



Department of
Building and Housing

Te Tari Kaupapa Whare

Essential information for designers and draftspeople

**If you design buildings, you need to know
about licensing in your sector**



LICENSING IS COMING TO THE BUILDING INDUSTRY

What's licensing about?

The Licensed Building Practitioner Scheme will help ensure that people in the building industry who are responsible for the work done are competent and accountable. This is so homes and buildings are designed and built right the first time.

Licensing will promote, recognise and support professional skills and behaviour in the building industry.

The voluntary phase of licensing starts in November 2007 for designers, builders, site supervisors, construction managers and carpenters. Other trades and specialist activities will be added in late 2008.

What's the benefit for me?

Being licensed recognises you as a competent professional, which employers, clients and customers will value.

As a licensed building practitioner, your name will be recorded on an online register. This will enable employers, customers and clients to find competent building industry professionals.

Do I need to be licensed?

This is a decision that you need to make, depending on your individual situation.

You can choose not to be a licensed building practitioner.

However, from November 2010, for some kinds of restricted work this would mean having to be supervised by someone who is licensed.

This will include design, and if you want to lead the design of building projects, you **will** need a licence.

What will being licensed cost?

The fees for being licensed in Design will be between \$840 and \$1100 (GST included), depending on the licence class applied for. After that, there will be an annual fee of \$200 (GST included).

What licence should I apply for?

The table opposite lays out the range of licences and the work they cover.

When does licensing come in?

The Scheme will be phased in over 3 years, to give industry time to adjust.

Important dates are:

1 November 2007

Voluntary licensing starts for Design, Site and Carpentry.

Late 2008

Voluntary licensing starts for External Plastering, Roofing, Brick and Blocklaying, Concrete Structure, Steel Structure and Building Services.

30 November 2010[†]

Licences mandatory for:

- design
- site management and some aspects of structure and envelope.

[†] Will not apply to unoccupied buildings like sheds and barns. Also, homeowners will still be able to do DIY work as at present, including building a standard, straightforward house from scratch.



How does my work fit in with licensing?

IF YOU:	YOU CAN APPLY FOR:
Design	
Straightforward houses	Design 1
Moderately complex commercial or residential buildings	Design 2
Large or publicly important buildings	Design 3*
Build	
Straightforward houses	Site 1
Supervise or build	
Moderately complex commercial or residential projects, or aspects of large or complex construction projects.	Site 2
Manage the construction of	
Large or complex construction projects	Site 3
Work on or supervise	
Carpentry	Carpentry
External plastering	External Plastering
Roofing	Roofing
Bricklaying and/or blocklaying	Brick and Blocklaying
Supervise	
Concrete construction on commercial projects	Concrete Structure
Steel construction on commercial projects	Steel Structure
Building services on commercial projects	Building Services

* Registered architects and chartered professional engineers will automatically be deemed to hold a Design 3 licence by virtue of their own registration schemes.



How will I get my licence?

Application packs will be available from 1 October 2007 at www.dbh.govt.nz, on request via info@dbh.govt.nz or 0800 60 60 50, from industry associations and from nationwide roadshow meetings.

If you are working successfully in the sector and can demonstrate a good track record, gaining a licence should be straightforward.

You will be assessed on:

- your work history and a portfolio of your design work
- feedback from technical referees and clients
- your understanding of the responsibilities that go with your licence.

It will not be a requirement to have a formal qualification. However, your application **can** be supported by:

- any qualifications and training you have achieved
- participation in continuing professional development
- participation in industry organisations and events

- membership of an industry professional organisation (eg, Architectural Designers New Zealand Inc, Design Institute of New Zealand, Design Association of New Zealand).

A face-to-face assessment will be part of the application process to allow for a discussion about your portfolio.

What should I be doing now?

If you are considering being licensed, more information is available at www.dbh.govt.nz

You can sign up for our **free** regular electronic newsletter, via info@dbh.govt.nz, our website or phone 0800 60 60 50.

You can also subscribe to the free Department of Building and Housing monthly newsletter, *Codewords*.

