) A qualification listed above which has been completed through a recognition of prior learning process provided that the qualification was not obtained through a recognition of prior learning process that relied on the applicant performing unlawful work (including work without the required licence).
- (g) A qualification in drainage completed through an apprenticeship in Australia prior to 1 January 2011 if the applicant has also completed the following units of competency from the Certificate III in Plumbing (CPC32413):
 - i) CPCPCM2043A - Carry out WHS requirements
 - ii) CPCCOH2001A - Apply OHS requirements, policies and procedures in the construction industry

Practical experience

At least one (1) year's practical drainage experience.

Practical drainage experience means performing a wide range of drainage work relative to the competencies within the Certificate II in Drainage (CPC20712).

Part 3 - Technical Qualifications and Experience Requirements for Restricted Licences

Part 3 of this document relates to section 14 of the PD Act and schedule 4, part 3 of the PD Reg which relates to the issuing of restricted licences.

1. Water plumber – gas

The requirements for a water plumber – gas licence include both the qualifications and practical experience as stated below.

Qualifications

- (a) CPCPWT3023A – Install and commission water heating systems; and
- (b) CPCPCM2043A – Carry out WHS requirements; and
- (c) Hold, under the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, a gas work licence

Practical experience

No practical experience.

2. Water plumber – electrical

The requirements for a water plumber – electrical licence include both the qualifications and practical experience as stated below.

Qualifications

- (a) CPCPWT3023A – Install and commission water heating systems; and
- (b) CPCPCM2043A – Carry out WHS requirements; and
- (c) Hold, under the *Electrical Safety Act 2002*, an electrical mechanic licence or an electrical fitter licence.

Practical experience

No practical experience.

3. Water plumber – irrigation

The requirements for a water plumber – irrigation licence include both the qualifications and practical experience as stated below.

Qualifications

- (a) Certificate III in Irrigation (AHC32416); or
- (b) Certificate II in Urban Irrigation (CPC20912).

Practical experience

Practical experience for each of the competencies in the abovementioned qualifications.

4. Water plumber – fire protection (hydrants and hose reels)

The requirements for a water plumber – fire protection (hydrants and hose reels) licence include both the qualifications and practical experience as stated below.

Qualifications

- (a) Successful completion of an apprenticeship in plumbing (Certificate III in Plumbing CPC32413); or
- (b) A qualification in plumbing completed through an apprenticeship in Australia prior to 1 January 2011 if the applicant has also completed the following units of competency:
 - i. CPCPCM2043A – Carry out WHS requirements
 - ii. CPCCOH2001A – Apply OHS requirements, policies and procedures in the construction industry
 - iii. CPCCPFS3038A – Test and maintain fire hydrant and hose reel installations; or
- (c) Successful completion of an apprenticeship in fire protection (Certificate III in Fire Protection CPC32813).

Practical experience

No practical experience.

5. Water plumber – fire protection (commercial and industrial)

The requirements for a water plumber – fire protection (commercial and industrial) licence include both the qualifications and practical experience as stated below.

Qualifications

Successful completion of an apprenticeship in fire protection (Certificate III in Fire Protection CPC32813).

Practical experience

No practical experience.

6. Water plumber – fire protection (domestic and residential)

The requirements for a water plumber – fire protection (domestic and residential) licence include both the qualifications and practical experience as stated below.

Qualifications

- (a) Successful completion of an apprenticeship in plumbing (Certificate III in Plumbing CPC32413); and
- iv. CPCPFS3037A – Install domestic and residential life safety sprinkler systems; and
 - v. CPCPFS4021A – Commission domestic and residential fire suppression sprinkler systems; and
 - vi. CPCPFS4024A – Design residential and domestic fire sprinkler systems.

OR

- (b) A qualification in plumbing completed through an apprenticeship in Australia prior to 1 January 2011 if the applicant has also completed the following six (6) units of competency:
- i. CPCPCM2043A – Carry out WHS requirements
 - ii. CPCCOH2001A – Apply OHS requirements, policies and procedures in the construction industry
 - iii. CPCCPFS3038A – Test and maintain fire hydrant and hose reel installations
 - iv. CPCPFS3037A – Install domestic and residential life safety sprinkler systems
 - v. CPCPFS4021A – Commission domestic and residential fire suppression sprinkler systems
 - vi. CPCPFS4024A – Design residential and domestic fire sprinkler systems.

