

## What is Irrigation (Non-agricultural) work?

*A guide to read before you apply for registration*

Do you have the **skills, knowledge and experience** to apply for registration as a plumbing practitioner in Irrigation (Non-agricultural) work? To help you, this guide explains some of the typical tasks of Irrigation (Non-agricultural) work. If you are asked to an assessment interview, some of your interview questions will be based on this information.

### Get to know the regulation

Under Part 4 of the *Plumbing Regulations 2018*, Irrigation (Non-agricultural) work is:

- (1) *the construction, installation, replacement, repair, alteration, maintenance, relining, testing or commissioning of any part of an irrigation system on a property from the connection point to the last valve controlling any pressurized zone in the system and includes any design work that is incidental to, or associated with, any work described in this subregulation.*
- (2) *Irrigation work **does not include** the construction, installation, replacement, repair, alteration, maintenance, relining, testing or commissioning of an irrigation system used for the purposes of agriculture.*

### Typical Irrigation (Non-agricultural) work

Non-agricultural irrigation plumbing involves installing irrigation systems that provide an artificial supply of water to parks, private and public gardens, and sporting grounds such as ovals and bowling greens. Experienced Irrigation plumbers typically do the following work (and more):

- Designing domestic irrigation systems
- Installing and commissioning irrigation systems
- Installing and commissioning domestic irrigation pumps

### What do Irrigation (Non-agricultural) plumbers need to know and do?

Irrigation plumbers need critical knowledge and skills to ensure the reliable supply of water to land, without disrupting or contaminating other water sources. What does this mean for you?

As a registered practitioner, you must be able to understand and apply the compliance requirements of Irrigation (Non-agricultural) plumbing work. These requirements include:

- AS/NZS 3500.1 Plumbing and drainage Part 1: Water services
- AS/NZS 2845 Water supply backflow prevention devices – registered air gaps and registered break tanks.

To undertake Irrigation (Non-agricultural) work to a safe and competent standard, you must also be able to:

- Install trench support
- Understand backflow prevention to ensure no cross-contamination or connection with water supply pipes
- Understand key elements of design when designing domestic irrigation systems, including the range of sprinkler heads and systems
- Test water pressure and flow rates, and the impact of different readings on irrigation system design
- Read a site or building plan
- Demonstrate you understand different classes of water that can be used for irrigation
- Understand and identify the appropriate use of alternative water supplies for irrigation
- Carry out oxy-acetylene welding, and know how to weld safely.

## What competencies and experience do you need?

The VBA publishes a set of units of competency for each class of plumbing work. Each unit of competency describes a work outcome, all the knowledge and skills needed to do the work to the expected standard, and how they should be assessed.

The Victorian Building Authority (VBA) uses the units of competency to assess your skills and experience if you apply to register in a class of plumbing work.

To be eligible to register in the Irrigation (Non-agricultural) class, you must be able to show:

- you have the relevant competencies PLUS recent and relevant experience in work related to the Irrigation (Non-agricultural) class of plumbing, or
- you have knowledge equal to the competencies for Irrigation (Non-agricultural) work of Certificate II or higher, PLUS at least two years of experience while working under the supervision of a plumber who is licensed in Irrigation (Non-agricultural) work.

Before applying for registration, please read the current approved units of competency for Irrigation (Non-agricultural).

## Units of Competency for Irrigation (Non-agricultural) work

- Carry out interactive workplace communication (CPCPCM2039A)
- Carry out levelling (CPCPCM2047A)
- Carry out simple concreting and rendering (CPCPCM2054A)
- Carry out WHS requirements (CPCPCM2043A)
- Connect irrigation systems from drinking water supply (CPCPWT3027A)
- Design domestic urban irrigation systems (CPCPIG2021A)
- Handle and store plumbing materials (CPCPCM2045A)
- Install and commission domestic irrigation pumps (CPCPIG3022A)
- Install trench support (RIICCM210A)
- Mark out materials (CPCPCM2050A)
- Provide basic emergency life support (HLTFA211AP)

- Read plans and calculate plumbing quantities (CPCPCM2040A)
- Set out, install and commission irrigation systems (CPCPIG3021A)
- Use plumbing hand and power tools (CPCPCM2046)
- Weld using oxy-acetylene equipment (CPCPCM2052A)
- Work effectively in the plumbing and services sector (CPCPCM2041A).

### Your next step

If you think you have the required skills, knowledge and experience in Irrigation (Non-agricultural) work, then go to the [VBA website](#) to learn how to apply for registration in this work class.