

BP Bulletin



Building
Professionals
Board

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SPECIAL EDITION: Council Accredited Certifiers

The Building Professionals Board would like to congratulate all of those councils and council officers who have worked hard to apply the new accreditation requirements so as to meet the 1 September 2010 commencement date

Two weeks to go!

With two weeks to go, only a few councils are yet to lodge applications for accreditation. Since 1 March 2010, the Board has issued certificates of accreditation to 650 council accredited certifiers.

Applications for accreditation need to be submitted to the Board **immediately** to be processed by 1 September.

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Important decision on conflicts of interest

Councils have raised concerns with the conflict of interest provisions under the BP Act as they will prevent councils from acting as a certifying authority where the council is the applicant for a Part 4A or complying development certificate after 1 September 2010. The provisions currently require councils to appoint another accredited certifier to carry out the certification work, which may be difficult in regional areas.

The Board recently resolved to seek legislative amendments which have the effect of excluding the application of section 66 of the BP Act to council accredited certifiers in instances where a council is the applicant for a Part 4A certificate or complying development certificate. The Board will inform councils of the progress of this amendment shortly.

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Update on other amendments to the BP Regulation

The following changes to the BP Regulation will soon be finalised:

- allowing contractors to seek accreditation as council accredited certifiers provided they hold the appropriate insurance, and
- excluding the application of the conflict of interest provisions (sections 66 and 68 of the BP Act) where council employees are applicants for certification work.

The amendments to the BP Regulation will be formalised shortly. In the meantime, contractors can lodge applications for accreditation with the Board if they have a recommendation from a council and have obtained

appropriate insurance. The accreditation of contractors, and therefore their ability to carry out certification work for a council, will only become operative once the above amendment is made. The Board is working hard to achieve this before 1 September 2010.

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Savings and transitional provisions

Councils have approached the Board as to whether they can continue to carry out certification work after 1 September 2010 where council was appointed as the certifying authority before that date.

The Board recently resolved to seek legislative amendments which would allow council to continue to carry out certification work after 1 September 2010. This would apply to certification work where an application for the certification work had been received by council before 1 September 2010. The Board will inform councils of the progress of this amendment shortly.

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In-house council training

The continuing professional development (CPD) program within the Accreditation Scheme requires accredited council officers to undertake training or education in areas of technical specialty relevant to their category of accreditation. To satisfy this requirement council officers may:

- undertake one or more of the building surveying courses listed in Part 2, Schedule 3
- attend short courses, seminars, conferences, forums, workshops, training, committees and meetings in relation to building surveying
- undertake informal personal study such as reading professional journals, manuals, books and the like relating to building surveying.

Councils may wish to conduct in-house training for their accredited council officers to assist them in meeting these CPD requirements.

The requirement for any such in-house training is that it must relate to building surveying. What this means is that the purpose and content of the training must be demonstrably linked to the needs of building surveyors. Where this is so, the Board will accept the training as eligible to be counted towards meeting CPD requirements.

If you have any questions on this or would like to discuss proposed training, please call the Senior Education Officer on 9895 7092.

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How you can avoid delays

The [June](#) and [July](#) enews featured tips on how to ensure your application is lodged on time and how to avoid delays once the application is lodged.

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Updated Q&As

To answer questions asked of the Board during information sessions and on the hotline, additional Q&As have been included the following:

- [August 2010 Hot Topic Q&As](#)
- [August 2010 Applications for accreditation Q&As](#)

Also available:

- July 2010 [Applications for accreditation Q&As](#)
- June 2010 [Hot Topic Q&As](#)
- June 2010 [Applications for accreditation Q&As](#)
- May 2010 [Hot Topics Q&As](#)
- May 2010 [general Q&As](#)

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REMEMBER:

- *Councils can only offer certification services after 1 September 2010 by accredited persons.*
- *Accredited contractors can only carry out certification work for council after 1 September 2010 if amendments to the BP Regulation to allow them to do so have been made or they have 'private' accreditation*
- *The hotline is there to help you – call 1300 001 619.*

MORE INFORMATION

For info sheets, application forms, application guides and the Accreditation Scheme's requirements, [click here](#).

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Important Note

This bulletin does not constitute legal advice. Users are advised to seek professional advice and refer to the relevant legislation, as necessary, before taking action in relation to any matters covered by this bulletin.

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