

Self-Certification for Plumbing and Drainlaying

What is self-certification?

Self-certification is an optional scheme administered by the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board (PGDB). It allows endorsed practitioners to certify that eligible plumbing and drainlaying work complies with the approved building consent and Building Code requirements.

How does it work?

If your project includes eligible plumbing or drainlaying work, you may choose to:

- Use an endorsed plumber or drainlayer who can self-certify eligible work; or
- Continue with the standard Council inspection process.

How can I check to find out what is eligible?

To meet self-certification scheme requirements, eligible plumbing and drainlaying must:

- Be in buildings with no more than three storeys
- Not be in apartment buildings
- Be designed to an Acceptable Solution or Verification Method
- For on-site systems – use a different compliance method only if no Acceptable Solution or Verification Method exists.

Links to further information on the scope of self-certification are contained under Useful Links on the next page.

It's your choice

Self-certification is optional and remains the choice of property owners.

Property owners must agree to the work being self-certified and cannot be told that work is to be self-certified without agreeing.



You can choose to have plumbing and drainage inspections undertaken by the Council building inspector if you prefer the assurance of an independent check of the work.

For most inspections, Council will still need to visit the building site to check other work, such as concrete pre-pour or pre-linings inspections, so the plumbing and drainage can be inspected at the same time.

What has not changed?

Self-certification does not remove the requirement to:

- Obtain a building consent where one is required
- Comply with the Building Code
- Comply with the approved building consent
- Apply for a Code Compliance Certificate (CCC).

Before you apply for a building consent

If you are considering self-certification, discuss this with your designer, building company, plumber or drainlayer before submitting your building consent application.

The building consent application should identify all plumbing or drainlaying work proposed for self-certification. The building consent application form includes fields for detailing the self-certified work.

Council must also be advised of the endorsed plumber or drainlayer before the work begins.

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Who can self-certify?

Only plumbers and drainlayers who:

- hold a current certifying licence;
- hold a self-certification endorsement from the PGDB; and
- meet the requirements of the self-certification scheme

can self-certify eligible plumbing and drainlaying work.

Property owners can confirm that their practitioner holds a current self-certification endorsement by visiting the website of the PGDB to check the licensing status of tradespeople on the Board's register.

A link to the Board's register is contained under Useful Links.

What will the Council do?

For all self-certified work, the Council Building Consent Authority will continue to:

- Assess building consent applications
- Issue building consents
- Process Code Compliance Certificate applications
- Undertake inspections of other building work covered by the consent.

Council will undertake building inspections for plumbing and drainage work that is identified as being outside of the scope of self-certified work.

Council will not inspect plumbing or drainlaying work that:

- Is eligible for self-certification
- Is identified as self-certified in building consents; and
- Is completed by endorsed plumbers and drainlayers nominated in building consents.

Building inspections

Where self-certification has been approved, Council inspections are not required for the specified self-certified plumbing or drainlaying work.

The endorsed plumber or drainlayer is responsible for:

- Carrying out all required checks and testing
- Ensuring compliance with the approved consent and Building Code
- Certifying the completed work.

Code Compliance Certificates (CCC)

When self-certified work is completed, the endorsed plumber or drainlayer must provide a Certificate of Compliance and supporting documentation.

This documentation must be supplied as part of the CCC application.

Failure to provide the required documentation may delay the issuing of a CCC.

Useful links

Waimakariri District Council

- **Building consents**
- **Building inspections**
- **Code Compliance Certificate**
- **Building forms**

Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE)

- **Self-Certification for Plumbing and Drainlaying Scheme**
- **Guidance for Homeowners**
- **Self-certification resources**

Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board (PGDB)

- **Self-certification information**
- **Public Register of Endorsed Practitioners**

Need help?

For building consent enquiries, contact the Waimakariri District Council Building Unit:

Phone: 03 311 8906

Email: duty.processor@wmk.govt.nz

For information about endorsed plumbers and drainlayers, visit the PGDB website.

This fact sheet provides general information only.

Refer to MBIE and PGDB guidance for detailed eligibility criteria and practitioner requirements relating to the Self-Certification for Plumbing and Drainlaying Scheme.

Find out more at waimakariri.govt.nz, or contact Customer Services on 0800 965 468.