Licensed Plumber Scheme – Water Service Work



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PUB SINGAPORE'S NATIONAL WATER AGENCY

Public Utilities (Amendment) Act 2018

- Plumbers who carry out both sanitary works and water service works will be licensed with effect from 1 Apr 18. Formerly, only those who carry out water service work were licensed.
- In connection with this change, the amended Act will come into effect from 1 Apr 18.
- Amendments are mainly in Part III of the PU Act affecting sections 16 to 34 (which are on licensed water service workers).
- The new clauses will be cited from sections 40G to 40Q.
- Some definitions will also be changed.

Comparison between current and proposed legislations

Current	New	Remarks
Definitions “water service worker” means any person whose trade or occupation requires or includes the personal performance by him of water service work or a person who is otherwise competent or qualified personally to perform water service work;	Definitions “licensed plumber” means an individual who holds a plumber’s licence; “professional engineer” means an individual who is registered as a professional engineer under the Professional Engineers Act (Cap. 253) and has in force a practising certificate issued under that Act;	Separate definitions for PE and licensed plumbers

Comparison between current and proposed legislations

Current	Proposed	Remarks
Definitions “water service work” means any work performed or carried out on any water service installation and includes the designing, installing, constructing, erecting or repairing thereof or the altering of the structure thereof or the replacing of any part thereof or the adding of any part thereto or the carrying out of any work thereon for the maintenance thereof;	Definitions “limited WSI design works” means the designing of any water service installation that is to be installed downstream of a meter, where the water service installation being designed does not include any pumping equipment or storage tank;”;	LPs design water service installations which do not have pumping equipment and storage tanks.

Comparison between current and proposed legislations

Current	Proposed	Remarks
Definitions	Definitions “WSI design works” means the designing of any water service installation that is to be installed downstream of a meter, and includes any limited WSI design works;	PEs design all installations both with and without pumping equipment and storage tanks

Comparison between current and proposed legislations

Current	Proposed	Remarks
Definitions	Definitions “WSI works” means any works on any water service installation including constructing, erecting, installing, maintaining, altering, repairing or replacing the water service installation.	LPs to carry out such water service installation works.

Comparison between current and proposed legislations

Current	Proposed	Remarks
Definitions	Definitions “regulated works” means any sanitary works, limited WSI design works or WSI works, but does not include any of such works as the Minister may, after consulting the Board, prescribe by order in the Gazette;	LPs to: 1) Design installations which do not have pumping equipment and storage tanks 2) Carry out WSI works 3) Carry out Sanitary works

Public Utilities (Amendment) Act 2018

NEW PART IIIB

REGULATED WORKS AND WSI DESIGN WORKS

Division 1 – Prohibitions relating to regulated works and WSI design works

Current	Proposed	Remarks
Section 40 - Licensing of water service worker (1) Subject to subsection (3), no person shall — (a) perform or carry out personally any water service work or offer or undertake to perform or carry out personally any such work; or (b) advertise or otherwise hold himself out as a water service worker or as a licensed water service worker, or as a person competent or qualified or legally permitted personally to perform or carry out water service work, unless he is licensed as a water service worker in respect of that water service work.	**Section 40G – Prohibitions against carrying out of regulated works, etc.** (1) An individual must not carry out, or offer or undertake to carry out, any regulated works unless – (a) the individual is a licensed plumber: or (b) the individual acts under the direct supervision of a licensed plumber. (2) An individual must not hold himself out (whether by an advertisement or any other means) as authorised under this Act to carry out any regulated works, unless the individual is a licensed plumber (3) A person must not in the course of business (whether or not carried on for profit) provide, or offer or undertake to provide, the carrying out of any regulated works unless the person ensures that those works are carried out by - (a) one or more licensed plumbers; or (b) one or more individuals acting under the direct supervision of one or more licensed plumbers (4) A person must not hold out (whether by an advertisement or any other means) that the person is authorized under this Act to provide in the course of business the carrying out of any regulated works, unless the person ensures that those works are carried out by the individuals mentioned in subsection 3(a) or (b). (5) An owner or occupier of any premises who wishes to have any sanitary works or WSI works carried out at the premises must only engage a person permitted under subsection (1) or (3) to carry out those works or provide the carrying out of those works (as the case may be).	Only LPs carry out work. Or LP to supervise the work. Only LPs can advertise their services. Companies are not allowed to provide plumbing services unless they have one or more LPs in their employment who carry out or supervise the work. Owners must engage LPs to carry out plumbing works

