

Technical qualifications for licensing

Plumbing and drainage occupational licences under the *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2018*

Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning
and Public Works licence requirements

1 July 2024



Document history

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Table of Contents

Document history.....	2
Purpose.....	5
Background.....	5
Legislation.....	6
<i>Plumbing and Drainage Act 2018 (PD Act)</i>	6
Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2019 (PD Regulation).....	6
Transitional arrangements.....	7
Changes to the Construction, Plumbing and Services Training Package.....	7
Part 1 — Technical qualifications and experience requirements for a plumber’s licence.....	7
Plumbers Licence.....	7
Qualifications.....	7
Practical experience.....	8
Part 2 — Technical qualifications and experience requirements for a drainers licence.....	8
Drainers Licence.....	8
Qualifications.....	8
Drainage qualifications.....	9
Plumbing and drainage qualifications.....	9
Practical experience.....	9
Part 3 — Technical qualifications and experience requirements for restricted licences.....	9
Water plumber – gas.....	9
Qualifications.....	10
Practical Experience.....	10
Water plumber – electrical.....	10
Qualifications.....	10
Practical Experience.....	10
Water plumber – irrigation.....	10
Qualifications.....	10
Practical experience.....	10
Water plumber – fire protection (hydrants and hose reels).....	10
Qualifications.....	10
Plumbing qualifications.....	10
Fire protection qualifications.....	10
Practical experience.....	11
Water plumber – fire protection (domestic and residential).....	11
Qualifications.....	11
Plumbing qualifications.....	11
Fire protection qualifications.....	11
(iii) CPCPFS3047 – Test and maintain automatic fire sprinklers.....	11
Practical experience.....	12
Water plumber – water and sanitary.....	12

Qualifications.....	12
Practical experience	12
Drainer – on-site sewage facility (maintaining on-site sewage facilities)	12
Qualifications.....	12
Practical experience	12
Drainer – on-site sewage facility (carrying out OSTP installation work and maintaining on-site sewage facilities).....	13
Qualifications.....	13
Practical experience	13
Part 4 — Technical qualifications and experience requirements for endorsements – plumbers or provisional plumbers licences	13
Backflow prevention.....	13
Qualifications.....	13
Practical experience	13
Thermostatic mixing valve.....	13
Qualifications.....	13
Practical experience	13
Fire protection – commercial and industrial.....	14
Qualifications.....	14
Practical experience	14
Fire protection – domestic and residential.....	14
Qualifications.....	14
Practical experience	14
Solar and heat pump hot water system installation	14
Qualifications.....	14
Practical experience	14
Part 5 — Technical qualifications and experience requirements for endorsements – drainers or provisional drainers licences	14
On-site sewage facility maintenance	15
Qualifications.....	15
Practical experience	15
Appendix A — Minimum competencies required for Certificate III in Plumbing CPC32420.....	16
Core Units:.....	16
Elective Units:	17

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide the technical qualifications required for plumbing and drainage occupational licences in Queensland.

Sections 14 and 26 of the *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2018* (PD Act) outline that the Chief Executive of the department must decide the qualifications and practical experience required for licence classes, restricted licence classes and endorsements. This document sets out these requirements as determined by the Chief Executive under the *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2018*.

Background

The Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works (the department) is responsible for specifying the technical and experience requirements for the plumbing and drainage occupational licencing system which aligns with the department's broader role in administering plumbing and drainage legislation, including the *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2018* and the *Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2019*. This alignment allows for a streamlined and efficient approach to regulating the plumbing and drainage industry in Queensland.

The department is committed to ensuring that the plumbing and drainage industry in Queensland operates safely, efficiently and in the public interest. The licencing of individuals who perform plumbing and drainage work is a key part of this, as it ensures that work is carried out by appropriately qualified and experienced individuals. The technical qualifications set out in this document are an important aspect of upholding standards and protecting public health and safety in the plumbing and drainage industry.

