



# National Police Certificate on renewal

## **Plumbers will now be required to provide a National Police Certificate (NPC) every second renewal.**

Amendments to the Plumbers Licensing and Plumbing Standards Regulations 2000 (the Regulations) will commence on 30 April 2016.

One of the amendments will result in a requirement for plumbers to provide a NPC at least every six years, or every second renewal.

The new requirement for NPCs at renewal is one of a number of changes arising from an independent review commissioned by the Building Commission and conducted by ACIL Allen Consulting. The report was published in the 'Review of Plumbing Regulations in WA' (2014) and is available on the Building Commission website.

The Plumbers Licensing Act 1995 sets a high standard for licenced plumbing contractors, tradespersons, restricted permit holders and provisional plumbers and these amendments further strengthen this intention.

The Regulations outline that in order for the Plumbers Licensing Board (PLB) to issue a renewal it must be satisfied that all licensed plumbers continue to be fit and proper persons.

While all plumbers applying for the first time currently need to provide NPCs doing so at the time of renewal is a new requirement and will involve additional effort and costs for the applicant.

The onus is on an applicant to demonstrate to the Board that they comply with the legislative requirements for the renewal of their registration. The Building Commission is unable to obtain a NPC on an applicant's behalf and costs must be borne by the applicant.

Consideration of criminal convictions is a key part in assessing if a person is fit and proper to hold a licence. It is an important community protection measure and is consistent with other registration or licensing regimes in Western Australia or other jurisdictions.

Furthermore, licenced plumbers are still required to inform the PLB at the time there is any change in their circumstances relevant to their registration, like new offences on their NPC. There are penalties that apply to non-compliance.

Although the use of NPCs is new for renewing plumbing licences and permits, it is common for many licensing bodies in Western Australia to use NPCs as part of their screening process. For example, motor dealers and builders.

NPCs can be obtained in person at participating Australia Post offices or online at:

[www.police.wa.gov.au/PoliceDirect/National-Police-Certificates](http://www.police.wa.gov.au/PoliceDirect/National-Police-Certificates)

Applying for a NPC takes time (up to 10 working days) and applications which require further investigation can take up to 15 working days.

If you don't get us the NPC you will not be renewed, your licence will expire and you will can no longer carry out plumbing work. Should you then wish to become licensed again, you will need to apply for a re-issue and provide a current NPC along with the required forms and payments.

If you are not going to get your NPC in on time with your application please contact the Building Commission on 1300 489 099.

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