Current	Proposed (Cont'd)	Remarks
Section 40 - Licensing of water service worker (1) Subject to subsection (3), no person shall — (a) perform or carry out personally any water service work or offer or undertake to perform or carry out personally any such work; or (b) advertise or otherwise hold himself out as a water service worker or as a licensed water service worker, or as a person competent or qualified or legally permitted personally to perform or carry out water service work, unless he is licensed as a water service worker in respect of that water service work.	**Section 40G – Prohibitions against carrying out of regulated works, etc.** (6) An owner or occupier of any premises who wishes to have any limited WSI design works carried out on a water service installation situated at the premises must only engage - (a) a person permitted under subsection (1) or (3) to carry out those works or provide the carrying out of those works (as the case may be); or (b) a professional engineer to carry out those works. (7) Any person who contravenes subsection (1), (2), (3) or (4) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding $10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years or to both. (8) Any person who contravenes subsection (5) or (6) shall be guilty of an offence. (9) Subsections (1), (2), (3) and (4) do not apply to a professional engineer in respect of any limited WSI design works. **Section 40H – Prohibitions against engagement of persons to carry out certain WSI design works** (1) An owner or occupier of any premises who wishes to have any WSI design works carried out on a water service installation situated at the premises must, where the WSI design works are not limited WSI design works, only engage a professional engineer to carry out those works. (2) Any person who contravenes subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence.	Ensure owners engage LPs or PEs to carry out works without water tanks Penalty for LP and company Penalty for owner Owner is required to engage a PE to design the water service installations with water tanks and pumps. Penalty for owner if he does not engage a PE.

Simple Plumbing Works (which can be carried out without engaging LP)

1. Replacing or removing any tap or mixer.

2. Replacing or removing any of the following accessories connected to a tap:
   (*a*) a shower hose or a showerhead;
   (*b*) a connecting hose with a spring-loaded self-closing nozzle;
   (*c*) a connecting hose to a washing machine or a dish washer; or
   (*d*) a flexible hose.

3. Replacing or removing any pipe between a stop valve and an instantaneous water heater.

4. Replacing or removing any of the following parts of a flushing cistern:
   (*a*) any flushing mechanism;
   (*b*) any flexible hose after the ball valve.

Division 2 – Licensing of plumbers

Current	Proposed	Remarks
Reg 18 - Application for licence (1) An application for the issue or renewal of a water service plumber licence shall be made to the Board in such form as the Board may provide. (2) An application for a water service plumber licence shall be accompanied by such testimonials or other evidence of qualifications and experience, competency and character as the Board may, either generally or in any particular case, require.	**Section 40I – Application for plumber's licence** (1) An application to the Board for a plumber's licence must – (a) be in such form and manner as the Board may require; (b) be accompanied by an application fee (if prescribed); and (c)be accompanied by the documents and information required by the Board to consider the application. (2) In considering an application under subsection (1), the Board may carry out such inquiries and investigations in relation to the application as the Board considers necessary. (3) The Board may refuse to consider an application for a plumber's licence that is incomplete or not made in accordance with this section.	Requirements for application to be a licensed plumber

Current	Proposed (cont'd)	Remarks
Reg 17 - Qualifications for licensed water service plumbers (1) The Board may license any person as a licensed water service plumber if the Board is satisfied that the person has — (a) a thorough knowledge of these Regulations, including any standard, code of practice or guidelines adopted or issued by the Board under regulation 3; and (b) such qualifications and experience as the Board may require. (2) For the purpose of satisfying itself that any person has a thorough knowledge of the matters referred to in paragraph (1) (a), the Board may require any person applying to be a licensed water service plumber to sit for and pass such examination as the Board thinks necessary.	**Section 40J – Grant of plumber's licence** (1) An applicant is ineligible for a plumber's licence if the applicant – (a) has not completed any course, training, assessment, examination or test on any regulated works as the Board may require; (b) does not, in the Board's opinion, have the necessary qualifications or experience to be a license plumber; (c) does not, in the Board's opinion, have an acceptable knowledge of the requirements imposed by or under this Act or the Sewerage and Drainage Act (Cap. 294) on a licensed plumber; and (d) does not satisfy other eligibility requirements (if prescribed) to be a licensed plumber. (2) In deciding whether an applicant has an acceptable knowledge of the requirements mentioned in subsection (1)(c), the Board may have regard to - (a) the results of any assessment, examination or test mentioned in subsection (1)(a) completed by the applicant; and (b) if the Board considers relevant, the results of any other assessment, examination or test on any regulated works completed by the applicant, whether before, on or after the date of commencement of section 9 of the Public Utilities (Amendment) Act 2018. (3) The Board may, after considering the matters mentioned in subsections (1) and (2) and on payment of a licence fee (if prescribed) grant a plumber's licence to an individual. (4) A plumber's licence granted under subsection (3) – (a) authorizes a licensed plumber to carry out any regulated works; and (b) is subject to such conditions as the Board may impose. (5) A plumber's licence is valid - (a) for the life of the holder of a plumber's licence; or (b) for such period as the Board may specify in the licence, unless the licence is earlier cancelled under section 40L or surrendered under section 40M. (6) A plumber's licence is neither transferable nor assignable, and any purported transfer or assignment of the licence is void.	PUB may not grant licence if the following conditions are not met Validity of licence