The occupational licencing system for plumbing and drainage work in Queensland plays a vital role in safeguarding public health, safety, and the environment. Plumbing and drainage work involves the installation, alteration, repair, maintenance, testing or commissioning of plumbing or drainage, including on-site sewerage facilities, for a range of residential, commercial, and industrial buildings and infrastructure. If performed incorrectly, this work can lead to serious consequences such as the contamination of drinking water, the spread of infectious diseases, damage to property and environmental harm.

To manage these risks, it is crucial that plumbing and drainage work is carried out by competent and qualified individuals. The occupational licencing system established under the PD Act helps to ensure this by requiring individuals to hold the appropriate licence or endorsement for the type of work they are performing. The technical qualifications and experience requirements set out in this document are a key aspect of this system, as they specify the minimum knowledge and skills that an individual must demonstrate to be eligible for each type of licence or endorsement.

By requiring plumbing and drainage licensees to meet specified technical qualifications and experience requirements, the department aims to:

- protect the health and safety of the public by ensuring that plumbing and drainage work is performed to an appropriate standard
- promote consumer confidence in the plumbing and drainage industry
- support the professional development of plumbing and drainage workers by setting clear expectations for training and skills
- minimise risks to property and the environment arising from defective plumbing and drainage work
- fulfil the department's regulatory responsibility to uphold standards in the plumbing and drainage industry.

The technical qualifications outlined in this document have been developed in close consultation with industry stakeholders, including practising plumbers and drainers, industry associations, unions, training providers and technical experts. They reflect the current state of knowledge and practice in the plumbing and drainage industry and are regularly reviewed to ensure they remain relevant and up to date.

In summary, through the implementation of robust technical qualification requirements, the department is working to ensure that Queensland's plumbing and drainage work is of the highest standard, protecting public health, safety and the environment for the benefit of all Queenslanders.

Legislation

Plumbing and Drainage Act 2018 (PD Act)

Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2019 (PD Regulation)

Section 12 of the PD Act and Schedule 4 of the Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2019 (PD Regulation) outline the following classes of licence that a person may apply for:

- **plumber's licence** – entitles the licence holder to carry out plumbing work, other than plumbing work for which an endorsement on a plumber's licence is required to perform the work.
- **drainer's licence** – entitles the licence holder to carry out drainage work below ground level, other than drainage work for which an endorsement on a drainers licence is required to perform the work.
- **restricted licence** – entitles the licence holder to carry out work as prescribed by regulation. Section 25 of the PD Act establishes endorsements on licences that the holder of a licence may apply for:
- **licence endorsements** – entitles the endorsement holder to carry out specialist work in addition to their occupational licence.

Sections 14 and 26 of the PD Act allow the chief executive, through this document, to prescribe the qualifications and practical experience that an individual must have to be entitled to a licence, restricted licence or endorsement. The chief executive must publish the technical qualifications and experience requirements.

Please note:

- Under section 19 (1) and (2) of the PD Act, the chief executive may grant a provisional licence to an applicant.
- Under sections 20 and 52, 1 (c) of the PD Act, the chief executive may grant, change or impose new licence conditions considered necessary or desirable for the licensee to competently practise the plumbing and drainage trade.
- Under section 17 (2)(b) of the PD Act, the chief executive may, by notice given to the applicant require the applicant to undergo an examination to assess the applicant's ability to competently practise the plumbing and drainage trade. For example, an examination may be required by the chief executive where an applicant is relying on a qualification which was completed prior to 1 January 2011 or through an apprenticeship in another country.

Transitional arrangements

The department recognises current plumbing and drainage licences and endorsements issued by the QBCC based on the technical qualifications that were approved by the QBCC Commissioner and listed on the QBCC website.

The technical qualification requirements in this document (Version 6) are consistent with previous requirements set by the QBCC (Version 5). All new applications for plumbing and drainage licences and endorsements submitted must meet these technical qualification requirements.

Renewal of existing licences and endorsements will be subject to the QBCC's standard renewal process and requirements.

