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14th Dec 2015

Dr Gabrielle Wallace
Building Professionals Board
PO Box 3720 Parramatta NSW 2124

Email: policy@bpb.nsw.gov.au

**Re: “Proposed” and “Expanded” amendments to the
*Building Professionals Regulation 2007***

Initial Consultation – Nov 2015

Reference is made to your letter received by email on the 29th October 2015 and subsequent similar letter and email from Donna Quinn received on the 11th November 2015 inviting comments from SPASA and other selected stakeholders on the “*Proposed amendments to the Building Professionals Regulation 2007.*”

The proposed Amendments referred to the following two points:

- allow E1 swimming pool certifiers to carry out minor repairs to pool barriers to make pools safer, more quickly
- reduce the accreditation fee for E1 applicants

Consequently, SPASA and other stakeholders lodged submissions with the BPB prior to the 20th November 2015 deadline.

A copy of SPASA’s submission sent to the BPB is attached.

Subsequent Consultation – Dec 2015

On the 8th December 2015 the BPB sent out another email to stakeholders including E1 Certifiers titled: “*Have your say: Expanded proposals on swimming pool certification.*”

This new “*Expanded proposal on swimming pool certification*” included the two proposed amendments from the Initial Consultation in November as well as a newly added *third point listed below:

- *require E1 certifiers to undertake six hours of continuing professional development each year.

The omission or afterthought of Continual Professional Development as part of a holistic well thought out consultation is concerning for SPASA at this late stage, especially since stakeholders have already provided substantive feedback on CPD in previous submissions.

Duplication and Confusion

The 8 December 2015 BPB email states that: *“the exhibition, which started in November, is being extended over the Christmas holiday period until Wednesday 27 January 2016.*

Whilst the “*exhibition*” started in November, without careful review it is foreseeable that stakeholders invited to comment on the initial consultation of the 11th November 2015 would be forgiven for believing they had already responded to the proposed amendments and completely missed the additional “new” proposed amendment for Continuing Professional Development.

The BPB should further highlight the newly proposed CPD amendment in upcoming communications to ensure stakeholders who responded in the initial consultation have an opportunity to comment on the subsequent expanded consultation.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

SPASA is an advocate for Continual Professional Development for all Council Inspectors and Certifiers who inspect pools – *not just E1 Certifiers.*

There can be no valid or sensible justification why Council Inspectors and Certifiers who inspect pools should be excluded from participating in a CPD Program relevant to swimming pools and spas.

The importance and focus for all Council Inspectors and all Certifiers who inspect pools and spas should be to provide them with access to a CPD Program which seeks to improve the interpretation and application of the Act, Regulation, BCA and safety related Australian Standards.

How else are Council Inspectors and Certifiers supposed to keep up to date with any new changes, case law, interpretational issues, difficult assessments which they can learn from and other such important information?

SPASA Submission on:

2014 BPB on the Accreditation of Swimming Pool Certifiers

SPASA’s support for CPD was documented in the 2014 “*Building Professionals Board on the Accreditation of Swimming Pool Certifiers*” Consultation.

- A copy of SPASA’s submission is attached for your reference.
- References to CPD can be found on page 9.

SPASA Submission on:

2015 Independent Review of the Swimming Pool Barrier Requirements for Backyard Swimming Pools in NSW – (Independent Review)

SPASA’s support for CPD was also documented in the recent Independent Review undertaken by Mr Michael Lambert.

- A copy of SPASA’s submission has been attached for your reference.
- References to CPD can be found on page 14.

Further Information Required

Amendment 3, "Schedule 5" Continuing Professional Development Program listed on your website states:

"4. Accredited certifiers who hold category E1 accreditation must, during their second year of accreditation and any subsequent year of accreditation, undertake CPD by participating in a course, workshop or other activity approved by the Board and listed on its website (www.bpb.nsw.gov.au).

The accredited certifier will be required to participate in 6 hours of CPD each year"

As previously stated, SPASA is an advocate for CPD and as such would like to better understand the mechanics and particulars of the proposed CPD Program.

Accordingly, it would be helpful to better understand the following:

- 1) How the figure of 6 hours was deemed sufficient for Continuing Professional Development?
- 2) What topics will be considered acceptable in achieving CPD recognition?
- 3) What organisations will be considered appropriate providers of CPD?
- 4) How many providers of CPD will be on offer for E1 Certifiers to choose from?
- 5) What will be the process of approving providers of CPD training and materials?
- 6) What qualifications will trainers and assessors of the CPD Program be required to hold?
- 7) What additional costs can E1 Certifiers expect to pay for CPD recognition?
- 8) What delivery methods of CPD will be approved? Eg, simulated, face-to-face etc.
- 9) What records will an E1 Certifier be required to maintain?
- 10) What is the proposed start date for the commencement of the CPD Program?
- 11) What consultation will take place to determine how the CPD Program will function?

For further information:

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