



Water New Zealand Backflow Conference 2009

“Where the Plumbing industry fits
into the bigger picture”

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Content

Who am I?

Relationships with others in the “bigger picture”

Potted history of unit standard development for backflow prevention

The current situation

Questions

“The society which scorns excellence in plumbing because plumbing is a humble activity, and tolerates shoddiness in philosophy because philosophy is an exalted activity, will have neither good plumbing nor good philosophy.

Neither its pipes nor its theories will hold water.”

John W. Gardner

Quoted from *Flushed: how the plumber saved civilisation*



Who is the Plumbing ITO?

The Plumbing Gasfitting Drainlaying and Roofing Industry Training Organisation Ltd

The distinctive contribution of ITOs to the tertiary sector includes:

- Providing leadership within the industry on matters relating to skills and training needs
- **Designing national qualifications and quality assuring national standards**
- Arranging for delivery of industry training

The ITO and the Board

The level of understanding in respect to the distinct roles performed by the PGDRITO and the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board is of concern.

Of more than 1,000 employers, employees and apprentices surveyed September to November 2008, more than 25% stated they were unsure what the main roles of each organisation were.

34% of employers thought one of the roles of the Registration Board was writing and reviewing qualifications.

The Board's role

- Licensing plumbers, gasfitters and drainlayers
- Promoting the protection of public health and safety

The registration examinations as a vehicle for issuing licenses

Qualified plumbers (ITO's role) are registered (once) and licensed annually (Board's role)

The ITO is the national standard setter

Developing qualifications for plumbing gasfitting and drainlaying (and roofing) work that is “within the boundary”

Water Industry Training (Ag ITO) is responsible for qualifications covering work carried out on water reticulation systems in the public domain, “outside the boundary”

Backflow prevention work covers both – a co-operative approach to qualification development

A potted history of qualification development for backflow

2005

- ✓ *Safe water now and for the future* conference addressed by plumbers on training requirements and business practices for the backflow practitioner
- ✓ PGDITO and WIT consult widely to establish the target of a qualification and its requirements
- ✓ Unitec's own programme for installation, testing, surveying and design but no *nationally recognised unit standards*
- ✓ SIG requests the ITOs to develop standards for testing and surveying
- ✓ Existing unit standards 2117 and 2150 for licensed plumbers only

A potted history of qualification development for backflow

2006

- ✓ Draft of testers (*Prepare to test, and inspect and test water supply backflow*) unit standard written and consulted on.
- ✓ Target group = non-plumbers
- ✓ Plans to revise *Install and maintain devices* for plumbers to *Install, **test** and maintain devices*
- ✓ Continuing discussions with SIG and plumbers, drainlayers, fire sprinkler installers, suppliers and employees and contractors to local and territorial authorities on a qualification
- ✓ Proposed *National Certificate in Plumbing (Backflow Prevention)* title rejected

Content to have included safety, report writing,
personal presentation

✓ Councils determine that the proposed
qualification is not required for IQP engagement

2008

- ✓ 23847 *Prepare to test and inspect and test water supply backflow prevention devices*
- ✓ And 23848 *Describe suitability, installation and testing of water supply backflow prevention devices, and fault identification* are registered with open entry for upskilling non-plumbers

2009

- ✓ ITO launches the non-plumber unit standards and SIG nominates NZWETA as its preferred provider
- ✓ ITO registers upskilling package for plumbers – Supplementary Credit Programme
- ✓ Work begins on development of **survey** unit standard/qualification

Unit standard or qualification?

Unit standard includes report writing and “ethical behaviour”/personal presentation standards

Draft survey unit standard consulted on and submitted to NZQA

- ✓ Must be capable of assessment in a variety of contexts and by all accredited organisations
- ✓ Target group clarification sought – plumbers only?
- ✓ Recommended 2117 or 23848 – open entry
- ✓ Agreement of other ITOs

Where to from here?

- ✓ Further consultation on survey unit standard
- ✓ Monitoring quality of assessment decisions wherever assessment occurs
- ✓ Remain responsive to industry requests for standards and qualifications within our coverage



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