Changes to the Construction, Plumbing and Services Training Package

The Australian Industry Skills Committee endorsed Release 6.0 of the Construction, Plumbing and Services (CPC) Training Package in August 2020. This release resulted in a number of changes to qualifications and units of competency that fall under this training package. The chief executive of the department may accept a technical qualification for a licence that was previously prescribed in this document until 27 November 2026.

Part 1 — Technical qualifications and experience requirements for a plumber's licence

Part 1 of this document relates to section 14 of the PD Act and schedule 4, part 1 of the PD Regulation which relates to the issuing of a plumber's licence.

The requirements for a plumber's licence include both the qualifications and practical experience as stated below.

Plumber's Licence

Qualifications

The successful completion of any of the following qualifications:

- (a) A plumbing apprenticeship completed in an Australian jurisdiction, and a Certificate III in Plumbing CPC32420 with the competencies provided in Appendix A.
- (b) A plumbing apprenticeship completed in an Australian jurisdiction, and one of the following qualifications:
 - (i) Certificate III in Plumbing CPC32413
 - (ii) Certificate III in Plumbing CPC32412
 - (iii) Certificate III in Plumbing CPC32411
 - (iv) Certificate III in Plumbing CPC32408
- (c) A plumbing apprenticeship completed in an Australian jurisdiction, and a qualification which has been assessed and verified by a registered training organisation as at least equivalent to a Certificate III in Plumbing CPC32420

- (d) A plumbing apprenticeship completed outside an Australian jurisdiction, and a qualification which has been assessed and verified by a registered training organisation as at least equivalent to a Certificate III in Plumbing CPC32420
- (e) A plumbing apprenticeship completed outside an Australian jurisdiction, and a qualification which has been assessed and verified by a registered training organisation as at least equivalent to a Certificate III in Plumbing CPC32420 because the applicant has also successfully completed relevant gap training competencies recognised in the National Register on Vocational Education and Training (VET) in Australia
- (f) (A Certificate III in Plumbing CPC32420 or a qualification which has been assessed and verified by a registered training organisation as at least equivalent to a Certificate III in Plumbing CPC32420, that was not completed through an apprenticeship, provided the certificate or qualification excludes reliance on recognition of prior learning for any period where unlawful work (including work without the required licence) was carried out
- (g) A plumbing apprenticeship completed in an Australian jurisdiction, and a qualification in plumbing completed prior to 1 January 2011 if the applicant has also completed the following units of competency from the Certificate III in Plumbing CPC32420:
 - (i) CPCPCM2043 – Carry out WHS requirements
 - (ii) CPCCWHS2001 – Apply OHS requirements, policies and procedures in the construction industry; and
 - (iii) CPCPFS3038 – Test and maintain fire hydrant and hose reel installations.

Practical experience

- (a) Where the required qualification is obtained pursuant to paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d) or (e) above, at least one (1) year's practical plumbing experience after successful completion of the required qualification.
- (b) Where the required qualification is obtained pursuant to paragraph (f) above, four (4) years practical plumbing experience after successful completion of the required qualification.
- (c) Where the required qualification is obtained pursuant to paragraph (g) above, at least one (1) year's practical plumbing experience after successful completion of the applicant's apprenticeship.

Practical plumbing experience means performing a wide range of plumbing work relative to competencies within the Certificate III in Plumbing CPC32420.

Part 2 — Technical qualifications and experience requirements for a drainer's licence

Part 2 of this document relates to section 14 of the PD Act and schedule 4, part 2 of the PD Regulation which relates to the issuing of a drainers licence.

The requirements for a drainers licence include both the qualifications and practical experience as stated below.

