



Queensland

# Queensland Building Services Authority Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2008

**Regulatory Impact Statement for SL 2008 No. 347**

made under the

*Queensland Building Services Authority Act 1991*

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## **Title**

Occupational licensing of fire protection work.

## **Introduction**

### **Purpose of a regulatory impact statement (RIS)**

Under the *Statutory Instruments Act 1992*, when a proposed regulation is likely to impose an appreciable cost on the community or a part of the community, a regulatory impact statement (RIS) must first be publicly released.

A RIS is designed to facilitate a determination of whether or not proposed subordinate legislation is the most efficient and effective way of achieving desired policy objectives. It does this by providing a mechanism under which the Government's policy deliberations are clearly documented and subject to public scrutiny.

The purpose of this document is to explain the need for the proposed regulation, and to present an evaluation of the likely costs and benefits that would flow from the regulation's adoption in comparison to other options.

All members of the community are invited to comment on the information presented in this RIS.

## **How to respond to this RIS**

The closing date for providing comment on this RIS is Tuesday, 10 June 2008.

Submissions should be sent to—

**Mail:** General Manager  
Building Services Authority  
PMB 84  
COORPAROO DC QLD 4151

**Email:** [bsaris@bsa.qld.gov.au](mailto:bsaris@bsa.qld.gov.au)

**Fax:** (07) 3225 2939

Please be aware that submissions may be subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1992*.

Further enquiries may be made by contacting the Queensland Building Services Authority by email [bsaris@bsa.qld.gov.au](mailto:bsaris@bsa.qld.gov.au), or by telephone on (07) 3836 0183.

## **Background**

### **Licensing of the fire protection industry**

Under the *Queensland Building Services Authority Act 1991* (QBSA Act), if a company or individual carries out building work they must hold an appropriate contractor's licence issued under the QBSA Act. In most instances, this licensing requirement does not extend to persons who work in an occupational capacity, such as employees of a licensed contractor.

The QBSA Act also establishes the Queensland Building Services Authority (BSA) as an independent statutory authority to administer, amongst other things, the licensing system established under the QBSA Act.

On 1 January 2001, the range of work requiring a contractor's licence under the QBSA Act was expanded to include the installation, maintenance or certification of a fire protection system for a building. This initiative was

endorsed in the 'Building Fire Safety in Queensland Budget Accommodation' Report which was released following the Palace Backpackers Hostel fire in Childers.

Currently there are more than 1,600 trade contractors licensed to carry out fire protection work in Queensland. There are 10 classes of contractor's licence for fire protection work. These licence classes, including the relevant technical qualifications and experience required to hold each licence, are prescribed in Schedule 2 of the *Queensland Building Services Authority Regulation 2003* (QBSA Regulation).

In October 2007, following an extensive consultation process with the fire protection industry and other stakeholders, the Queensland Parliament passed amendments to expand the licensing system in the QBSA Act to include the occupational licensing of fire protection workers. The effect of the amendments is that any person, including an employee, who personally performs fire protection work will be required to hold an appropriate licence under the QBSA Act or another Act.

The amendments recognise for the first time in Australia that fire protection work should be licensed in the same way as other occupations impacting on the health and safety of the community (for example, gas work and plumbing work).

As part of the reform package to ensure that Queenslanders have the highest standards of building fire safety, the Queensland Parliament also expanded the scope of fire protection work for which a licence is required. Under the reforms, licensed fire protection work will also include the design of a fire protection system, the development, approval and certification of fire emergency evacuation procedures, the provision of fire safety alternative solutions and various fire safety-related advisory services.

The above amendments received wide support. The benefits of the reforms include—

- better protection for persons and property in the event of a building fire;
- improved training and safety for fire protection workers;
- improved compliance with building fire safety regulations leading to reduced costs for owners, occupiers, Government, emergency services and local governments;

- greater community confidence that work is performed by appropriately skilled workers to the prescribed standards; and
- reduced risks for fire fighters responding to fire emergencies.

It is anticipated that about 3,000 persons who work in the fire protection industry will be required to obtain a licence over the next two years to comply with the new licensing changes.

### **What is fire protection work?**

Fire protection work is defined under the amendments to the QBSA Act as any of the following for a building or part of a building—

- the installation, restoration, repair or maintenance of a fire protection system;
- the preparation of any certificate, statement or record—
  - (i) relating to the installation, restoration, repair or maintenance of a fire protection system; or
  - (ii) stating whether a fire protection system meets a standard, requirement or specification;
- the design of a fire protection system;
- the development, approval or certification of emergency evacuation procedures for a controlled evacuation during a fire emergency;
- the formulation or provision of alternative solutions relating to fire safety;
- the inspection or investigation of, and the provision of advice or a report about, compliance with the *Building Act 1975* or the Building Code of Australia relating to fire safety.

For the purpose of this definition, a ‘fire protection system’ is a system of fire protection comprising some or all of the following—

- portable fire-fighting appliances, including, for example, wheeled fire extinguishers, fire hoses, fire blankets and portable fire extinguishers;
- fire hydrants, with or without pumps;
- fire hose reels, with or without pumps;

- a fire or smoke detection system, a heat or smoke alarm or another alarm system or emergency warning and communication system;
- a fire suppression system or fire sprinkler system, whether solid based, liquid based or gas based;
- fire doors, fire shutters and fire damper assemblies; and
- emergency lighting.