OR

- (c) Successful completion of an apprenticeship in fire protection (Certificate III in Fire Protection CPC32813); and
- i. CPCPFS3037A – Install domestic and residential life safety sprinkler systems; and
 - ii. CPCPFS4021A – Commission domestic and residential fire suppression sprinkler systems; and
 - iii. CPCPFS4024A – Design residential and domestic fire sprinkler systems.

Practical experience

No practical experience.

7. Water plumber – water and sanitary

The requirements for a water plumber – water and sanitary licence include both the qualifications and practical experience as stated below.

Qualifications

Successful completion of Certificate III in Plumbing (Mechanical Services) (CPC32513).

Practical experience

No practical experience.

8A. Drainer – on-site sewage facility (maintaining on-site sewage facilities)

The requirements for a drainer – on-site sewage facility (maintaining on-site sewage facilities) licence include both the qualifications and practical experience as stated below.

Qualifications

Maintaining on-site sewage facilities:

- (i) QLD334WEP01A – Maintain and service domestic treatment plants and on-site sewage facilities; and
- (ii) CPCPDR4013B – Design and size domestic treatment plant disposal systems.

Practical experience

At least six (6) months practical experience in the work within the scope of work for which the licence is issued.

8B. Drainer – on-site sewage facility (carrying out OSTP installation work and maintaining on-site sewage facilities)

The requirements for a drainer – on-site sewage facility (carrying out On-site Sewage Treatment Plant (OSTP) installation work and maintaining on-site sewage facilities) licence include both the qualifications and practical experience as stated below.

Qualifications

Maintaining on-site sewage facilities and OSTP installation work:

- (i) QLD334WEP01A – Maintain and service domestic treatment plants and on-site sewage facilities; and
- (ii) CPCPDR4013B – Design and size domestic treatment plant disposal systems; and
- (iii) CPCPCM2043A – Carry out work health and safety requirements; and
- (iv) CPCPDR2022A – Install domestic treatment plants; and
- (v) CPCPDR3023A – Install on-site disposal systems; and
- (vi) BSBSMB401A – Establish legal and risk management requirements of small business.

Practical experience

At least six (6) months practical experience in the work within the scope of work for which the licence is issued.

Part 4 - Technical Qualifications and Experience Requirements for Endorsements – plumbers or provisional plumbers licences

Part 4 of this document relates to section 14 of the PD Act and schedule 4, part 4 of the PD Reg which relates to the issuing of endorsements.

1. Backflow prevention

The requirements for a backflow prevention endorsement include both the qualifications and practical experience as stated below.

Qualifications

- (a) CPCPWT4022A – Commission and maintain backflow prevention devices; or
- (b) If a plumber or provisional plumber has previously held a backflow prevention endorsement, CMBPDRV001 – Revalidation Course Commission and Maintain Backflow Prevention Devices completed within the last five (5) years.

Practical experience

No practical experience.

2. Thermostatic mixing valve

The requirements for a thermostatic mixing valve endorsement include both the qualifications and practical experience as stated below.

Qualifications

CPCPWT4023A – Commission and maintain hot and heated water temperature control devices.

Practical experience

No practical experience.

3. Fire protection – commercial and industrial

The requirements for a fire protection – commercial and industrial endorsement include both the qualifications and practical experience as stated below.

Qualifications

Certificate III in Fire Protection (CPC32813).

Practical experience

No practical experience.

4. Fire protection – domestic and residential

The requirements for a fire protection – domestic and residential endorsement include both the qualifications and practical experience as stated below.

Qualifications

- (a) CPCPFS3037A – Install domestic and residential life safety sprinkler systems; and
- (b) CPCPFS4021A – Commission domestic and residential fire suppression sprinkler systems; and
- (c) CPCPFS4024A – Design residential and domestic fire sprinkler systems; and
- (d) CPCPCM2043A – Carry out work health and safety requirements.

Practical experience

No practical experience.

5. Solar and heat pump hot water system installation

The requirements for a solar and heat pump hot water system installation endorsement include both the qualifications and practical experience as stated below.

Qualifications

QLD334SWH01A – Course in Evaluating and Planning the Installation of Solar and Heat Pump Water Systems.

Practical experience

No practical experience.

Part 5 - Technical Qualifications and Experience Requirements for Endorsements – drainers or provisional drainers licences

On-site sewage facility maintenance

The requirements for an on-site sewage facility maintenance endorsement include both the qualifications and practical experience as stated below.

Qualifications

- (a) CPCPDR4013B – Design and size domestic treatment plant disposal systems; and
- (b) QLD334WEP01A – Maintain and service domestic treatment plants and on-site sewage facilities.

Practical experience

No practical experience.