Drainer's Licence

Qualifications

The successful completion of any of the following qualifications:

Drainage qualifications

- (a) A Certificate II in Drainage CPC20720 completed other than through a recognition of prior learning process
- (b) A Certificate II in Drainage CPC20720 completed through a recognition of prior learning process provided the qualification (in whole or part) was not obtained through a recognition of prior learning process that relied on the applicant performing unlawful work (including work without the required licence)
- (c) A qualification, other than a qualification completed through a recognition of prior learning process, which has been assessed and verified by a registered training organisation as at least equivalent to a Certificate II in Drainage CPC20720
- (d) A qualification completed in another country, completed other than through a recognition of prior learning or like process, which has been assessed and verified as at least equivalent to a Certificate II in Drainage CPC20720 because the applicant has also successfully completed relevant gap training competencies recognised in the National Register on Vocational Education and Training (VET) in Australia
- (e) A qualification listed above which has been completed through a recognition of prior learning process provided that the qualification was not obtained through a recognition of prior learning process that relied on the applicant performing unlawful work (including work without the required licence).

Plumbing and drainage qualifications

- (f) A qualification for a plumber's licence as provided in Part 1, subsection (a) to (f) of this document
- (g) A plumbing apprenticeship completed in Australian jurisdiction, and a plumbing and drainage qualification completed prior to 1 January 2011 if the applicant has also completed the following units of competency from the Certificate III in Plumbing CPC32420:
 - (i) CPCPCM2043 – Carry out WHS requirements
 - (ii) CPCCWHS2001– Apply OHS requirements, policies and procedures in the construction industry.

Practical experience

At least one (1) year's practical drainage experience.

Practical drainage experience means performing a wide range of drainage work relative to the competencies within the Certificate II in Drainage CPC20720.

Part 3 — Technical qualifications and experience requirements for restricted licences

Part 3 of this document relates to section 14 of the PD Act and schedule 4, part 3 of the PD Regulation which relates to the issuing of restricted licences.

Water plumber – gas

The requirements for a water plumber – gas licence include both the qualifications and practical experience as stated below.

Qualifications

- (a) CPCPWT3022 — Install and commission water heating systems and adjust controls and devices; and
- (b) CPCPCM2043 — Carry out WHS requirements; and
- (c) Hold, under the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004*, a gas work licence

Practical Experience

No practical experience.

Water plumber – electrical

The requirements for a water plumber – electrical licence include both the qualifications and practical experience as stated below.

Qualifications

- (a) CPCPWT3022 — Install and commission water heating systems and adjust controls and devices; and
- (b) CPCPCM2043 — Carry out WHS requirements; and
- (c) Hold, under the Electrical Safety Act 2002, an electrical mechanic licence or an electrical fitter licence.

Practical Experience

No practical experience.

Water plumber – irrigation

The requirements for a water plumber – irrigation licence include both the qualifications and practical experience as stated below.

Qualifications

The successful completion of any of the following qualifications:

- a) Certificate III in Irrigation Technology AHC32422
- b) Certificate III in Irrigation Technology AHC32419
- c) Certificate II in Urban Irrigation CPC20912.

Practical experience

Practical experience for each of the competencies in the abovementioned qualifications.

Water plumber – fire protection (hydrants and hose reels)

The requirements for a water plumber – fire protection (hydrants and hose reels) licence include both the qualifications and practical experience as stated below.

Qualifications

The successful completion of any of the following qualifications:

Plumbing qualifications

- (a) A qualification for a plumber's licence as provided in Part 1, subsection (a) to (g) of this document

Fire protection qualifications

- (b) A fire protection apprenticeship completed in an Australian jurisdiction, and a Certificate III in Fire Protection completed after 1 January 2011

- (c) A fire protection apprenticeship completed in an Australian jurisdiction, and a qualification in fire protection completed prior to 1 January 2011 if the applicant has also completed the following units of competency:
 - (i) CPCPCM2043 – Carry out WHS requirements
 - (ii) CPCPFS3046 – Test the integrity of water-based fire protection systems using pressure
 - (iii) CPCPFS3047 – Test and maintain automatic fire sprinklers
 - (iv) CPCP FS3041 – Inspect and test fire pumpsets
- (d) A fire protection apprenticeship completed outside an Australian jurisdiction, and a qualification which has been assessed and verified by a registered training organisation as at least equivalent to a Certificate III in Fire Protection CPC32820; or
- (e) A fire protection apprenticeship completed outside an Australian jurisdiction, and a qualification which has been assessed and verified by a registered training organisation as at least equivalent to a Certificate III in Fire Protection CPC32820 because the applicant has also successfully completed relevant gap training competencies recognised in the National Register on Vocational Education and Training (VET) in Australia.