### **Who will be required to hold a fire protection occupational licence?**

The recent amendments to the QBSA Act will impact on persons who carry out fire protection work for a licensed fire protection contractor either as an employee or in a similar capacity (for example, a subcontract arrangement). Prior to the amendments, these persons were not required to hold a licence under the QBSA Act to personally perform this kind of work.

Once fire protection occupational licensing becomes mandatory, a person must hold one of the following licences to personally carry out or supervise fire protection work—

- a fire protection occupational licence issued under the QBSA Act that authorises the licensee to personally carry out the work;
- a contractor's licence issued under the QBSA Act that authorises the licensee to personally carry out the work; or
- a licence, registration or authorisation under an Act, other than the QBSA Act, that authorises the person to personally supervise or carry out the work (for example, an occupational licence issued under the *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002*).

The amendments make several categories of persons exempt from the requirement to hold a fire protection occupational licence. These include—

- fire protection apprentices, trainees and students; and
- specified classes of technically qualified persons prescribed by regulation.

## **When will the new licensing requirements become mandatory?**

The QBSA Act amendments include a two year transitional arrangement, which means that the new licensing requirements will not become mandatory until late 2010.

This arrangement has been put in place to ensure that those impacted by the amendments have sufficient time to apply for a licence and, if necessary, upgrade their skills to meet minimum licensing requirements.

## **Classes of licence**

Under the amendments to the QBSA Act, fire occupational licences are to be divided into classes prescribed by regulation.

The proposed classes of licence for fire protection work are as follows—

- Passive fire protection – fire doors, windows and shutters
- Passive fire protection – fire collars, penetrations and joint sealing
- Passive fire protection – fire and smoke walls and ceilings
- Special hazard suppression systems – gaseous, water mist and reticulated foam proportioning systems
- Special hazard suppression systems – chemical and foam
- Sprinkler and suppression systems – reticulated water based
- Fire pumps
- Hydrants and hose reels
- Portable fire equipment and hose reels (hose reels above stop cock only)
- Fire detection, alarm and warning systems
- Emergency lighting
- Emergency procedures
- Fire safety professional.

Further details regarding the scopes of work for each licence class are provided in **Appendix A**.

The proposed licence classes reflect the categories of employment typically operating in the fire protection industry. It is critical to design the subject

occupational licence classes in this way, as it ensures that fire protection workers are not required to incur their time and other costs obtaining technical qualifications which are irrelevant to their intended vocation. It also allows workers to specialise their training, thereby enhancing the quality and standard of fire protection work that is carried out.

To ensure these licence classes reflect industry arrangements and practice, the Queensland Building Services Board established a working party with specialist knowledge of the fire protection industry to assist in their development. The working party comprised experienced representatives of the fire protection industry, emergency services, the training sector, government agencies and other expert stakeholders. The licence classes listed above accord with the recommendations of the working party.

### **Contractor licences**

It is proposed that the classes of contractor's licence that are currently available in the QBSA Regulation be amended to mirror the classes of occupational licence for fire protection workers, including the scopes of work and the technical qualifications required to hold a licence. This is essential, as any other approach would cause unnecessary cost and confusion for licensees, significantly impair career progression in the fire protection industry, and cause administrative difficulties from both a Government and industry perspective.

Another significant benefit is that such an alignment ensures that after a two to three year period the costs of obtaining a technical qualification for a fire protection contractor's licence will, in most cases, be reduced to zero. This is because the applicant will already hold the relevant qualification as part of their occupational licence.

Appropriate transitional arrangements will be prescribed to ensure that any alignment between contractor and occupational licence classes will not have a cost or other detrimental impact on existing licensed contractors.

### **Issues addressed in this RIS**

Under the QBSA Act amendments, licensing fees and the technical qualifications for holding a fire protection occupational licence are to be prescribed in the QBSA Regulation. This RIS addresses the likely costs of these regulation amendments on both the community and industry.

## **Authorising Law**

Section 116 and other sections of the QBSA Act authorise the making of the amendments to the QBSA Regulation relevant to this RIS.

## **Policy Objectives**

The primary objectives of the proposed regulation are to—

- implement regulatory amendments to facilitate occupational licensing of fire protection workers consistent with recent amendments to the QBSA Act, including appropriate licensing fees; and
- provide for technical qualifications for fire protection occupational licensing that—
  - ensure licence holders have the skills to competently carry out fire protection work authorised by their licence;
  - meet the operational and growth needs of industry;
  - draw on, as far as possible, accredited courses and competencies recognised under the Australian Qualifications Framework; and
  - best facilitate employment and career progression within the fire protection industry, including advancement to a contractor's class of licence.

## **Legislative Intent**

The policy objectives outlined above will be met by amending the QBSA Regulation to prescribe—

- licensing fees for an occupational licence issued under the QBSA Act;
- the technical qualifications for various classes of fire protection licence; and
- other matters necessary to facilitate the implementation of a fire protection occupational licensing system.

## **Consistency with the authorising law**

The proposed regulation is consistent with the authorising law.

## **Consistency with other legislation**

The proposed regulation is consistent with other legislation, including Queensland legislation regulating the licensing of plumbing work and electrical work.

## **Options and alternatives**

The options and alternatives for regulatory amendments dealt with in this RIS are addressed in two parts.

Part 1 deals with fee options for the application for and renewal of a fire protection occupational licence.

Part 2 addresses legislative options with regard to the prescribed technical qualifications to hold a fire protection occupational licence.

