

Media Release

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Changes to Victorian owner-builder requirements

The Victorian Building Authority (VBA) has refined its requirements for owner-builder applications.

The key change is the VBA will now accept construction induction cards issued by interstate regulators as set out in WorkSafe Victoria's Guidance Notes.

Previously, the VBA only accepted WorkSafe Victoria issued White Cards.

An owner-builder is someone who takes responsibility for domestic building work on their land.

VBA Director of Enquiries, Inspections and Complaints Murray Smith said people applying to be an owner-builder must demonstrate they understand their obligation to provide a safe workplace.

"Completing the owner-builder eLearning assessment on the VBA's website, and providing a WorkSafe Victoria White Card, or interstate equivalent, is the only way for an owner-builder to demonstrate they understand their responsibilities," Mr Smith said.

"The eLearning assessment must be completed before an application for a certificate of consent to become an owner-builder can be submitted. Evidence of a White Card, or interstate equivalent, must also be provided at time of application. The VBA does not accept statements of attainment for completing construction induction training."

These strict requirements underline the fact that owner-builders have similar responsibilities to registered building practitioners, including:

- Obtaining and complying with a building permit;
- Arranging for certification of completed work, ensuring work complies with Australian standards;
- Ensuring site and worker safety;
- Ensuring appropriate insurance policies are in place;
- Some obligations that last for six and a half years after completion of the building work.

People thinking about applying to become an owner-builder should read the [Owner-builder information and study guide](#) on the [VBA's website](#).

Under legislative changes introduced in 2016, an owner-builder in Victoria can only build or renovate one house every five years and must intend to live in it once completed. Further changes will be implemented during 2017 -2018.

For more information about owner-builder requirements, visit the [VBA's website](#).

ENDS

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