Practical experience

No practical experience.

Water plumber – fire protection (domestic and residential)

The requirements for a water plumber – fire protection (domestic and residential) licence include both the qualifications and practical experience as stated below.

Qualifications

The successful completion of any of the following qualifications:

Plumbing qualifications

- (a) A qualification for a plumber's licence as provided in Part 1, subsection (a) to (g) of this document, and the following additional competencies:
 - (i) CPCPFS3037 — Install residential life safety sprinkler systems; and
 - (ii) CPCPFS4021 — Commission domestic and residential fire suppression sprinkler systems; and
 - (iii) CPCPFS4024 — Design residential and domestic fire sprinkler systems.

Fire protection qualifications

Any one of the qualifications provided in (b) to (e), including the completion of the following units of competency (or equivalent):

- (i) CPCPFS4021 – Commission domestic and residential fire suppression sprinkler systems; and
- (ii) CPCPFS4024 – Design residential and domestic fire sprinkler systems.
- (b) A fire protection apprenticeship completed in an Australian jurisdiction, and a Certificate III in Fire Protection completed after 1 January 2011
- (c) A fire protection apprenticeship completed in an Australian jurisdiction, and a qualification in fire protection completed prior to 1 January 2011 if the applicant has also completed the following units of competency:
 - (i) CPCPCM2043 – Carry out WHS requirements
 - (ii) CPCPFS3046 – Test the integrity of water-based fire protection systems using pressure
 - (iii) CPCPFS3047 – Test and maintain automatic fire sprinklers
 - (iv) CPCPFS3037 – Install residential life safety sprinkler systems
 - (v) CPCPFS3041 – Inspect and test fire pumpsets

- (d) A fire protection apprenticeship completed outside an Australian jurisdiction, and a qualification which has been assessed and verified by a registered training organisation as at least equivalent to a Certificate III in Fire Protection CPC32820; or
- (e) A fire protection apprenticeship completed outside an Australian jurisdiction, and a qualification which has been assessed and verified by a registered training organisation as at least equivalent to a Certificate III in Fire Protection CPC32820 because the applicant has also successfully completed relevant gap training competencies recognised in the National Register on Vocational Education and Training (VET) in Australia.

Practical experience

No practical experience.

Water plumber – water and sanitary

The requirements for a water plumber – water and sanitary licence include both the qualifications and practical experience as stated below.

Qualifications

The successful completion of any of the following qualifications:

- (a) A mechanical services apprenticeship completed in an Australian jurisdiction, and a Certificate III in Plumbing (Mechanical Services) CPC32513
- (b) A mechanical services apprenticeship completed in an Australian jurisdiction, and a qualification which has been assessed and verified by a registered training organisation as at least equivalent to a Certificate III in Plumbing (Mechanical Services) CPC32513
- (c) A mechanical services apprenticeship completed outside an Australian jurisdiction, and a qualification which has been assessed and verified by a registered training organisation as at least equivalent to a Certificate III in Plumbing (Mechanical Services) CPC32513
- (d) A mechanical services apprenticeship completed outside an Australian jurisdiction, and a qualification which has been assessed and verified by a registered training organisation as at least equivalent to a Certificate III in Plumbing (Mechanical Services) CPC35213 because the applicant has also successfully completed relevant gap training competencies recognised in the National Register on Vocational Education and Training (VET) in Australia.

Practical experience

No practical experience.

Drainer – on-site sewage facility (maintaining on-site sewage facilities)

The requirements for a drainer – on-site sewage facility (maintaining on-site sewage facilities) licence include both the qualifications and practical experience as stated below.