## **Part 1 Occupational licensing fees**

### **Option 1 Cost recovery approach (preferred model)**

The recommended licensing fee option proposes charging an application fee of \$85 and an annual licence fee of \$85. Consistent with government policy, this amount would be adjusted annually in line with changes in the movement of the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

The BSA is a non-profit Queensland statutory authority. The proposed fees have been estimated by the BSA to cover the reasonable cost of services provided to occupational licence holders, including the processing of applications, compliance activities and the provision of industry education initiatives.

## **Option 2 No fees**

The second option is to refrain from charging any fees for fire protection occupational licence applications and renewals. Under this option the cost to the BSA of administering occupational licensing of fire protection workers would be borne by other licence holders, or alternately funded by a reduction in BSA services to industry and consumers.

It should be noted from the outset that fire protection licensing was always premised on the intent that it would be a user-pays system. Option 2 is not recommended in this RIS.

## **Cost benefit assessment—option 1**

### *Costs to business and the community*

The cost of the fees proposed in option 1 will be borne by the licence holder, although potentially could be passed on to consumers and employers.

Significantly, a person who holds a BSA contractor's licence or an occupational licence under another Act which allows them to perform the work (for example, an occupationally licensed plumber) will not be required to also hold an occupational licence under the QBSA Act. These persons will therefore not be subject to any additional cost or licensing requirement under this option.

Further, persons who hold multiple occupational licences will be required to pay only a single annual licence fee. This approach is consistent with that applicable to contractor's licences.

### *Costs to the BSA*

The BSA's licensing program incurs costs for the provision of the following services—

- the management of licence applications and renewals;
- the provision of licensee and consumer education;
- conducting compliance functions and investigations;
- upgrading information technology and systems administration;
- providing regional office services;
- maintaining a customer contact centre; and

- the provision of other licensing services.

Under this option, the fire protection licensing system will self-fund these services by way of application and annual licence fees. As mentioned above, it is proposed the BSA will charge an application fee of \$85 and an annual licence fee of \$85 for fire protection occupational licences.

The costs of operating the licensing system for the BSA in the first two years of operation are estimated at \$637,700. This represents approximately 3.5% of BSA's total licensing costs for these two years.

The total revenue raised through the implementation of an \$85 application and annual fee (based on 3,000 occupational licensees) is \$637,500 in the first two years of operation.

The bulk of new licence applications will occur during the voluntary licensing period. After the two year voluntary licensing period ends, there will be reduced income from application fees for the BSA due to the comparatively smaller number of licensees entering into the industry after this point. The approximate number of new licensees entering into the industry at this time is unknown, as is the level of attrition from the industry.

It is possible that there may be up to a 15–20% reduction in funding for the BSA in the occupational licensing system's third year. It is not envisaged, however, that licensing fee increases beyond CPI will be required as it is likely that this decrease in income will be offset by the following—

- initial set up costs will not be applicable from the third year;
- BSA costs are likely to be marginally reduced due to streamlining of fire protection contractor and occupational licensing from year three onwards; and
- compliance costs are expected to be marginally reduced in the medium to long term, due to a more highly skilled industry.

### ***Benefits of option 1***

The principal benefits of this option can be summarised as follows—

- the new licensing system will be properly funded without additional cost to existing licensees or a reduction in the BSA's services to industry and the community;
- all BSA licensees will be treated fairly and equitably in terms of their financial responsibility to contribute to services provided;

- persons who are authorised to perform fire protection work under a contractor's licence or a licence under another Act (for example, a licensed plumber) will not be required to obtain a fire protection occupational licence to perform the same work; and
- multiple annual licence fees for fire protection occupational licensees who hold licences in different classes are avoided.

## **Cost benefit assessment—option 2**

### *Costs to industry and the community*

Under this option occupational licensees will not incur any fees for their licence.

To fund the administrative and regulatory services necessary to operate the occupational licensing system it will be necessary to charge increased licensing fees to contractors, or alternately reduce BSA services provided to licensees and consumers (for example, dispute resolution services).

### *Costs to the BSA*

The costs to the BSA are the same as option 1. The principal difference under this option is that the BSA will not be able to directly recover the expenses incurred in administering the occupational licensing system from applicants for, and holders of, occupational licences.

### *Benefits of option 2*

This option will benefit fire protection occupational licence applicants and licensees by excluding them from the need to pay licensing fees. There are no other substantive benefits.

## **Preferred option**

It is recommended that option 1 be adopted on the basis that the benefits associated with its implementation outweigh the costs and are considered reasonable and appropriate for achieving the policy objectives of the proposed legislation.

Option 1 allows full cost recovery of the licensing system from the immediate user (i.e. the occupational licensee) and ensures that services provided by the BSA continue without detriment to other licensees and consumers. Further, the introduction of fire protection licensing has always been premised on the intent that it would be a user-pays system.

## **Part 2                      Technical qualifications**

Under the amendments to the QBSA Act, one of the criteria for a person to be entitled to a fire protection occupational licence is that they must hold specified technical qualifications. These technical qualifications are to be prescribed in the QBSA Regulation.

