

# Cabinet decisions relating to the regulations for Self-certification by plumbers and drainlayers

## Definition of self-certifiable plumbing and drainlaying

Requirement	Self-certifiable plumbing	Self-certifiable drainlaying
<b>Must be a residential dwelling with the exception of apartments</b>	✓	✓
<p><b>No more than 3 storeys and less than 10m waste stack</b></p> <p>Drainage risk tends to increase above 10 metres. Two storeys is unlikely to pose significantly greater risk than one storey for plumbing. Three storeys is likely to pose more risk than one and two storeys as it can require a more complex design, and higher risk of blocking and/or property damage.</p> <p>Drainage complexity tends to increase with additional floors and more so above 3 storeys.</p>	✓	✓
<p><b>Single plumbing/drainage system only</b></p> <p>Plumbing and drainage to serve one dwelling only. This ensures that another dwelling is not affected should failure occur.</p>	✓	✓
<p><b>Must be designed to an acceptable solution (AS) or verification method (VM)</b></p> <p>The design must meet an MBIE AS or VM. This a standard practice.</p> <p><b>Note: Alternative solutions will need to follow the current process to ensure consent terms have been followed.</b></p>	✓	✓
<p><b>Up to 40 fixture units (FU)</b></p> <p><b>For two-storey houses</b>, there will be a limit of a total of 40 FU, with a maximum of 10 FU on the second floor.</p> <p><b>For three-storeys</b>, there will be a total of 40 FU, with a maximum of 6 FU on each of the second and third storeys, and/or 6FU limit per stack on second and third floors.</p> <p>Fixture units (FU) are defined under AS/NZS 3500.0. The limit of 40 FU helps to ensure the design is kept simple while allowing for flexibility, limiting risk of blockages from heavy loading, and limiting risks from works done on the second and third storeys.</p>	✓	✓

<p>Fixture units are a standardised measure used in plumbing design to quantify the hydraulic load that different plumbing fixtures impose on a system. Rather than representing a direct flow rate, a fixture unit reflects the expected water usage, discharge rate, and frequency of use of a fixture under typical conditions.</p> <p>For example, a residential toilet might be assigned four fixture units, while a washing machine could carry five. These values help engineers and plumbers calculate total system demand and ensure compliance with standards like AS/NZS 3500 or the Uniform Plumbing Code.</p>		
<p><b>No uncontrolled water heating systems (ie using an external heat source that cannot be quickly or easily turned off or adjusted)</b></p> <p>Uncontrolled heating sources are higher risk. For example, solar hot water heaters have risk of explosion if installed incorrectly.</p>	✓	
<p><b>No central space heating systems</b></p> <p>Water space heating systems are not considered to be under the scope of self-certifying plumbing. This includes radiators and underfloor heating.</p>	✓	
<p><b>Only gravity drainage and plumbing</b></p> <p>Other types of drainage and plumbing are more complex and tend to require engineered solutions.</p>	✓	✓
<p><b>No new on-site systems (including, systems for water supply, onsite pumped water systems, circulating water, irrigation, surface water or foul water)</b></p> <p>On-site disposal systems tend to be more complex and outside the scope of most plumbers' and drainlayers' capability and experience.</p>	✓	✓
<p><b>Connections to existing on-site systems included as long as it is compliant with an existing resource consent.</b></p>	✓	✓
<p><b>Pools are excluded</b></p>	✓	
<p><b>Catchment systems allowed as long as they are not connected to retention system.</b></p>	✓	
<p><b>Retention/detention system – above ground gravity fed systems only (no pumped system).</b> The system is not to be connected to the house water</p>	✓	

supply. Eg. Not for drinking, flushing but can be used for hosing garden.		
<b>Greywater reuse is not permitted.</b>	✓	✓
<b>Specified exclusion for hot water ring main system.</b>	✓	
<b>Work cannot be within a shared tenancy wall including in a wall space between two shared tenancy walls or penetrate a firewall</b> Requiring that work can only be self-certified if it is not within a tenancy wall mitigates the impact on neighbouring properties should a failure occur. This is intended to contain a failure to a single property.	✓	✓
<b>The connection to a shared service cannot be self-certified</b> The connection of plumbing or drainage to a shared network outside of the building envelope cannot be self-certified. This is to limit the impacts of failure to a single property.  For clarification this does not include single dwelling connection to a NUO.	✓	✓

### Information required for Certificates of Compliance

Information required for a Certificate of Compliance	Purpose
Confirmation that the work meets the definition of self-certifiable plumbing or self-certifiable drainlaying	Statement from the practitioner confirming the work is within the scope of what can be self-certified under the scheme.
Location of work	Identifies where the work was done, as part of a traceable record for current and future homeowners and to assist in practitioner record-keeping and PGD Board audits.
Description of work done	To assist in record-keeping and with auditing. This can help to ensure the work completed falls within what is permitted within the scheme.
Building consent number	To identify the building consent that the practitioner is certifying the work complies with.
Name and registration number of person issuing the document, as well as that for any person who carried out the work	Critical information for complaints and disciplinary actions raised by the PGD Board. Helps to establish whether the certifying plumber or drainlayer has an endorsement to self-certify. It is also useful

	information for BCAs, homeowners and the PGD Board.
The date, dates, or period within which the work was done	Useful information for PGD Board audits, determination and disciplinary action (eg if the work was carried out before or after the practitioner received an endorsement, or after endorsement was revoked).
Supporting documents as relevant to the work being completed to show compliance:  1. Photographs of work 2. As-built/as-laid plan 3. Test dates and data/results from tests such as, but not limited to: a. Pressure test results b. Flood test results c. Water temperature test results	To demonstrate compliance with the building consent, and to provide a searchable record for future homeowners. The database accessible to the public (including homeowners) is currently intended to provide the following information:  - Whether there was self-certified work done and that it was signed off - Who signed it off - When it was signed off.
Confirmation supporting documents are attached to the Certificate of Compliance (eg an as-built plan, photos).	Supporting documents will be required to be attached to the Certificate of Compliance. This is aimed at promoting accountability of professionals and transparency to BCAs, homeowners and the Board. This includes assisting the Board in audits and disciplinary action involving self-certified plumbing and drainlaying work.
Confirmation that work was tested after completion.	All plumbing and drainlaying work must be tested. This acts as written assurance for BCAs, homeowners and the Board the work functions as intended.
Statement that person is endorsed to self-certify work.	Helps to establish whether a certifying plumber or drainlayer has an endorsement to self-certify. This will be linked to the practitioner's registration number.
Statement that the information contained in the certificate and any attachments is true and correct.	A statement that the person issuing the certificate is satisfied the information contained in the certificate is correct and the work is consistent with the building consent.
Statement that they are satisfied that the work complies with the building consent.	This serves as a statement that the person issuing the certificate is satisfied the work complies with the building consent.  <b>Note:</b> It will be up to the practitioners to set out any variations in the Certificate of Compliance.
Signature by the person issuing the Certificate of Compliance and the date in which they signed it.	Ensures:  - that there is a record of the person signing off the work and when it was signed off. - useful information for PGD Board audits, monitoring and disciplinary actions.