

OPERATOR COMPETENCIES – NEW REQUIREMENTS

WHAT LICENCES ARE NO LONGER REQUIRED?

Under new nationally harmonised work health and safety (WHS) laws that came into effect from 1 January 2012, the following occupational classes are not required to have a licence:

- excavator
- backhoe
- front end loader / skid steer loader
- road roller
- grader
- scraper
- dozer
- bridge and gantry remote control crane

Note: No replacement licences for the above will be issued after 31 December 2011.

HOW CAN AN OPERATOR DEMONSTRATE COMPETENCY?

From 1 January 2012 it is the duty of a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) to ensure competency of the operator when plant is operated, so far as is reasonably practicable.

Competency can be demonstrated by providing evidence of appropriate training and instruction for the type of plant to be operated and could include:

- deemed competent in the item of plant they are operating by RTO's that have been scheduled to visit sites.
- statement of attainment or other nationally recognised qualification
- training completed at an industry training school RTO
- on-the-job training conducted by an experienced competent person. **All training must be recorded in a log book and signed off by a competent person.** The FEL Competency Assessment Form must be completed when the operator is deemed competent.
- current relevant experience
- regular equipment familiarisations – this also uses the FEL Competency Assessment Form

WHAT DO I DO WITH MY TICKET/LICENCES?

Operators who hold tickets for earthmoving (FEL) should retain them as evidence of having undertaken training and assessment in the operation of the particular plant.

PROOF OF COMPETENCY/TICKETS & CHECKING OF OPERATOR COMPETENCY

All tickets/licenses are copied and must be sent to the E & R Training Coordinator for addition to the training database. All FEL completed Competency Assessment SOA/Cards must be sent to the E & R Training Coordinator for addition to the training database, it is the site supervisor's/contractor's responsibility to ensure that the competency and familiarisation of each operator is assessed prior to the operation of any plant.

REQUIREMENT FOR CONTRACTORS

Contractors are required to provide evidence to the site manager/supervisor E & R Bobcat & Excavator Services to prove that their operators are competent; this should be done by providing evidence that challenge testing, competency assessment and equipment familiarisation has been undertaken.

WHAT OCCUPATIONS STILL REQUIRE A LICENCE?

WHSQ will continue to convert only those classes that are issued as a High Risk Work (HRW) licence. A Licence will still be required to operate some plant and for high risk occupations, such as:

- Crane – slew/non slew (except bridge & gantry remote control crane)
- Boom type EWP (greater than 11m)
- **Forklift truck**
- Concrete placing boom
- Dogger/Rigger
- Scaffolder
- Personnel & material hoist

Note: This list is not exhaustive. Refer to the QLD Work Health & Safety Regulations 2011 Schedule 3

All old High Risk Work (HRW) Licences must be transferred to the new Licence before the relevant expiry date – see the table below

Date of issue of licence or date of most recent endorsement on the licence	Date of conversion
All licences issued prior to 31 December 1995 (including paper-based licences)	2008/09 period will be aligned to applicants DOB
Between 1 January 1996 – 31 December 1998	2009/10 period will be aligned to applicants DOB
Between 1 January 1999 – 31 December 2001	2010/11 period will be aligned to applicants DOB
Between 1 January 2002 – 31 December 2004	2011/12 period will be aligned to applicants DOB
Between 1 January 2005 – 30 June 2008	2012/13 period will be aligned to applicants DOB