

Media Release

October 5 2017

Plumber fined for compliance certificate fraud

A manager at an air-conditioning company has been fined \$3500 after he was found guilty on a string of allegations in South Morang, Springvale and Chirnside Park.

The man, a licensed plumbing practitioner, falsely signed compliance certificates stating he carried out or supervised the work to install ducted heating and evaporative air-conditioning systems. The installations were carried out in December 2014 and January 2015, and completed by other employees without supervision, who did not hold the correct licensing or registration.

Subsequently, some of the work carried out did not comply with plumbing laws.

Victorian Building Authority's Director Compliance, Enforcement and Legal Services Kate Despot said it was unacceptable for a plumber to sign a compliance certificate for work they did not carry out, or supervise.

"The reason compliance certificates exist is to protect the consumer and increase confidence in the building industry," Ms Despot said.

"Licensed plumbers have a responsibility to ensure their work complies with relevant plumbing standards, codes and regulations. When this is achieved, you can have confidence the work you have paid for is up to standard.

"If you are thinking about hiring a plumber in Victoria, confirm that the plumbing work is carried out by, or under the supervision of a licensed plumber by checking their details on the Find A Practitioner Tool on the VBA website. Ask to see their VBA ID card as well – all practitioners should carry this."

In Victoria, compliance certificates must be issued for various types of plumbing work, including any type of work valued at \$750 or more.

A plumber must provide the signed compliance certificate to the client within five days of completion, and this also needs to be lodged with the VBA.

Only a licensed plumber can issue a compliance certificate.

For more information, visit the [compliance certificates page on vba.vic.gov.au](http://vba.vic.gov.au/compliance-certificates).