

NEWSLETTER
Brought to you by the
Hauraki District Council, Building Consent
Authority

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Welcome back. What looked like a roaring start to the year is now starting to ease to give us a well earned breather but the question is for how long.

ACCREDITATION

Council is well on track to gain its accreditation.

The BCA has sent all the required documentation to IANZ and it's been approved with few corrective actions. The next step was to complete a Pre Assessment Meeting with Dave Sidwell IANZ Accreditation Officer, and the path is now clear for the BCA to have its audit. The audit is set for the end of August and hopefully we will pass this with few corrective actions.

LICENSING UPDATE

The DBH have issued update 4 on the developments in the Licensed Building Practitioner Scheme. You can view this at <http://www.dbh.govt.nz/licensing-update-index> If you have problems downloading a copy Council will be happy to send you a copy, please get in contact with customer services at any of our offices., see below for the details.

Qualifications as supporting evidence

You do not have to have a formal qualification to be licensed, although any relevant qualifications you do have, will be good supporting evidence of your knowledge and skills in your field of work.

A qualification is any degree, diploma, or certificate (including trade certificates) from a recognized education provider such as a university or polytechnic, or a registered NZ industry training organization (ITO) or private training establishment.

A qualification does not mean events such as attending work shop or seminar, although these will be good supporting evidence for your application.

Overseas qualifications

If you have recently arrived in NZ and want to use qualifications earned overseas as supporting evidence in your application, you will first need to have them evaluated by the NZ Qualification Authority (NZQA).

NZQA's Qualification Recognition Service will establish the nearest NZ equivalent to your qualification(s). If an international qualification is not comparable to any NZ qualification this will be stated on the assessment report.

You can find out more about this service from the NZQA website www.nzqa.govt.nz or by phoning 04 463 3000.

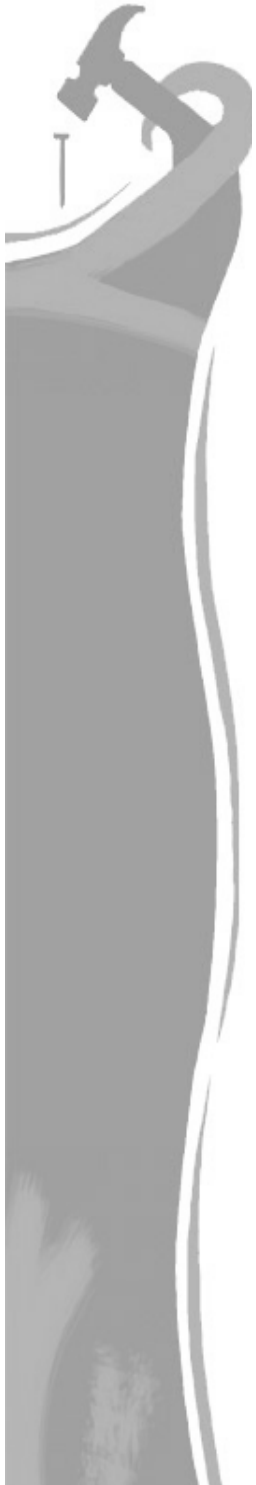
Trans Tasman Mutual Recognition Agreement

Under this agreement, a person registered to practice an occupation in Australia is entitled to practice the equivalent in NZ, and vice versa, without the need for further testing or examination.

This 'mutual recognition' applies to occupations that have some form of legislation-based registration, certification, licensing, approval or other form of authorisation.

The Agreement aims to remove barriers to the movement of people in registered occupations across the Tasman, and to develop a trans-Tasman employment market and a shared skills pool.

The Department of Building and Housing is currently looking at this at this agreement in relation to the Licensed Building Practitioner Scheme, to see how a 'fit' can be achieved between the occupational classes in each country, and at what stage the agreement will take effect.



Working groups

Carpentry will be the first of the 'trade' occupational licence classes to be introduced, and a nationwide road show is planned for October and November 2007, at which application kits for the Design site and Carpentry classes will be available. The schedule for these events will be available on the DBH website closer to the time. Prior to that, a booklet will be widely circulated providing detailed guidance to people deciding which licence to apply for.

If you're successfully working in the industry now and can demonstrate the required skills and a good track record, you should have no problem getting a licence.

You will be assessed on:

- Your work history and project records
- Technical references and client testimonies
- Your understanding of the responsibilities of your licence.

Your application can also be supported by:

- Any qualifications and training you have achieved
- Participation in industry organizations and events.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

AMENDMENTS

Council is receiving quite a number of amendments. The issue for Council Staff is trying to establish what is being amended.

Please clearly identify the amended changes on the plans. They should ideally be marked/enclosed in a 'cloud' and the date of the amendment shown on the bottom right hand corner. This will mean the inspectors will not have to play "spot the difference" between existing and the amendment.

Please remember the clearer the amendment the easier it will be for Council staff to process, and in turn this means it will be approved and received by you much quicker.

We have had some difficulty with charging for Building Consent Amendments. I currently have a proposal before Council where all amendments will be charged a \$100 deposit and if processing of the amendment plus the necessary administration and recording exceeds the \$100, then actual costs over and above the \$100 will be charged. This will overcome the issue of some amendments being straight forward with others being complex and significant.

I will notify you if this proposal is accepted by Council.

PLANS

The quality of plans received recently, are not of the best standard, this is resulting in many projects being suspended. Please can you make a little more effort to get the information correct before submitting to Council. Remember if you are not sure of what is required you can organize a prelodgment meeting with one of our Building Control Officials to help you with the process.

Informative Websites

BRANZ www.branz.co.nz Building Controls www.building.govt.nz
DBH www.dbh.govt.nz Consumer Building www.consumerbuild.org.nz
NZ Standards www.standards.co.nz

EMAIL

We would appreciate your email if you have one so Council can communicate with you electronically the latest newsletters and bulletins.

CONTACT

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27 August 2007

Dear Tradespeople

BUILDING CONTROL AUTHORITY – TRADE SEMIAR UPDATE

I am taking this opportunity to write to you all to update you on events at the Hauraki District Council Building Control Authority as we move towards Accreditation and to explain the situation in relation to future Trade Seminars.

I am pleased to advise that we will be having our Building Control Authority Accreditation audit this week, starting on Wednesday 29th and finishing on Friday the 31st. The audit team includes a lead assessor, two assessors and two building control experts with Local Government experience.

While the majority of the audit will relate to the integrity of internal processes for the receipt, processing and finalisation of Building Consents, a significant part of the audit includes onsite inspections by Council Building Control staff.

There has been a huge amount of work required to reach this stage and as a consequence I placed a hold on Trades Seminars to allow my staff the time necessary to concentrate on this key issue.

Once the audit is complete we will (if successful) be concentrating on any corrective actions required. Following this I will arrange for the next Trade Seminar. Attached for your information is a Newsletter updating various issues.

Please do not forget to use the Building section of our website at www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz and also if you have any queries you can email us at building@hauraki-dc.govt.nz

If you have any subject you would like to have discussed at the next Trade Seminar, please contact me to discuss this.

Yours faithfully



Mark Buttimore
Manager: Planning and Environmental Services