



New refund practice for plumbers fixture fee payments

The Plumbers Licensing and Plumbing Standards Regulations 2000 state:

41(1) A licensed plumbing contractor or permit holder must not carry out major plumbing work, or permit or arrange for major plumbing work to be carried out, unless the contractor or permit holder has given the Board a notice of intention to carry out the work at least 24 hours before the work commences.

and

41(4) The notice of intention must –

- (a) be in the approved form; and*
- (b) be given with the new installation fee (where relevant).*

In the past it has been the practice of the Building Commission to refund fees paid in instances where a licensed plumbing contractor has submitted a notice of intention to undertake plumbing work and has paid the legislated fee but has subsequently not commenced work or has not completed the work to fixture installation stage.

As of 1 July 2016, this practice is changing to ensure the activities of the Building Commission align more with legislative directions contained within the Plumbers Licensing and Plumbing Standards Regulations 2000 as stated above.

In addition, the Building Commission is moving to electronic lodgement of plumbing work certification and these changes coming into practice ahead of implementation of the new system will ensure a smooth transition.

The changes will include:

- Where sanitary fixture installation fees have been paid on submission of a notice of intention there will be no refund processed.
- Where work has already commenced at a property but will not be completed by the original plumbing contractor, the plumbing contractor responsible for further work must submit a new notice of intention for the work he/she will be undertaking and ensure any legislated fees have been paid.

Licensed plumbing contractors must also ensure:

- Where a licensed plumbing contractor has lodged a notice of intention but does not commence any work the plumbing contractor must withdraw the notice by completing the reverse side of the compliance certificate and providing it to the Building Commission as soon as practicable.
- Where a licensed plumbing contractor has lodged a notice of intention to undertake plumbing work but does not complete the work, a compliance certificate for the partially completed work must be submitted. In this situation the plumbing contractor must indicate on the reverse side of the certificate the work status and give a detailed description of work carried out.

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