Qualifications

Maintaining on-site sewage facilities:

- (a) WEP01B – Maintain and service domestic treatment plants and onsite sewerage facilities; and
- (b) CPCPDR4013 – Design and size domestic treatment plant disposal systems.

Practical experience

At least six (6) months practical experience in the work within the scope of work for which the licence is issued.

Drainer – on-site sewage facility (carrying out OSTP installation work and maintaining on-site sewage facilities)

The requirements for a drainer – on-site sewage facility (carrying out On-site Sewage Treatment Plant (OSTP) installation work and maintaining on-site sewage facilities) licence include both the qualifications and practical experience as stated below.

Qualifications

Maintaining on-site sewage facilities and OSTP installation work:

- (a) WEP01B – Maintain and service domestic treatment plants and onsite sewerage facilities; an
- (b) CPCPDR4013 – Design and size domestic treatment plant disposal systems; and
- (c) CPCPCM2043 – Carry out WHS requirements; and
- (d) CPCPDR3023 – Install on-site domestic wastewater treatment plants and disposal systems
- (e) BSBESB402 – Establish legal and risk management requirements of new business ventures

Practical experience

At least six (6) months practical experience in the work within the scope of work for which the licence is issued.

Part 4 — Technical qualifications and experience requirements for endorsements – plumbers or provisional plumbers licences

Part 4 of this document relates to section 14 of the PD Act and schedule 4, part 4 of the PD Regulation which relates to the issuing of endorsements on plumbers and provisional plumbers licences.

Backflow prevention

The requirements for a backflow prevention endorsement include both the qualifications and practical experience as stated below.

Qualifications

- (a) CPCPWT4022 — Commission and maintain backflow prevention devices; or
- (b) If a plumber or provisional plumber has previously held a backflow prevention endorsement, the Backflow Prevention Revalidation course completed within the last five (5) years.

Practical experience

No practical experience.

Thermostatic mixing valve

The requirements for a thermostatic mixing valve endorsement include both the qualifications and practical experience as stated below.

Qualifications

CPCPWT4023 — Commission and maintain hot and heated water temperature control devices.

Practical experience

No practical experience.

Fire protection – commercial and industrial

The requirements for a fire protection – commercial and industrial endorsement include both the qualifications and practical experience as stated below.

Qualifications

The successful completion of any of the following qualifications:

- (a) Successful completion of a Certificate III in Fire Protection completed after 1 January 2011.
- (b) Successful completion of a qualification in fire protection completed prior to 1 January 2011 if the applicant has also completed the following units of competency:
 - (i) CPCPCM2043 — Carry out WHS requirements
 - (ii) CPCPFS3046 — Test the integrity of water-based fire protection systems using pressure
 - (iii) CPCPFS3047 — Test and maintain automatic fire sprinklers
 - (iv) CPCPFS3037 — Install residential life safety sprinkler systems; and
 - (v) CPCPFS3041 — Inspect and test fire pumpsets

Practical experience

No practical experience.

Fire protection – domestic and residential

The requirements for a fire protection – domestic and residential endorsement include both the qualifications and practical experience as stated below.

Qualifications

- (a) CPCPFS3037 — Install domestic and residential life safety sprinkler systems; and
- (b) CPCPFS4021 — Commission domestic and residential fire suppression sprinkler systems; and
- (c) CPCPFS4024 — Design residential fire sprinkler systems; and
- (d) CPCPCM2043 — Carry out work health and safety requirements.

Practical experience

No practical experience.

Solar and heat pump hot water system installation

The requirements for a solar and heat pump hot water system installation endorsement include both the qualifications and practical experience as stated below.

Qualifications

Course in Evaluating and Planning the Installation of Solar and Heat Pump Water Systems.

Practical experience

No practical experience.

Part 5 — Technical qualifications and experience requirements for endorsements – drainers or provisional drainers licences

Part 5 of this document relates to section 14 of the PD Act and schedule 4, part 5 of the PD Regulation which relates to the issuing of endorsements on drainers or provisional drainers licences.