The preferred option outlined below sets out technical qualifications for each fire protection occupational licence class based on the essential skills necessary to competently perform the role. In determining these requirements, consideration has been given to the following factors:

- that fire protection work plays a vital role in protecting persons and property from harm in the event of a building fire;
- the entitlement to an occupational licence does not include a minimum experience requirement;
- the technical complexity of the work relevant to a licence class;
- the qualification options available under the Australian Qualifications Framework; and
- the need to have multiple qualification pathways which recognise that some applicants for a licence may have technical skills acquired through relevant experience equivalent to formal qualifications.

A second option is also briefly examined whereby, for costs reasons alone, technical requirements for licensing are set at a standard below that required to undertake the work. Given the risk to public safety and property associated with such a proposal, this option is not supported.

### **Option 1 Preferred model**

#### ***Technical qualifications***

In December 2005, the Fire Occupational Licensing Industry Working Party was established to provide advice about fire protection occupational licences and relevant technical qualifications. The working party comprised experienced representatives of the fire protection industry, the training sector, relevant government agencies and other stakeholders.

The technical qualifications for each licence class are provided in **Appendix B**. These qualifications are based on those technical skills

recommended by expert members of the working party as being critical to competently perform the work in each class of licence.

Under this option, a person entering the fire protection industry without relevant experience or prior qualifications will be required to complete a relevant course of study based on nationally recognised training outcomes under the Australian Qualifications Framework.

The level of formal technical qualifications required for a licence class depends on the complexity of the work which may be taken out under the licence. For example, a licence that allows a person to inspect and test fire hydrants and hose reels requires a Certificate II level qualification. By comparison, a Certificate IV level qualification is required for a licence to certify the installation and maintenance of fire hydrants and hose reels, as the requisite skills to adequately perform certification tasks are more substantive from a technical perspective.

Persons with relevant industry experience or related qualifications can satisfy the technical requirements for licensing by way of a ‘recognition of prior learning’ assessment carried out by a registered training organisation.

Provision will also be included in the regulation to allow the BSA to recognise, for the purposes of licensing, equivalent courses to those prescribed. For example, if an interstate applicant has completed an equivalent course in another jurisdiction, that course will be recognised so to entitle the applicant to a BSA licence.

## **Cost benefit assessment—option 1**

### *Costs to industry and the community*

The cost of completing formal coursework components or undertaking a ‘recognition of prior learning’ assessment is determined by competitive market rates charged by registered training organisations.

These rates for coursework components are impacted by a variety of factors including demand for and length of the course, cost of course materials, availability of government subsidies and the mode of study.

Appendix B provides a cost estimate of completing the prescribed qualification for each licence class. These figures represent the cost for a person to complete the entire prescribed course. The cost to the student may be less than that stated, depending on whether they are undertaking the course of study as part of an apprenticeship or traineeship, credit given to

the student for course components due to previous study or experience, as well as other factors.

The cost of completing a prescribed course under the Australian Qualifications Framework through 'recognition of prior learning' is usually about 80% of the cost to complete the course through course work.

Consultation with industry indicates that it is expected the cost of training existing employees will usually be borne by the employer. For new entrants it is expected to be mixed between employers and prospective employees. While it is not possible to give an accurate estimate, it is envisaged that prospective employees who meet occupational licensing requirements outside of the BSA licensing system (for example, licensed electricians) are more likely to bear their own costs.

Based on industry estimates, it is expected that the cost of fire protection services to the consumer will increase by 2–5% as a consequence of introducing occupational licensing for fire protection workers.

### ***Costs to Government***

The costs to Government are limited to those applicable to the BSA. These costs are fully outlined in Part 1. The costs incurred are proposed to be fully recovered through licensing fees.

### ***Benefits***

In the absence of a fire taking place, it is most difficult for ordinary consumers of fire protection services to identify defective fire protection work. Further, where defective fire protection work is carried out and a fire occurs, the potential costs are particularly high and may include not only damage to property and the environment, but also injury to persons and loss of life.

Given the unique nature of fire protection work and its impact on health and safety, it is imperative that a proactive approach to licensing be taken with a high emphasis on ensuring the work is performed correctly from the outset. The best way to achieve this is to ensure that the persons carrying out the work have the requisite skills.

The introduction of a fire protection occupational licensing system, which requires all practitioners to hold the critical skills to perform their work, is Queensland's best chance of minimising the harm caused by building fires. This is the principal benefit of option 1.

Another benefit is that technical qualifications for licensing are linked to nationally recognised training outcomes provided by registered training organisations, thereby ensuring greater rigour in their delivery. Based on advice provided by industry members of the Fire Occupational Licensing Industry Working Party, the skills afforded by these qualifications will provide the essential skills necessary to allow a person to competently carry out fire protection work relevant to the applicable licence class.

Consultation has been undertaken with industry representatives about the effects of introducing occupational licensing on the fire protection industry as a whole, including the costs associated with obtaining technical qualifications. The view that has been expressed is that its introduction will increase the professionalism of the industry. It is also considered that it will attract more and better entrants to join the industry. In terms of age profile, it is envisaged that the introduction of occupational licensing will lead to an increased number of younger people in the fire protection sector.

Overall it was considered that the introduction of fire protection occupational licensing as outlined in this option will benefit the fire protection industry, notwithstanding the costs associated with its introduction.

## **Option 2**

The option of introducing an occupational licensing system where technical qualifications for licensing are set at a level below that required to competently perform the work is not considered viable or appropriate.

Such an approach is contrary to the purpose of introducing occupational licensing for fire protection workers, as well as the general policy underpinning licensing in the QBSA Act. Most importantly, the implementation of such an option is likely to result in persons and property being harmed which is a totally unacceptable cost.

