

WHAT IS A BUILDING SERVICES PROVIDER?

We're using the general term *building services provider* in the legislation to refer to all the occupations and professions that were previously covered under the *Building Act 2000*.

You'll still call yourself a designer, builder, building surveyor or whatever your occupational title is.

WHAT IF I'VE ALREADY APPLIED FOR ACCREDITATION UNDER THE OLD SCHEME?

We've made arrangements for any licence applications currently underway to be automatically carried over to the new licensing system.

WHAT ABOUT OWNER BUILDERS?

Restrictions for owner builders mean they can work on a residence, not a commercial property.

Owner builders apply for an "owner builder permit" for a particular project and will only be permitted to undertake two projects in ten years.

MORE INFORMATION

If you have any questions, you can:

Visit the website:

www.justice.tas.gov.au/building/building2016

Email cbosinfo@justice.tas.gov.au

Call the government call centre. 1300 65 44 99

CHANGES TO LICENSING

- Licensing replaces accreditation
- Building practitioners referred to in legislation as *building services providers*
- No additional costs to licensees
- Current accreditation conditions, responsibilities and qualifications will carry over
- Corporations or partnerships can apply for a licence
- Owner builders only do residential projects

The Government's building reforms are about making it fairer, faster, simpler and cheaper to build in Tasmania.

We want to maintain high standards while welcoming investment to encourage jobs growth in our critical building and construction industries.

These nation-leading reforms have been developed with industry and councils, and will deliver faster results and real savings to people who want to build or renovate.

Guy Barnett, Minister for Building and Construction

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BUILDING PRACTITIONERS

Changes to accreditation



Building practitioners will now be licensed under the *Occupational Licensing Act 2005*, rather than being accredited under the *Building Act 2000*.

The new system will come into effect on 1 January 2017.

WHO WILL BE AFFECTED?

Building practitioners including builders, building designers, building surveyors, architects, engineers and other building-related occupations formerly accredited under the *Building Act 2000*, will now be licensed under the *Occupational Licensing Act 2005*.

WHY IS IT CHANGING?

Consumer, Building and Occupational Services (which you might remember as Building Standards and Regulation) look after licensing for a range of high-risk occupations in the Building and Construction Industry. These changes provide a more consistent approach to licensing and will significantly reduce administrative costs.

By moving licensing of building practitioners out of the Building Act, the Act becomes purely about the standards and processes that apply to building work.

WILL IT COST ME MORE?

Your licence will cost the same as your accreditation did, allowing for annual increases in line with CPI.

WILL I HAVE TO DO ANYTHING EXTRA?

There will be no changes to your licence conditions.

Your accreditation will be automatically converted to a licence, but you don't need to change your card until the next time it's due for renewal.

You'll still need to complete Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and maintain compulsory insurance in order to renew your licence.

WHAT ABOUT PENALTIES?

The maximum penalties for offences under the *Occupational Licensing Act 2005* have been reviewed, and are in line with those under the *Building Act 2000*.

Our approach to compliance is to actively audit and to use this to educate and monitor performance rather than progress to penalties, these are there for those who continue to operate outside of the Act have been given the opportunity to comply.

So make sure you know what your responsibilities are as a licensed building services provider under the new *Building Act*.

CORPORATE BODY LICENCE OPTION?

If you operate a company or partnership you may apply for a building services provider licence as a body corporate (which would make your business a "licensed entity").

Now a company or partnership can be licensed and undertake contracts under the company name, as long as they have a director or partner who is a licensed building services provider of the appropriate class.

WILL THERE BE ANY OTHER CHANGES?

As part of the move to manage all licensing in a consistent way, we're working towards online licence application and renewal.

You'll be able to complete most of your application online which will save you time. You'll still need to visit Service Tasmania with your proof of identity and to have your photo taken.

But if you're renewing your licence and your photo is less than five years old, you'll be able to complete the whole process from the comfort of your home or office computer.