

# Proposed criteria for category A5 port certifiers

## Frequently asked questions

November 2014

### **WHAT IS ON EXHIBITION?**

The Building Professionals Board is inviting feedback on criteria for private certifiers who will assess infrastructure at major NSW ports.

The proposed requirements for accreditation in category A5 will enable the private certification of infrastructure at Port Kembla, Port Botany and the Port of Newcastle.

These amendments to the Board's Accreditation Scheme will set the qualifications, skills, knowledge and experience required for these private certifiers.

### **WHY ARE CERTIFIERS NEEDED TO CERTIFY PORT INFRASTRUCTURE?**

Private certifiers are needed to facilitate efficient, cost-effective development at the State's three major ports in line with the Government's intentions under *NSW 2021* and the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Three Ports) 2013* (Three Ports SEPP).

Currently only local councils can approve of unclassifiable structures as complying development under the Three Ports SEPP. It is expected that the demand for the certification of such structures will increase significantly. Resulting delays can impact the productivity and competitiveness of NSW ports. Lack of competition for certification work also leads to increased costs for ports operators, which deters investment.

### **WHAT WORK WILL PORT CERTIFIERS DO?**

Ports certifiers will be authorised to issue complying development certificates, construction certificates and compliance certificates for buildings and structure at the three ports that do not have a building classification under the Building Code of Australia. Examples include cranes, ship loaders and bulk liquid storage tanks.

Port certifiers will also be able to certify demolition of certain structures that are complying development under the Three Ports SEPP.

They will also act as the principal certifying authority and carry out inspections of work under the Three Ports SEPP.

### **WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO BECOME A PORT CERTIFIER?**

The proposal requires applicants to:

- be listed with the National Engineering Registration Board's National Professional Engineers Register – a competency-based and industry-recognised qualification in a specific relevant field of engineering;
- have recent relevant practical experience – either three or five years depending on the type of infrastructure; and
- complete the course or courses listed on the Building Professionals Board's website as a prerequisite for A5 accreditation.

# Proposed criteria for category A5 port certifiers

## Frequently asked questions

### **WHY DO PORTS CERTIFIERS NEED TO BE SPECIALIST ENGINEERS?**

A5 certifiers will need engineering expertise to properly inspect and assess port infrastructure because these types of structures are outside the scope of the Building Code of Australia.

### **WHY DO PORT CERTIFIERS NEED TO COMPLETE A TRAINING COURSE?**

Although highly qualified, an engineer may not have experience in how to assess a proposal for complying development, issue a complying development certificate, or carry out critical stage inspections of development.

The training course will help applicants develop the knowledge needed to assess complying development. It will also familiarise them with other obligations of accredited certifiers, such as acting in the role of a public official and meeting recordkeeping requirements.

The training course will be delivered by a registered training organisation or education institution approved by the Board.

### **ARE EXISTING ACCREDITED CERTIFIERS ALREADY AUTHORISED TO CERTIFY PORT INFRASTRUCTURE?**

Currently, only council officers can certify port infrastructure that is unclassifiable by the Building Code of Australia, as complying development.

Private certifiers do not automatically qualify for category A5 accreditation. Eligibility will depend on a person's qualifications and experience.

### **DO COUNCIL OFFICERS NEED TO BE ACCREDITED?**

Council officers do not need to be accredited in category A5 to issue complying development certificates or be appointed the principal certifying authority for unclassifiable infrastructure.

### **HOW MUCH WILL IT COST TO BECOME A PORT CERTIFIER?**

The accreditation fee is \$1,500.

### **DO ENGINEERS FROM OTHER STATES OR TERRITORIES NEED TO APPLY TO THE BUILDING PROFESSIONALS BOARD TO BE A PORT CERTIFIER IN NSW?**

Registered engineers will need to apply to the Board to work as a category A5 certifier in NSW.

### **WHAT RESOURCES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO HELP PORT CERTIFIERS?**

The Building Professionals Board's website has practice advice, case studies, templates and other resources. The Board also publishes a monthly e-news with relevant updates for certifiers.

The Board will continue to work with organisations such as Engineers Australia to deliver targeted and timely advice and resources for port certifiers.

# Proposed criteria for category A5 port certifiers

## Frequently asked questions

### WHAT CONSULTATION HAS THE BUILDING PROFESSIONALS BOARD UNDERTAKEN?

The Board consulted NSW Ports, Engineers Australia, Fire and Rescue NSW and the Department of Planning and Environment in drafting the requirements for A5 accreditation.

The Board also called for expressions of interest from people interested in becoming port certifiers in 2013. This helped the Board to assess the current skills and knowledge base and determine training requirements.

### HOW CAN I COMMENT ON THE PROPOSAL?

All information is available online at [www.planning.nsw.gov.au/proposals](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/proposals) or in hard copy at:

- Information Centre at the Department of Planning and Environment, 23-33 Bridge Street, Sydney; and
- Building Professionals Board, Level 3, 3 Marist Place, Parramatta.

Submissions can be made until **19 December 2014** by completing a short survey online at [www.planning.nsw.gov.au/proposals](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/proposals) or by sending a letter to the Accreditation Team Leader, Building Professionals Board, PO Box 3720, Parramatta NSW 2124.

Submissions will be made public in line with the Department of Planning and Environment's objective to promote an open and transparent planning system. If you do not want your name published, please state this clearly at the top of your submission.

Before making a submission, please read our privacy policy at [www.planning.nsw.gov.au/privacy](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/privacy)

For further information, contact the Information Centre on 1300 305 695 or the Building Professionals Board on 02 9860 1800.