Current	Proposed (cont'd)	Remarks
Reg 23 - Notification of cancellation or suspension of licence (1)Every notification of a cancellation or suspension of a licence of a water service plumber shall be given to the water service plumber by a letter signed by the authorised officer who shall send the letter by ordinary post, addressed to the water service plumber at his last known address specified in regulation 27 (3). (2) A water service plumber shall, within 14 days from the date of the notification under paragraph (1), deliver the cancelled or suspended licence to the Board. (3) Any water service plumber who contravenes paragraph (2) shall be guilty of an offence.	**Section 40K – Grounds for suspension or cancellation of plumber's licence** (1) The Board may suspend or cancel a plumber's licence of an individual who - (a) has obtained the plumber's licence by making or producing, or causing to be made or produced, any false or fraudulent declaration, certification or representation, whether in writing or otherwise; (b) has, in the Board's opinion, contravened any requirement imposed by or under this Act or the Sewerage and Drainage Act (Cap. 294) applicable to the individual, for which the individual is not liable for an offence; (c) has, in the Board's opinion, failed to comply with any condition of the plumber's licence; (d) has been charged with or convicted of an offence, under this Act or any other written law, such that it is undesirable, in the Board's opinion, that he should continue to hold the plumber's licence; (e) if required by section 40N to complete any refresher course, training, assessment, examination or test, has failed to do so; (f) is, for any reason, no longer suitable in the Board's opinion to hold a plumber's licence having regard to any of the matters mentioned in section 40J(1)(b) to (e); or (g) in the Board's opinion, has carried out or is carrying out any regulated works in a manner that adversely affects or is likely to adversely affect the health or safety of any other individual, or the public or a section of the public. (2) The suspension or cancellation of a plumber's licence under this Act does not prejudice the enforcement - (a) by any person of any right or claim against the licensed plumber or former licensed plumber; or (b) by the licensed plumber or former licensed plumber of any right or claim against any person. (3) The Board does not have to - (a) pay any compensation to any individual whose plumber's licence is suspended or cancelled; or (b) pay to any individual ant fee or part of the fee paid by the individual to the Board, in respect of any unexpired period of such plumber's licence.	PUB may suspend the licence for the following contraventions

Current	Proposed (cont'd)	Remarks
Reg 22 - Licence to be subject to cancellation or suspension by Board (1) Notwithstanding any penalty which may be imposed under these Regulations or otherwise, if a licensed water service plumber — (a) has obtained the licence by making or producing, or causing to be made or produced, any false or fraudulent declaration, certificate or representation, whether in writing or otherwise; (b) has, in the opinion of the Board, contravened any provision of the Act or any regulations made thereunder or any condition of the water service plumber licence issued to him; (c) has committed an offence under any other written law of such a nature as to render it, in the opinion of the Board, undesirable that he should continue to hold the licence; (d) has failed to complete such training, attend such course or pass such examination or test as required by the Board under regulation 21A; (e) is, in the opinion of the Board, incapable of carrying out any water service work of the class for which the licence was issued; or (f) is, for some other reason, not fit to be licensed or continue to be licensed as a water service plumber, the Board may, after giving the licensed water service plumber a reasonable opportunity to be heard, cancel or suspend the licence for such period as the Board thinks fit.	**Section 40L – Proceedings for suspension or cancellation of plumber's licence** (1) Before suspending or cancelling a plumber's licence of an individual, the Board must give a written notice to the individual - (a) stating that the Board intends to suspend or cancel the plumber's licence; and (b) specifying the time within which written representations may be made to the Board with respect to the proposed suspension or cancellation, that must not be less than any time, if prescribed, for the making of such representation. (2) The Board may, after considering any written representation under subsection (1)(b) from an individual - (a) suspend his plumber's licence for a period not exceeding 12 months or such longer period as may be prescribed in substitution; or (b) cancel his plumber's licence. (3) Where the Board has made any decision under subsection (2) against an individual, the Board must serve on the individual concerned a notice of the decision. (4) The Board's decision under subsection (2) takes effect from the date that the notice under subsection (3) is given, or on such later date as may be specified in the notice.	Procedures for suspending a licence