## **Preferred option**

The benefits of the preferred option outweigh the costs associated with its implementation. These costs principally relate to the costs necessary for existing fire protection workers and new industry entrants to undertake the training necessary to obtain prescribed technical qualifications.

The main benefit of the preferred option is that the community, industry and fire fighters are better protected in the event of a building fire.

This is achieved by linking licensing to technical qualification requirements which will ensure that licence holders have the critical technical skills necessary to competently perform the relevant work. Further, these qualifications are based on accredited courses and competencies recognised under the Australian Qualifications Framework thereby ensuring rigour in their delivery.

Industry consultation also indicates that implementation of the model is expected to make the fire protection industry a more attractive career option for new industry entrants.

## **Fundamental legislative principles**

The *Legislative Standards Act 1992* requires that legislation has sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals and the institution of Parliament. The proposed legislation is consistent with these fundamental legislative principles.

## **Conclusion**

The introduction of an occupational fire protection licensing system is an important step in ensuring that Queenslanders have access to the highest level of fire protection safety and standards.

The recommended options for implementing occupational licensing of fire protection workers are as follows—

- The charging of an \$85 application fee and an \$85 annual fee for a fire protection occupational licence. This fee is based on the actual cost to the BSA of administering the licensing system, including industry education and compliance costs; and
- The implementation of a licensing model that ensures that the licence holder has the critical technical skills to competently carry out fire protection work based on accredited courses and competencies recognised under the Australian Qualifications Framework.

Given the information available, including guidance provided by experienced fire protection industry practitioners, the options recommended in this RIS are considered the most appropriate and effective for implementing fire protection occupational licensing in Queensland.

**APPENDIX A**

**LICENCE CLASSES AND SCOPES OF WORK**

| <b>Licence Class</b>   | <b>Licence Class Categories</b>   | <b>Overview Scope of Works</b>   |
|--|---|--|
| <b>Passive Fire Protection – Fire Doors, Windows and Shutters</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certify</li> <li>• Inspect and Test</li> </ul>                         | Subject to licence category, work on fire doors, windows and shutters.   |
| <b>Passive Fire Protection – Fire Collars, Penetrations and Joint Sealing</b>                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certify, Install and Maintain</li> </ul>                               | Subject to licence category, work on fire collars, penetrations and joint sealing. Includes ‘fire-stopping’ work, that is work with sealants, joint fillers, collars, jackets, intumescent mastic, fire stop coatings, fire stop mortar, cushions, expanding fire seal and intumescent paints and coating systems. |
| <b>Passive Fire Protection – Fire and Smoke Walls and Ceilings</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certify and Inspect and Test</li> </ul>                                | Subject to licence category, work on fire and smoke wall and ceiling systems requiring a fire resistant level as per the Building Code of Australia.   |
| <b>Special Hazard Suppression Systems – Gaseous, Water Mist and Reticulated Foam Proportioning Systems</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certify</li> <li>• Install and Maintain</li> <li>• Maintain</li> </ul> | Subject to licence category, work on gaseous, water mist and reticulated foam proportioning systems.   |
| <b>Special Hazard Suppression Systems – Chemical and Foam</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certify</li> <li>• Install and Maintain</li> </ul>                     | Subject to licence category, work on chemical and foam stored pressure systems.  |

| Licence Class   | Licence Class Categories   | Overview<br>Scope of Works  |
|---|--|---|
| <b>Sprinkler and Suppression Systems – Reticulated Water Based</b>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certify</li> <li>• Install (Contractor grade only)</li> <li>• Inspect and Test</li> </ul> | <p>Subject to licence category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• work on reticulated water based fire suppression systems or fire sprinkler systems, which are of a commercial or industrial type designed in accordance with AS 2118.1-1999 (includes residential and domestic work above and below 4 storeys); and</li> <li>• work on reticulated water based fire suppression systems or fire sprinkler systems, which are of a domestic type designed in accordance with AS 2118.5-1995 or of a residential type designed in accordance with AS 2118.4-1995 but in any case to a maximum height of 4 storeys.</li> </ul> <p><i>Note:</i><br/>Occupational licence not available for 'Install' category because this work must be performed by an occupationally licensed plumber.</p> |
| <b>Fire Pumps</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certify</li> <li>• Install (Contractor grade only)</li> <li>• Inspect and Test</li> </ul> | <p>Subject to licence category, work on fire pumps.</p> <p><i>Note:</i><br/>Occupational licence not available for 'Install' category because this work must be performed by an occupationally licensed plumber.</p>  |
| <b>Fire Hydrants and Hose Reels</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certify</li> <li>• Install (Contractor grade only)</li> <li>• Inspect and Test</li> </ul> | <p>Subject to licence category, work on fire hydrants and hose reels.</p> <p><i>Note:</i><br/>Occupational licence not available for 'Install' category because this work must be performed by an occupationally licensed plumber.</p>  |
| <b>Portable Fire Equipment and Hose Reels (Hose Reels Above Stop Cock Only)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certify</li> <li>• Install and Maintain</li> </ul>  | <p>Subject to licence category, work on portable fire equipment and hose reels (hose reels above stop cock only), including non-pumped monthly and annual presence of water test.</p>   |

