

Media Release

For immediate release

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\$10,000 fine for unlicensed plumbing work

A man has been convicted and fined \$10,000 at Moorabbin Magistrates' Court after a Victorian Building Authority (VBA) investigation found he had undertaken plumbing work that he was not licensed or registered to do.

Mr George Kats was hired to replace the roof at a dry cleaning store in East Bentleigh. He commenced work and removed the roof, leaving the premises unfinished and not waterproof.

Mr Kats returned the following week and completed the work, but only provided the required compliance certificate after the owner requested it. The owner then referred the matter to the VBA after identifying several issues with the work.

The VBA investigation identified faults with the installation of the roof and found that Mr Kats was not licensed or registered to undertake any class of plumbing at the time the work was completed. He was also unlicensed when he signed the compliance certificate, which can only be issued by a licensed plumber.

Mr Kats was charged with carrying out plumbing work in the category of roofing (stormwater) while he was unregistered and unlicensed. He was fined \$10,000 and ordered to pay costs of \$525.37.

VBA Director of Compliance and Performance Murray Smith reminds consumers to use a licensed or registered plumber, and to make sure they receive a compliance certificate for work costing more than \$750.

"A person who carries out plumbing work in Victoria must be registered or licensed with the VBA", Mr Smith said.

"All licensed plumbers have the appropriate qualifications and experience for the class of plumbing work in which they are licensed."

To ensure that your plumber is licensed or registered, use the 'Find a Practitioner' tool on the VBA website at www.vba.vic.gov.au

ENDS

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