

# MECHANICAL SERVICES – LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR EMPLOYEES

From 1 January 2020, mechanical services licences have been introduced for mechanical services work of any value. There are three mechanical services streams – plumbing, air-conditioning and refrigeration, and medical gas.

## KEY DATES YOU NEED TO KNOW

The new licensing framework will roll out in stages.



### FROM 1 JANUARY 2020:

Existing businesses have six months to obtain a mechanical services licence. A Contractor's licence is required by entities engaging with clients to perform work. Nominee Supervisors also need to hold a relevant licence. Apprentices who finish a mechanical services apprenticeship after 31 December 2019 will need to apply for a licence before entering the industry.



### FROM 1 JULY 2020:

Companies, Contractors and Nominee Supervisors must be licensed to carry out mechanical services work.



### FROM 1 JANUARY 2022:

All individual workers will need to hold a current Occupational licence or Site Supervisor licence to carry out mechanical services work. This includes full time, part time and casual employees.

In order to ensure you have the required occupational licence by 1 January 2022, the QBCC recommends you apply by October 2021 to allow sufficient time for processing of applications.

## WHO DOESN'T NEED A MECHANICAL SERVICES LICENCE?

Apprentices, trainees and other students who carry out mechanical services work as part of their vocational studies must be supervised, but do not need to be licensed.

Workers performing mechanical services work who are employed by a public hospital do not require a licence to perform mechanical services work.

If you are installing air-conditioning systems in houses and townhouses and single head split systems, you are exempt from mechanical services licensing requirements and also exempt from QBCC Act licensing requirements if the work is of a value of \$3,300 or less.

## WHAT TYPES OF LICENCES ARE THERE?

Applicants must decide what type of licence they want to apply for. This is generally determined by their roles and responsibilities in the building industry:

- **Contractor** – can be held as an individual or a company – allows licence holder to supervise mechanical services work, be a nominee for a company and also enter into contracts with clients.
- **Nominee Supervisor** – allows licence holder to supervise mechanical services work and be the nominee for a company. The nominee supervisor must be an officer or employee of the company.
- **Site Supervisor** – allows an employee or officer of a licensed contractor to supervise mechanical services work under the contractor's licence.
- **Occupational** – this licence is required to carry out mechanical services work as an employee.

## WHAT LICENCE DOES AN EMPLOYEE NEED?

Licence applicants need to apply for the licence class that covers the work they will perform.

There are three different mechanical services licence classes available for an occupational licence:

- Mechanical Services – Plumbing licence
- Mechanical Services – Air-Conditioning and Refrigeration licence
- Mechanical Services – Medical Gas licence

A licence applicant needs to meet all current legislative requirements. This includes showing that they hold the relevant technical qualification. Transitional arrangements have been put in place to allow mechanical services workers time to meet these eligibility requirements. They may require additional training or Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) to assess skills gained in the workplace or through prior study. More information on these processes can be found on our website at [qbcc.build/techpathways](http://qbcc.build/techpathways)

For more information on the specific requirements for each class of mechanical services licence and how to make an application, see the following pages on our website:

- Mechanical Services – Plumbing licence – see [qbcc.build/plumbing](http://qbcc.build/plumbing)
- Mechanical Services – Air-Conditioning and Refrigeration licence – see [qbcc.build/aircon](http://qbcc.build/aircon)
- Mechanical Services – Medical Gas licence – see [qbcc.build/medigas](http://qbcc.build/medigas)

## WHERE TO GO TO SUBMIT A MECHANICAL SERVICES APPLICATION?

Current employees can apply for a mechanical services licence anytime from 1 January 2020. In order to ensure you have the required occupational licence by 1 January 2022, the QBCC recommends you apply by October 2021 to allow sufficient time for processing of applications.

Simply visit the QBCC website and lodge an online form via myQBCC or download a paper form.

The QBCC is committed to engaging with industry stakeholders to promote an understanding of these new licensing obligations and support a smooth transition for those who perform this work. Members of industry bodies can seek assistance from those organisations to understand the new licensing framework.

## QUESTIONS?



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[qbcc.build/mechservices](http://qbcc.build/mechservices)



Visit a QBCC Service Centre



Workers who are members of industry bodies can seek assistance from those organisations to understand the new licensing framework.