| Licence Class                                    | Licence Class Categories   | Overview<br>Scope of Works   |
|--|--|--|
| <b>Fire Detection, Alarm and Warning Systems</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certify</li> <li>• Install and Maintain – Extra Low Voltage</li> <li>• Maintain– Extra Low Voltage</li> </ul> | Subject to licence category, work on fire detection, alarm and warning systems, including inputs to and outputs and controls from fire alarm systems, fire ventilation controls, and suppression system monitoring and controls.   |
| <b>Emergency Lighting</b>                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certify</li> <li>• Inspect and Test</li> </ul>  | Subject to licence category, work on emergency lighting systems to provide a level of illumination for safe evacuation in a fire emergency, provide identification of exits and paths of travel to an exit, and to safeguard occupants by making them aware of the fire emergency.   |
| <b>Emergency Procedures</b>                      | N/A  | <p>Develop, approve and certify emergency evacuation procedures for the controlled evacuation of buildings, structures and workplaces during a fire emergency.</p> <p><i>Note:</i><br/>This licence class will not include members of the Emergency Control Organisation under AS3745 (ie. in house fire wardens).</p> <p>Retired fire-fighters will be required to hold the licence class and meet the technical requirements.</p>  |
| <b>Fire Safety Professional</b>                  | N/A  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The provision of fire-related alternative building solutions to the deemed-to-satisfy provisions of legislation such as the Building Code of Australia and the <i>Building Act 1975</i>; and</li> <li>• The inspection of, or reporting on, buildings (including existing, temporary or special structures) against fire performance legislation, such as the Building Code of Australia and the <i>Building Act 1975</i>.</li> </ul> |

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  |  | <p><i>Note:</i><br/><i>fire performance provisions</i> means performance provisions with respect to –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the safety of persons to be accommodated in the building or structure if there is a fire, including means of egress;</li><li>• the prevention of fire;</li><li>• the suppression of fire;</li><li>• the prevention of the spread of fire; and</li><li>• the health and amenity of persons to be accommodated in the building or structure.</li></ul> |
|--|--|--|

|  |
|--|
| <p><b>Note:</b><br/>All fire protection licensees may design a fire protection system within the scope of their licence, with the exception of ‘Inspect and Test’ category work.</p> |
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**APPENDIX B**

**OPTION 1  
TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS AND COSTS**

*Note: In all cases where a course or competency is specified, an equivalent qualification will be accepted for the purposes of licensing.*

**Passive Fire Protection – Fire Doors, Windows and Shutters**

| <i>Licence Category</i> | <i>Technical Qualification</i>   | <i>Duration (hours)</i> | <i>Course Fees \$</i> |
|-------------------------|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Certify</b>          | Successful completion of the following:<br><br>30536QLD<br><b>Certificate IV in Fire Systems Compliance (Passive Fire Equipment)</b>   | 264                     | 5,000                 |
| <b>Inspect and Test</b> | Successful completion of the following:<br><br>PRM20404<br><b>Certificate II in Asset Maintenance (Fire Protection Equipment)</b><br>including successful completion of the following competency units:<br>PRMPFES33A Identify fire and smoke doors<br>PRMPFES35A Inspect and test hinged fire and smoke doors | 295                     | 990 - 3,000           |

**Passive Fire Protection – Fire Collars, Penetrations & Joint Sealing**

| <i>Licence Category</i>                | <i>Technical Qualification</i>   | <i>Duration (hours)</i> | <i>Course Fees \$</i> |
|--|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Certify, Install &amp; Maintain</b> | Successful completion of both of the following:  |                         |                       |
|  | PRM20404<br><b>Certificate II in Asset Maintenance (Fire Protection Equipment)</b><br>including successful completion of the following competency units:<br>PRMPFES36A Identify passive fire and smoke containment products and systems<br>PRMPFES39A Inspect and test passive fire and smoke containment products and systems | 295                     | 990 - 3,000           |

|  |  |   |     |
|--|--|---|-----|
|  | REP 1<br><b>Prepare a Fire Protection Certification Statement or Report</b><br>Unit of competency from 30536QLD<br>Certificate IV in Fire Systems Compliance | 8 | 500 |
|--|--|---|-----|

**Passive Fire Protection – Fire and Smoke Walls and Ceilings**

| <i>Licence Category</i>               | <i>Technical Qualification</i>   | <i>Duration (hours)</i> | <i>Course Fees \$</i> |
|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Certify &amp; Inspect and Test</b> | Successful completion of the following:  |                         |                       |
|                                       | 14865<br><b>Course in Passive Fire Protection</b><br>Association of Wall & Ceiling Industries<br>Queensland  | 8                       | 450                   |
|                                       | Plus successful completion of 1 of the following:  |                         |                       |
|                                       | BCGBC4047A<br><b>Quality Assure Fire Rated Lining Systems</b><br>Unit of competency from Certificate IV in Building and Construction (Specialist Trades)     | 40                      | 500                   |
|                                       | REP 1<br><b>Prepare a Fire Protection Certification Statement or Report</b><br>Unit of competency from 30536QLD<br>Certificate IV in Fire Systems Compliance | 8                       | 500                   |

