

Who Certifies the Certifiers?



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NZWETA who are we?



- » NZWETA is a joint venture between Water NZ and Opus International Consultants (formed in 2002)
- » Underpinned by NZQA registered PTE Opus Environmental Training Centre
- » Delivers a wide range of water sector related national qualifications and professional development courses – many with units standards
- » Delivers Backflow Prevention and Testing, and Cross Connection Survey training

Where have we been in 2009?



» Backflow Prevention and Testing:

- » Dunedin
- » Christchurch
- » Wellington
- » Hamilton
- » Tauranga
- » Auckland

Course Participants

10 months to October 2009



- » Theory Block (unit standard 23847)
 - » 74 Participants
- » Practical Block (unit standard 23848)
 - » 68 Participants
- » Plumbing Certificate or License (unit standard 2117)
 - » 39 Participants
 - » 9 completed all evidence requirements

Participant Information



- » Average age is 42 (64 vs. 21)
- » 50% Certificate or Licensed Plumbers
- » 19% Local Authority
- » 19% Contracting/Consulting Companies
- » 7% Compliance Companies
- » 5% Central Government

Cross Connection Survey



- » Offered as 2 days with theory prerequisite
- » Assessed by class examination and production of a report
 - » Unit standard based meaning recognition of skills and verification of competence however standard is still in consultation process
- » Completed in Hamilton and Wellington
- » Christchurch is 24 & 25 November 2009

Why Certify?



Why Certify?



- » Minimum level of capability/skills
- » A requirement to stay current with industry developments
- » Requirement to maintain an annual license
- » Duty of care to public health and safety
- » Competition in the field of work

Why Recertify?



Why Recertify?



- » Demonstrate ongoing competence to practice
- » Minimises risk to public health and safety
- » Ensures the certificate holder has kept up with technology and trends
- » Shows a commitment to the industry



How to Recertify?

- » Examination
 - » Course (currently the process in NZ)
 - » Examination - written or oral (professional conversation)
 - » Performance assessment
- » Ongoing Professional Development
 - » Attendance at relevant and preapproved seminars or courses
- » Practice documentation
- » Peer review

New England Water Works Association



» Evidence of attendance at approved seminars plus performance examination, or

» Documentation

Number of tests conducted over 3 Year Certification
0-24
25-49
50+

Examination Required
Written and Performance
Performance
No examination required



- » The AWWA (American Water Works Association) requires testers to take a one day Backflow Recertification Class every 2 years.
- » The ABPA (American Backflow Prevention Association) requires testers take a written and performance examination every 3 years

New Zealand



- » Theory and practical reinforcement one day course with examination and practical assessment - required every 3 years (Unitec, NZ)
- » ABT (Approved Backflow Technician), Backflow Prevention for Drinking Water Suppliers Code of Practice, attend and pass refresher courses every 3 years

Who sets certification standards?



- » Territorial Authority panel who approves IQP's based on assessment of skills and qualifications
- » Backflow Prevention for Drinking Water Suppliers Code of Practice stipulates certification and recertification requirements
- » Industry recognised unit standards on backflow prevention (ITO and training providers)

Who currently certifies Testers?



- » Territorial Authorities
 - » IQP process
- » Training providers BUT only through unit standards or local qualifications
 - » NZWETA
 - » Unitec

Straw person: Certification



Certification requires training to Backflow unit standards.
Certification is for 3 years

Grandfather existing qualifications, or equivalent experience

Straw person: Certification & Recertification



Certification requires training to Backflow unit standards.
Certification is for 3 years

Grandfather existing qualifications, or equivalent experience

Recertification requirements

- Existing Certification
- Evidence of professional development, and
- Evidence testing records of minimum number of tests
- [Or Refresher course](#)
- Performance Assessment

Who has a role in certification?



Who has a role in certification?



- » Dept of Building and Housing
- » Territorial Authorities
- » Ministry of Health
- » Standard bodies
- » Water NZ Backflow Special Interest Group
- » Plumbing, Gasfitting, Drainlaying and Roofing ITO
- » Plumbing, Gasfitting, Drainlaying Board
- » Training providers

Straw person : Certifying Body



Backflow SIG with responsibility for standards and certification

Certification requires training to Backflow unit standards.

Certification is for 3 years

Can (that is, possessing qualifications, or equivalent experience

Recertification requirements

Existing Certification

Evidence of professional development, and

Evidence testing records of minimum number of tests

Or Refresher course

Performance Assessed



» Thank you for your time