

E – INSTITUTE

The Official Newsletter of IPA



The Institute of Plumbing
Australia Incorporated

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Promoting Consistency in all things Plumbing

The Blue Book of pipe sizing provides assistance to students:

A couple of years back we ran out of hard copies of the publication Selection and Sizing of Copper Tubes for Water Piping Systems by Barrie Smith and due to continuing demand for the book both by professionals and students we looked at ways to continue to provide the book without the high cost of printing and storing hard copies. After negotiating an agreement with the Author we published the book as an E-Book (electronic, searchable pdf file) and marketed it as either a download or a DVD through the Institute website www.plumbing.org.au with any income after costs to be quarantined in an Institute Benevolent Fund the IPA Foundation. Sales have been steady but not high and we are now in a position to make our first tranche of assistance packages to students enrolled for 2013 studying subjects in Certificate IV Plumbing and Services. The assistance to be provided in 2013 is for up to eight (8) complete sets of AS/NZS 3500 and a DVD of the E-Book on pipe sizing with all applicants receiving a free Student Membership of the Institute of Plumbing Australia.

Attached to this newsletter is a flyer outlining our assistance offer and an application form, please share this newsletter and its attachments with your employees, students, family and friends that may be interested.

To those that teach plumbing subjects especially at Certificate IV and above why not use Selection and Sizing of Copper Tubes for Water Piping Systems as a text book as it is currently used by a number of Colleges and is used by a large percentage of Plumbing/ Hydraulic Services Consultants. It is that old win-win situation, the more E-Books we sell the more students we are able to assist in the future and more students in your classes.

The application form is also available at www.plumbing.org.au

In this issue –

Student Assistance

National Licensing

Regulation of Plumbing in Western Australia

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National Licensing:

Well time goes by and it is now four weeks since the close of submissions to the consultation regulation impact statement (Consultation RIS) for the first tranche of occupations and the word on the street is that there were some 3500 submissions from stakeholders in the various occupations, it also appears that many respondents took the time to provide written comment rather than waste their effort on the survey monkey.

Talking about time goes by prompted a look at our files on the subject that show the starting point close to seven years ago with COAG agreeing to a number of reforms to help address “skills shortages” and I quote from correspondence received at the time “A key initiative involves improving the mobility of skilled workers by providing for greater harmonisation of skill requirements between states and territories”. This prompted the setting up of the Plumbing Occupations Action Group (POAG) in 2006 resulting in the license recognition matrix touted as being harmonisation; a view not generally shared by industry. About 2008 national licensing was introduced into the debate with stakeholder consultation and RIS’s then late 2009 saw the introduction of interim advisory committees (IAC’s) supposedly to provide expert input into the process and in June 2011 the Plumbing and Gasfitting IAC (PGOIAC) signed off on what they thought was an agreed compromise to what is required to protect public health and the environment. Twelve months went by until finally the Consultation RIS was issued for comment.

The reason for repeating the above potted history is to demonstrate the extraordinary amount of time lag between industry expert input and the bureaucratic nonsense that was contained in what is supposedly the final Consultation RIS and then the unprecedented haste to lock in agreement by industry representatives within a week of the close for submissions where the government obviously has access to analysis of the RIS submissions received and the industry and public have not yet had that opportunity even now four weeks later.

What is the reason for this haste? For that you would need to ask the Prime Minister.

The regulation of plumbing in Western Australia:

As reported previously the state government have agreed to undertake a long overdue full review of Western Australia’s plumbing legislation and the Western Australian plumbing industry has indicated a willingness to provide expert input into the content and expanse of the proposed review so as future plumbers in Western Australia have world best practice regulation that encompasses all aspects of what makes up the complex plumbing system required to protect public health and the environment. The industry continually reminds the Minister that some of the foremost medical and health experts around the world openly state that plumbers and plumbing systems are the front line in protecting public health. To provide that front line protection/prevention requires that plumbing in its widest sense is installed and maintained as a fully integrated system by widely qualified plumbers and regulated by a dedicated plumbing regulator. The proposed state legislation should reflect these requirements.

The Western Australian plumbing industry fully understands that to conduct the full review of plumbing legislation will take time, unfortunately time does not stand still and there is an urgent need, so as to maintain best practice in real time, for the immediate adoption of the National Construction Code Volume 3 – Plumbing Code of Australia (PCA) in its entirety.

By adopting the PCA in its entirety at this time will not impinge on the proposed review as

current legislation will still control the minimalistic regulations as they currently stand but will allow for innovation and introduction of new methods and materials currently used in other states and territories to the benefit of consumers. Also the review of plumbing legislation will be enhanced by allowing a more orderly introduction into the debate of the full spectrum of what is required for a fully integrated plumbing system so as to provide consumers with the economical and best practice approach of a plumber qualified and licensed to provide services covering all of their plumbing needs with oversight from a single dedicated plumbing industry regulator.

For your Diary next year:

Plumbing Code of Australia Awareness Seminars –

Canberra – 19 Feb

Adelaide – 21 Feb

Melbourne – 25 Feb

Hobart – 28 Feb

Brisbane – 11 March

Darwin – 14 March

Perth – 19 March

Sydney – 26 March

Email NCCawareness@abcb.gov.au to be put on a mailing list.

Selection and Sizing of Copper Tubes for Water Piping Systems

[Selection and Sizing of Copper Tubes for Water Piping Systems](#) by Barrie Smith (the blue book) is now available in both DVD and E-Book download, visit www.plumbing.org.au and follow the links.

NOTE:

Companion Spreadsheet now available, see www.plumbing.org.au for details and FREE Download. (follow the button links or click on **Technical Book Sales and scroll to bottom of page for **Spreadsheet Files****

Your input into this Newsletter and other IPA matters is always welcome and in fact sort after. If you are not already a member why not join and really help us provide a voice for plumbers and plumbing. Simply email the Secretary below.

Comments on matters raised in E-INSTITUTE or suggestions for future issues are welcome and may be sent to the Editor at:

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You have been sent this Newsletter as a member of the IPA or as a professional member of the wider plumbing industry. If you do not wish to receive further issues please send a reply email with UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line.