On-site sewage facility maintenance

The requirements for an on-site sewage facility maintenance endorsement include both the qualifications and practical experience as stated below.

Qualifications

- (a) WEP01B — Maintain and service domestic treatment plants and on-site sewage facilities; and
- (b) CPCPDR4013 — Design and size domestic treatment plant disposal systems;

Practical experience

No practical experience.

Appendix A — Minimum competencies required for Certificate III in Plumbing CPC32420

Core Units:

CPCCCM2012	Work safely at heights
CPCPCM2039	Carry out interactive workplace communication
CPCPCM2040	Read plans, calculate quantities and mark out materials
CPCPCM2041	Work effectively in the plumbing services sector
CPCPCM2043	Carry out WHS requirements
CPCPCM2045	Handle and store plumbing materials
CPCPCM2046	Use plumbing hand and power tools
CPCPCM2047	Carry out levelling
CPCPCM2048	Cut and join sheet metal
CPCPCM2054	Carry out simple concreting and rendering
CPCPCM2055	Work safely on roofs
CPCPCM3021	Flash penetrations through roofs and walls
CPCPCM3022	Weld polymer pipes using fusion method
CPCPCM3023	Fabricate and install non-ferrous pressure piping
CPCPCM3024	Prepare simple drawings
CPCPCM3025	Install trench support
CPCPDR2021	Locate and clear blockages
CPCPDR2025	Install storm water and sub-soil drainage systems and drain work site
CPCPDR2026	Install prefabricated inspection openings and inspection chambers
CPCPDR3021	Plan layout and install below ground sanitary drainage systems
CPCPDR3023	Install on-site domestic wastewater treatment plants and disposal systems
CPCPFS3031	Fabricate and install fire hydrant and hose reel systems
CPCPGS3048	Install gas pressure control equipment
CPCPGS3049	Install gas appliance flues
CPCPGS3051	Purge consumer piping
CPCPGS3053	Disconnect and reconnect Type A gas appliances
CPCPGS3054	Calculate and install natural ventilation for Type A gas appliances
CPCPGS3056	Size and install consumer gas piping systems
CPCPGS3059	Install LPG storage of aggregate storage capacity up to 500 litres
CPCPGS3061	Install and commission Type A gas appliances
CPCPSN3011	Plan the layout of a residential sanitary plumbing system and fabricate and install sanitary stacks
CPCPSN3022	Install discharge pipes
CPCPWT3020	Connect and install storage tanks to a domestic water supply
CPCPWT3021	Set out and install water services
CPCPWT3022	Install and commission water heating systems and adjust controls and devices
CPCPWT3025	Install water pump sets
CPCPWT3026	Install and fit off sanitary fixtures, water services and adjust water service controls
CPCPWT3027	Install back flow prevention devices
CPCPRF2023	Collect and store roof water
CPCPRF3022	Fabricate and install roof drainage systems
CPCPRF3023	Fabricate and install external flashings
CPCPRF3024	Install roof components
HLTAID011	Provide first aid

Elective Units:

CPCCCM2008 Erect and dismantle restricted height scaffolding
CPCPFS3038 Test and maintain fire hydrant and hose reel installations
CPCPWT3024 Install and maintain domestic water treatment equipment
CPCPWT3028 Install property service
CPCPWT3029 Install water pipe systems
CPCCWHS2001 Apply WHS requirements, policies and procedures in the construction industry
CPCPRF2022 Select and install roof sheeting and wall cladding
CPCPRF3026 Install roof sheets, wall cladding and complex flashings
CPCPGS3046 Install LPG systems in caravans, mobile homes and mobile workplaces
CPCPGS3052 Maintain Type A gas appliances
CPCPGS3055 Install gas sub-meters
CPCPGS3047 Install LPG systems in marine craft
CPCPSN3025 Install pre-treatment facilities
CPCPSN3026 Install sewerage pumpsets
CPCPGS3060 Install LPG storage of aggregate storage capacity exceeding 500 litres and less than 8 kl