The LBP handbook

MBIE recently refreshed the LBP handbook, previously known as 'Understanding the Regulatory Environment'.

The handbook is primarily a resource for building practitioners during the LBP application process, to help them understand the regulatory environment LBPs operate in. However, it is a valuable tool for all LBPs as an easy-to-understand update on the wider building and construction system.

What the handbook covers

**Part one** sets out general information about the LBP scheme.

This section outlines the definitions of restricted building work and supervision. It also provides information about the minimum standard of licensing, LBP licence classes, skills maintenance and working within your competence.

**Part two** looks at the roles and responsibilities of LBPs, home owners, registered and non-registered trades, and building consent authorities. This is worth checking out if you engage with clients and other practitioners.

**Part three** outlines the contractual relationship between contractors and clients. It includes information about obligations, eg a contractor must provide a residential client with a written contract and other documentation if the project will cost $30,000 or more (including GST), or if a client requests it.

**Part four** sets out rights and responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015.

**Part five** outlines the building regulatory framework including relevant information under the Building Act 2004, the NZ Building Code and relevant building standards.

**Part six** describes the building and resource consent process, including applying for a building consent, variation of a building consent, inspections, obtaining a code compliance certificate and the penalties for building without a consent where one was required. This section will be useful if you regularly advise clients about the consent process.

How the handbook can help you

The handbook can provide anyone with a great summary of the building system and how their role fits in. It is a great tool for understanding and meeting your obligations.

The handbook includes self-assessment questions that summarise content and allow you to test your knowledge. Rules do change over time and it is your responsibility to keep up to date with those changes.

How you can access the handbook and other important information

You can find and download the handbook by searching for it on the LBP website (http://www.lbp.govt.nz).

You can also keep up to date by subscribing to LBP Updates on the LBP website.

Get the latest versions of technical documents and guidance on the Building Performance website (https://www.building.govt.nz/).

If you haven't already, you can also visit the Building Performance website to subscribe to Codewords and other updates (https://www.building.govt.nz/subscribe-old/).

Quiz

1. Who will benefit from reading this handbook?
   a. licensed building practitioners
   b. new LBP applicants
   c. homeowners
   d. all of the above

2. This handbook will tell you how to comply with the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015?
   a. True, it will give you a step by step guide to on-site compliance
   b. False, it will only give you information about your roles and responsibilities

3. You would only need to read this handbook when you are applying for an LBP licence?
   a. True, once you get your licence, the learning stops!
   b. False, it will be useful anytime you need a refresher

4. Can you find information in this handbook about building consent authorities’ responsibilities during the construction process?
   a. Yes
   b. No