**Special Hazard Suppression Systems – Gaseous, Water Mist & Reticulated Foam Proportioning Systems**

| <i>Licence Category</i> | <i>Technical Qualification</i>  | <i>Duration (hours)</i> | <i>Course Fees \$</i> |
|-------------------------|---|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Certify</b>          | Successful completion of the following:<br><br>30536QLD<br><b>Certificate IV in Fire Systems Compliance (Special Hazards)</b><br>Note units 4IAI and 4MAJ (chemical units) will not be required | 328                     | 8,000 – 9,000         |

|                             |   |     |                |
|-----------------------------|---|-----|----------------|
| <b>Install and Maintain</b> | Successful completion of the following:<br>BCP30503<br><b>Certificate III in Fire Protection</b>  | 972 | Apprenticeship |
| <b>Maintain</b>             | Successful completion of the following:<br>PRM30404<br><b>Certificate III in Asset Maintenance (Fire Protection Equipment)</b><br>including successful completion of the following competency units:<br>PRMPFES24B Inspect and maintain portable foam generating equipment<br>PRMPFES25B Inspect and test gaseous fire suppression systems<br>PRMPFES27B Inspect, test and maintain pre-engineered aqueous fire suppression systems<br>PRMPFES31B Inspect, test and maintain pre-engineered water mist fire suppression systems | 390 | 990 - 4,000    |

**Special Hazard Suppression Systems – Chemical and Foam**

| <i>Licence Category</i>     | <i>Technical Qualification</i>   | <i>Duration (hours)</i> | <i>Course Fees \$</i> |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Certify</b>              | Successful completion of the following:<br>30536QLD<br><b>Certificate IV in Fire Systems Compliance (Special Hazards)</b><br>Note units 4IAJ and 4MAK (gaseous units) will not be required | 328                     | 8,000 – 9,000         |
| <b>Install and Maintain</b> | Successful completion of the following:<br>BCP30503<br><b>Certificate III in Fire Protection</b>   | 972                     | Apprenticeship        |

**Sprinkler and Suppression Systems – Reticulated Water Based**

| <i>Licence Category</i> | <i>Technical Qualification</i>   | <i>Duration (hours)</i> | <i>Course Fees \$</i> |
|-------------------------|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Certify</b>          | Successful completion of the following:<br>30536QLD<br><b>Certificate IV in Fire Systems Compliance (Hydrants, Sprinklers and Pump-Sets)</b> | 312                     | 8,000 – 9,000         |

|                         |  |    |       |
|-------------------------|--|----|-------|
| <b>Inspect and Test</b> | Successful completion of both of the following:  |    |       |
|                         | BCPFS3005A<br><b>Test Fire Protection Systems for Pressure</b><br>Unit of competency from BCP30503<br>Certificate III in Fire Protection   | 20 | 1,200 |
|                         | BCPFS3009A<br><b>Test and Maintain Automatic Fire Sprinklers</b><br>Unit of competency from BCP30503<br>Certificate III in Fire Protection | 50 | 840   |

#### Fire Pumps

| <i>Licence Category</i> | <i>Technical Qualification</i>   | <i>Duration (hours)</i> | <i>Course Fees \$</i> |
|-------------------------|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Certify</b>          | Successful completion of the following:<br><br>30536QLD<br><b>Certificate IV in Fire Systems Compliance (Hydrants, Sprinklers and Pump-Sets)</b> | 312                     | 8,000 – 9,000         |
| <b>Inspect and Test</b> | Successful completion of both of the following:  |                         |                       |
|                         | BCPWT3005A<br><b>Install Water Pump Sets</b><br>Unit of competency from BCP30503<br>Certificate III in Fire Protection                           | 8                       | 840                   |
|                         | BCPFS3005A<br><b>Test Fire Protection Systems for Pressure</b><br>Unit of competency from BCP30503<br>Certificate III in Fire Protection         | 20                      | 1,200                 |

#### Fire Hydrants and Hose Reels

| <i>Licence Category</i> | <i>Technical Qualification</i>   | <i>Duration (hours)</i> | <i>Course Fees \$</i> |
|-------------------------|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Certify</b>          | Successful completion of the following:<br><br>30536QLD<br><b>Certificate IV in Fire Systems Compliance (Hydrants, Sprinklers and Pump-Sets)</b> | 312                     | 8,000 – 9,000         |

|                         |   |     |             |
|-------------------------|---|-----|-------------|
| <b>Inspect and Test</b> | Successful completion of the following:<br>PRM20404<br><b>Certificate II in Asset Maintenance (Fire Protection Equipment)</b><br>including successful completion of the competency PRMPFES37A Inspect and maintain fire hydrants. | 295 | 990 - 3,000 |
|-------------------------|---|-----|-------------|

**Portable Fire Equipment and Hose Reels (Hose Reels Above Stop Cock Only)**

| <i>Licence Category</i>     | <i>Technical Qualification</i>  | <i>Duration (hours)</i> | <i>Course Fees \$</i> |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Certify</b>              | Successful completion of the following:<br>30536QLD<br><b>Certificate IV in Fire Systems Compliance (Fire Fighting Appliances)</b>  | 296                     | 6,000                 |
| <b>Install and Maintain</b> | Successful completion of the following:<br>PRM20404<br><b>Certificate II in Asset Maintenance (Fire Protection Equipment)</b><br>including successful completion of the following competency units:<br>PRMPFES09B Service portable fire extinguishers and fire blankets in the field<br>PRMPFES10B Inspect, test and replace fire hose reels in the field<br>PRMPFES14B Service portable fire extinguishers in the workshop | 295                     | 990 - 3,000           |