Current	Proposed (cont'd)	Remarks
Reg 30 - Certification of water service works (1) A licensed water service plumber shall, on completion of the water service work, submit to the authorised officer, within such time as the Board may require, a Certificate of Satisfactory Completion certifying that — (a) the water service work has been completed and complies with the relevant requirements referred to in regulation 29; and (b) the water service installation to which the water service work relates has been tested to be watertight and is fit to convey potable water.	**Section 40M – Surrender of plumber's licence** (1) Subject to subsection (2), an individual may at any time surrender his plumber's licence to the Board for cancellation. (2) The Board may refuse the surrender of a plumber's licence under subsection (1) if - (a) the Board is investigating whether there is any circumstance that may result in the suspension or cancellation of the plumber's licence; or (b) the Board has started proceedings under section 40L with a view to suspending or cancelling the plumber's licence. **Section 40N – Training requirements for licensed plumbers** 40N. A licensed plumber must — (a) complete any refresher course or training on any regulated works as required by the Board; and (b) complete to the Board's satisfaction any assessment, examination or test on any regulated works as required by the Board. **Section 40O - Duties of licensed plumbers in relation to regulated works** (1) A licensed plumber must, in respect of any regulated works that the licensed plumber carries out, or directly supervises another individual to carry out — (a) ensure that the carrying out of the regulated works complies with the requirements imposed by or under this Act; (b) for any prescribed regulated works — (i) notify the Board, in accordance with any prescribed requirements, before the start of those works; and (ii) submit to the Board, in accordance with any prescribed requirements, certifications for completion of those works; and (c) comply with such other requirements as may be prescribed. (2) Any licensed plumber who fails to comply with subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence.	Procedures for suspending a licence Licensed plumber is to attend refresher course Licensed plumber is to notify PUB prior to commencement of work and completion of works

Current	Proposed (cont'd)	Remarks
Reg 30 - Certification of water service works (2) A registered professional engineer shall, on completion of the water service work, carry out inspection of the water service work and submit to the authorised officer, within such time as the Board may require, a Certificate of Satisfactory Completion certifying — (a) that the water service work was carried out by the licensed water service plumber, has been completed and complies with the relevant requirements referred to in regulation 29; (b) that the water service installation to which the water service work relates, and its associated electrical devices and equipment, have been tested and are safe and acceptable for operation; and (c) that the water service installation to which the water service work relates has been tested to be watertight and is fit to convey potable water. (3) Any person who fails to comply with paragraph (2) shall be guilty of an offence.	**Section 40P – Duties of professional engineers in relation to WSI design works** (1) A professional engineer must, in respect of any WSI design works that the professional engineer carries out - (a) ensure that the carrying out of the WSI design works complies with the requirements imposed by or under this Act; (b) submit to the Board, in accordance with any prescribed requirements, certifications for completion of those works; (c) comply with such other requirements as may be prescribed. (2) Any professional engineer who fails to comply with subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence.	Professional engineer is to notify PUB prior to commencement of work and completion of works

