



BUILDING NOTE

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MUNICIPAL BUILDING SURVEYORS CERTIFICATE

The Municipal Building Surveyors Qualification Committee (MBSQC) is created by regulations for the purpose of assessing applicants for the issuance of a certificate as a Municipal Building Surveyor.

The MBSQC is composed of a group of building professionals, chaired by the Manager of the Building Codes and Regulation Branch, Antony Mee, and administered by the Department of Housing and Works. As a minimum it meets four times per year.

As a result of the high proportion of applications assessed by the committee that do not possess the required minimum level of qualification required by the regulations it was decided to issue this Building Note designed to clarify the **current** minimum requirements.

The following will provide some guidance in relation to the minimum level of qualification required by applicants when making a submission to the committee for consideration.

An applicant must possess, and provide evidence of, possession of one of the following qualifications or requirements:

- (a) Advanced Diploma in Building Surveying, or equivalent;
- (b) Degree in Building Surveying;
- (c) Post Graduate Diploma in Building Surveying;
- (d) Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), conducted by a Recognised Training Organisation, such as a TAFE College, certifying that an applicant possesses competencies equivalent to, or higher than, the Advanced Diploma of Building Surveying; or
- (e) An overseas qualification that contains competencies that are equal to, or superior, to the Advanced Diploma of Building Surveying and verified by the Overseas Qualifications Unit (ph. 08 9320 3750) of the West Australian Government. It should be noted that this verification would need to be supplemented by a comparison of the relevant course content with the Australian Advanced Diploma of Building Surveying.

For other building professionals, such as Fire Engineers, Structural Engineers and registered Architects, who have studied, and been certified as being competent in, training modules that cover the powers and duties of a building surveyor and fire safety of buildings the MBSQC may also issue a certificate.

As part of the *Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Amendment Bill 2003*, which is currently before the Upper House of State Parliament, an amendment is proposed to provide a head of power that will require local governments only to delegate the power to issue a building licence to a suitably competent officer who must possess the appropriate qualifications and experience.

This will allow Western Australia to adopt a national accreditation framework (attached), developed by the Australian Building Codes Board, and comprising two levels of accreditation for building surveyors. To implement this will also require an amendment to the *Local Government (Qualification of Municipal Officers) Regulations 1984* in order to transfer those building control officers currently employed in local government to the new Framework and set minimum qualification, and experience, requirements for those individuals aspiring to enter the profession of building surveying.

It should be emphasised that, should the amendment to the Act be supported by Parliament, the required minimum academic qualifications will be modified. As this policy proposal has not yet been approved by State Parliament those seeking a career in Building Surveying should, as a minimum, aspire to achieve an Advanced Diploma in Building Surveying.

For further information regarding courses being offered in Building Surveying visit the 'One Stop Education Shop' on the Australian Building Codes Board web-site at <http://www.abcb.gov.au/>

To view the applicable legislation, and for the details of meeting dates of the MBSQC, or to download an Application Form, visit the Department of Housing & Works web-site at <http://www.dhw.wa.gov.au>

Should the Act and Regulations be amended, as is currently proposed, a subsequent Building Note will be issued to communicate the new academic and experiential requirements for building surveyors to stakeholders and interested parties.



Peter Gow
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OFFICE OF POLICY AND PLANNING

Building Notes are produced by the Department of Housing and Works (DHW) primarily to inform building surveyors and the building industry. The information contained in this Note is intended for general guidance only and must not be relied upon in any particular set of circumstances. To ascertain your precise rights and obligations, you should consult a building surveyor or other appropriate professional or refer to the applicable legislation.

Copies of Building Notes may be obtained from the DHW at 108 Adelaide Terrace, East Perth or by accessing the Department's web-site at www.dhw.wa.gov.au.

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION FRAMEWORK FOR BUILDING CERTIFIERS

National	Category	Work Scope	Quals & experience	Functions
	Certifier Level 1 (Private certifier & local government employees)	Unrestricted (Work on all classes & size of buildings)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degree (to be defined after competency development) or • RPL within 5 years • 3 years relevant experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess & approve plans • Undertake inspections • Issue final certificates for building occupation
Certifier Level 2 (Private certifiers & local government employees)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 storeys maximum • Maximum floor area of 2000 m² 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced Diploma (to be defined after competency development) or • Working at this level at time of framework implementation • 2 years relevant experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess and approve plans • Undertake inspections • Issue final certificates for building occupation 	