**Fire Detection, Alarm & Warning Systems**

| <i>Licence Category</i> | <i>Technical Qualification</i>   | <i>Duration (hours)</i> | <i>Course Fees \$</i> |
|-------------------------|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Certify</b>          | Successful completion of the following:<br>30536QLD<br><b>Certificate IV in Fire Systems Compliance (Fire Detection Systems)</b> | 296                     | 6,000                 |

|   |   |     |             |
|---|---|-----|-------------|
| <b>Install &amp; Maintain – extra low voltage</b> | 1 of the following:   |     |             |
|   | UTE 30299<br><b>Certificate III in Electrotechnology Building Services</b><br>including the specialisation in fire systems        | 864 | 1962        |
|   | <b>Electrical contractor licence</b> under the <i>Electrical Safety Act 2002</i>  | -   | -           |
| <b>Maintain – extra low voltage</b>               | Successful completion of the following:<br><br>PRM20404<br><b>Certificate II in Asset Maintenance (Fire Protection Equipment)</b> | 295 | 990 - 3,000 |

#### Emergency Lighting

| <i>Licence Category</i> | <i>Technical Qualification</i>   | <i>Duration (hours)</i> | <i>Course Fees \$</i> |
|-------------------------|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Certify</b>          | Successful completion of all of the following:   |                         |                       |
|                         | BCGCM1001B<br><b>Follow OH&amp;S Policies and Procedures</b><br>Unit of competency from 30536QLD<br>Certificate IV in Fire Systems Compliance          | 40                      | 840                   |
|                         | BCGCM2001B<br><b>Read and Interpret Plans and Specifications</b><br>Unit of competency from 30536QLD<br>Certificate IV in Fire Systems Compliance      | 20                      | 840                   |
|                         | BCGCM1005B<br><b>Carry Out Measurements and Calculations</b><br>Unit of competency from 30536QLD<br>Certificate IV in Fire Systems Compliance          | 20                      | 840                   |
|                         | PUAFIR510A<br><b>Inspect for Legislative Compliance</b><br>Unit of competency from 30536QLD<br>Certificate IV in Fire Systems Compliance               | 120                     | 2,000                 |
|                         | REP 1<br><b>Prepare a Fire Protection Certification Statement or Report</b> Unit of competency from 30536QLD Certificate IV in Fire Systems Compliance | 8                       | 500                   |

|                         |  |     |             |
|-------------------------|--|-----|-------------|
|                         | PRMPFES26B<br><b>Inspect, Test and Maintain Emergency Exit Lighting Systems</b><br>Unit of competency from PRM30406<br>Certificate III in Asset Maintenance (Fire Protection Equipment)  | 20  | 500         |
| <b>Inspect and Test</b> | Successful completion of the following:<br><br>PRM20404<br><b>Certificate II in Asset Maintenance (Fire Protection Equipment)</b><br>including successful completion of the competency PRMPFES26B Inspect, test and maintain emergency exit lighting systems | 295 | 990 - 3,000 |

#### Emergency Procedures

| <i>Technical Qualification</i>   | <i>Duration (hours)</i> | <i>Course Fees \$</i> |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Successful completion of all of the following:   |                         |                       |
| TAA40104<br><b>Certificate IV in Training and Assessment</b>   | 80                      | 1,430                 |
| PUAWER001A<br><b>Identify, Prevent and Report Potential Workplace Emergency Situations</b><br>Unit of competency from PUA00 Public Safety Training Package                   | 5                       | 150                   |
| PUAWER002A<br><b>Ensure Workplace Emergency Prevention Procedures, Systems and Processes are Implemented</b><br>Unit of competency from PUA00 Public Safety Training Package | 15                      | 200                   |
| PUAWER003A<br><b>Manage and Monitor Workplace Emergency Procedures Equipment and Other Resources</b> Unit of competency from PUA00 Public Safety Training Package            | 30                      | 300                   |
| PUAWER004A<br><b>Respond to Workplace Emergencies</b><br>Unit of competency from PUA00 Public Safety Training Package  | 5                       | 150                   |
| PUAWER005A<br><b>Operate as Part of an Emergency Control Organisation</b><br>Unit of competency from PUA00 Public Safety Training Package                                    | 10                      | 200                   |

|   |    |     |
|---|----|-----|
| PUAWER006A<br><b>Lead an Emergency Control Organisation</b><br>Unit of competency from PUA00 Public Safety Training Package                                 | 20 | 250 |
| PUAWER007A<br><b>Manage an Emergency Control Organisation</b> Unit of competency from PUA00 Public Safety Training Package                                  | 15 | 200 |
| PUAWER008A<br><b>Confine Small Workplace Emergencies</b><br>Unit of competency from PUA00 Public Safety Training Package                                    | 15 | 200 |
| PUAWER009A<br><b>Participate as a Member of a Workplace Emergency Initial Response Team</b><br>Unit of competency from PUA00 Public Safety Training Package | 30 | 250 |
| PUAWER010A<br><b>Lead Workplace Emergency Initial Response Team</b><br>Unit of competency from PUA00 Public Safety Training Package                         | 40 | 300 |

**Fire Safety Professional**

| <i>Technical Qualification</i>   | <i>Duration</i>      | <i>Course Fees</i><br>\$ |
|--|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Successful completion of the following:<br><br>EGQB<br><b>Graduate Diploma in Building Fire Safety and Risk Engineering</b><br>Victoria University | Part time<br>2 years | 7,264                    |

ENDNOTES

- 1 Laid before the Legislative Assembly on . . .
- 2 The administering agency is the Department of Housing.

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