Current	Proposed (cont'd)	Remarks
Reg 33 - Board may give directions (1) Where any water service work which is being or has been carried out or any water service installation does not comply with any requirement set out in these Regulations, the Board may give a direction, verbally or in writing, to any of the following persons requiring that person to comply with such requirements within such time as may be specified in the direction: (a) the water service worker responsible for the water service work or the water service installation; (b) the owner or developer of the building or premises in or on which the water service works is being or has been carried out or water service installation is installed; or (c) the consumer. (2) The Board shall not be liable for any cost or expense incurred by any of the persons referred to in paragraph (1) in complying with any direction given by the Board under that paragraph. (3) Where a water service worker receives a direction from the Board under paragraph (1), the water service worker shall notify the consumer, owner or developer referred to in paragraph (1) of the direction and that the Board may disconnect or refuse to supply water through the water service installation until such time as the requirements of the Board specified in the direction have been complied with. (4) Any water service worker who contravenes paragraph (3) shall be guilty of an offence.	**Section 40Q – Directions to licensed plumbers, professional engineers, etc.** (1) Where the Board is of the opinion that — (a) a licensed plumber has failed, or is likely to have failed, to comply with a condition of his plumber's licence in carrying out any regulated works; (b) a licensed plumber has contravened, or is likely to have contravened, any requirement imposed by or under this Act or the Sewerage and Drainage Act (Cap. 294), in relation to any regulated works that the licensed plumber is responsible for; (c) a professional engineer has contravened, or is likely to have contravened, any requirement imposed by or under this Act, in relation to any WSI design works that the professional engineer is responsible for; (d) any water service installation does not conform to any 30 requirement set out in the regulations made under section 72; or (e) any sanitary works are not or were not carried out in conformity with any requirement imposed by or under the Sewerage and Drainage Act, the Board may give a direction, verbally or in writing, to any person specified in subsection (2), and the person must comply with the direction. (2) The persons specified for the purposes of subsection (1) are — (a) for a direction under subsection (1)(a) or (b) — (i) the licensed plumber mentioned in subsection (1)(a) or (b); or (ii) if the Board is of the opinion that the licensed plumber mentioned in sub-paragraph (i) is incapable of carrying out any requirement specified in the Board's direction, another licensed plumber; (b) for a direction under subsection (1)(c) — (i) the professional engineer mentioned in subsection (1)(c); or (ii) if the Board is of the opinion that the professional engineer mentioned in sub-paragraph (i) is incapable of carrying out any requirement specified in the Board's direction, another professional engineer; (c) for a direction under subsection (1)(d) — (i) the licensed plumber reasonably believed to have last carried out, or directly supervised the carrying out of, any limited WSI design works or WSI works on the water service installation that resulted in its non-conformity; (ii) the professional engineer reasonably believed to have last carried out any WSI design works on the water service installation that resulted in its non-conformity; (iii) if the Board is of the opinion that the licensed plumber or professional engineer mentioned in sub-paragraph (i) or (ii) is incapable of carrying out any requirement specified in the Board's direction, another licensed plumber or professional engineer (as the case may be); (iv) the owner or occupier of the premises where the water service installation is situated; or (v) the consumer who is supplied water through the water service installation; and (d) for a direction under subsection (1)(e) — (i) the licensed plumber reasonably believed to have last carried out, or directly supervised the carrying out of, the non-conforming sanitary works; (ii) if the Board is of the opinion that the licensed plumber mentioned in sub-paragraph (i) is incapable of carrying out any requirement specified in the Board's direction, another licensed plumber; or (iii) the owner or occupier of the premises where the non-conforming sanitary works are or were carried out.	PUB may give directions to licensed plumbers

Current	Proposed (cont'd)	Remarks
Reg 33 - Board may give directions (1) Where any water service work which is being or has been carried out or any water service installation does not comply with any requirement set out in these Regulations, the Board may give a direction, verbally or in writing, to any of the following persons requiring that person to comply with such requirements within such time as may be specified in the direction: (a) the water service worker responsible for the water service work or the water service installation; (b) the owner or developer of the building or premises in or on which the water service works is being or has been carried out or water service installation is installed; or (c) the consumer. (2) The Board shall not be liable for any cost or expense incurred by any of the persons referred to in paragraph (1) in complying with any direction given by the Board under that paragraph. (3) Where a water service worker receives a direction from the Board under paragraph (1), the water service worker shall notify the consumer, owner or developer referred to in paragraph (1) of the direction and that the Board may disconnect or refuse to supply water through the water service installation until such time as the requirements of the Board specified in the direction have been complied with. (4) Any water service worker who contravenes paragraph (3) shall be guilty of an offence.	**Section 40Q – Directions to licensed plumbers, professional engineers, etc.** (3) A direction given under subsection (1) — (a) may require the person specified in subsection (2) to do, or to refrain from doing, such things as are specified in the direction or are of a description as specified in the direction; (b) is to take effect at such time, being the earliest practicable time, as is determined by or under that direction; and (c) may be revoked at any time by the Board (4) The Board is not liable for any cost or expense incurred by any person specified in subsection (2) in complying with any direction given by the Board under this section. (5) Where a licensed plumber or professional engineer receives a direction from the Board under this section (a) the licensed plumber or professional engineer (as the case may be) must notify the affected owner, occupier or consumer specified in subsection (2)(c)(iv) or (v) or (d)(iii), as the case may be, of the direction; and (b) the Board may disconnect or refuse to supply water through the water service installation until such time that the requirements of the Board specified in the direction have been complied with. (6) Any person to whom a direction is given under this section who fails to comply with the direction shall be guilty of an offence. (7) To avoid doubt, this section does not affect the application of section 11(2) of the Sewerage and Drainage Act.	PUB may give directions to Professional Engineer

Thank You