

BPB Appeal No. A1295

IN THE MATTER OF

the Building Act 2004 (the Act)

AND

IN THE MATTER OF

an Appeal to the Building Practitioners Board under Section 330(1)(a) by **the Appellant** against a decision of the Registrar

DECISION OF THE BUILDING PRACTITIONERS BOARD

Date and location of hearing:	14 November 2017, Wellington
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Appeal heard by:	Richard Merrifield Brian Nightingale Bob Monteith Faye Pearson-Green
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Appearances by:	The Appellant [Omitted]- witness
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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Appellant of [Omitted] applied for a Carpentry Licence under s287 of the Act and the Licensed Building Practitioners Rules 2007¹ (“the Rules”).
- 1.2 The Registrar of Licensed Building Practitioners (“the Registrar”) declined the Appellant’s application and notified his decision by letter dated 17 August 2017. Notification of the decision included a notice of the right to appeal the decision to the Building Practitioners Board (“the Board”).
- 1.3 On 11 September 2017 the Appellant lodged an appeal to the Board against the Registrar’s decision. The Appellant asked for an extension due to being overseas and the Board granted this.

2.0 Licensing scheme

- 2.1 To become licensed, a person must satisfy the Registrar that they can meet all the applicable minimum standards for licensing.² The minimum standards are set out as “Competencies” in Schedule 1 of the Rules. In determining whether a person meets a Competency, regard must be given to the extent to which the person meets the Performance Indicators set out for that competency in Schedule1³.
- 2.2 Where the Registrar declines an application the applicant has a right of appeal to the Board.⁴

3.0 Scope of the appeal

- 3.1 An appeal proceeds by way of rehearing⁵. However, the Board will not review matters outside the scope of the appeal⁶.
- 3.2 The appeal seeks the following relief:

The grant of a Carpentry Licence

- 3.3 In light of s335(4) and the Registrar’s decision letter, the Board interprets its inquiry as being restricted to consideration of Competencies 3 & 4 for a Carpentry Licence.

Carpentry Licence Competencies:

Competency 3: Carry out planning and scheduling for carpentry work.
Competency 4: Carry out carpentry work.

¹Incorporating amendments for 2008, 2009 and 2010.

²S286 of the Act and rule 4 of the Rules.

³Clause 4(2) of the Rules

⁴S330(1)(a) of the Act.

⁵S335(2) of the Act

⁶S335(4) of the Act

4.0 Registrar's report

4.1 The Registrar's decision to grant or decline a licence is informed by an assessor's recommendation⁷. The Board's Appeals Procedures require the Registrar to provide a report which includes all evidence used to reach the decision, including the assessors' recommendation.

4.2 The Registrar's report notes, at paragraph **18**, the following from the Assessor's recommendations:

- The Appellant has been overseas in the United Kingdom since 2009 approximately.
- The Appellant has good theoretical and technical knowledge and has demonstrated competencies 1 and 2.
- Referee one commented that once the appellant returned to New Zealand and re-acquainted himself with the updated construction practice he would be "an asset to New Zealand construction".
- As the Appellant has not been involved with the practical construction of carpentry work in New Zealand within the last 5 years, the evidence does not indicate that the minimum standard of licensing criteria has been met.

4.3 The Registrar concluded:

"The basis for the Registrar's decision to decline the application

- I have been delegated under S312 (1) to review the assessment report and make a decision about the Appellant's application.
- I reviewed the assessor's report and the Appellant's application.
- I based my decision on the assessor's recommendation, for the reasons set out above. I did not consider that there was sufficient reason or concern to overrule the assessor's recommendation."

5.0 Appellant's Submissions

5.1 The Appellant included with his appeal;

5.1.1 NZQA – National Certificate of Carpentry (Level 4) BCITO 2007

5.1.2 Signed Reference from Previous Employer, [Omitted]

5.1.3 Drawings and specifications of the following projects that he had worked on:

5.1.3.1 [Omitted]

5.1.3.2 [Omitted]

5.1.3.3 [Omitted]

5.2 The Appellant appeared with a support person and [Omitted], Construction Manager for [Omitted] as a referee.

5.3 The Appellant through questioning from the Board provided further detail on building work he carried out in the United Kingdom.

⁷ clause 10 and 11 of the Rules

- 5.4 The Appellant also advised that upon his recent return to New Zealand, he commenced work with his referee and former employer Mr Hudson. Mr Hudson, himself a LBP licenced in Carpentry and Site 2, in response to the Boards questions endorsed the appellant's current competency and general industry knowledge.

6.0 Board's consideration

- 6.1 The Board noted that the Registrar was satisfied that the Appellant met the following Competencies for the Carpentry licence:

Carpentry Licence Competencies:

Competency 1: Demonstrate knowledge of the regulatory environment of the building construction industry.

Competency 2: Demonstrate knowledge of current building and trade practice.

- 6.2 The Board then considered Competencies 3 & 4 for a Carpentry Licence. These Competencies can be demonstrated by meeting some or all of the performance indicators as listed in Schedule 1 of the Rules.
- 6.3 The LBP scheme is competency based, and it is up to the practitioner to demonstrate their competency.

Board's findings

- 6.4 The Board concluded that the Appellant **provided** evidence to demonstrate that he met sufficient Performance Indicators to satisfy the requirements of Competencies 3 & 4 for a Carpentry Licence.

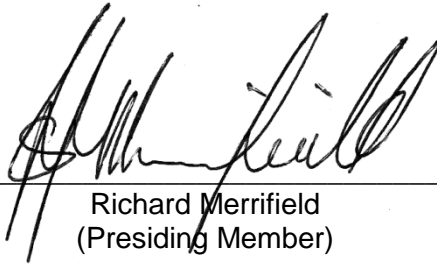
7.0 Board's Decision

- 7.1 **Pursuant to s335(3) of the Act, the Board has resolved to reverse the Registrar's decision and license the Appellant with a Carpentry Licence.**
- 7.2 **The Board directs the Registrar to issue a Carpentry Licence to the Appellant as soon as practicable.**

8.0 Publication of Name

- 8.1 Pursuant to s339 of the Act, the Board may prohibit the publication of the Appellant's name and/or particulars.
- 8.2 The Board, having considered the circumstances of this appeal, directs that the name and the particulars of the Appellant **are/ not** to be made public.

Signed and dated this 17th day of November 2017



Richard Merrifield
(Presiding Member)

Advice Note (not part of Board's Decision)

Extracts from the Act:

“330 Right of Appeal

- (1) *A person may appeal to the Board against any decision of the Registrar to—*
- (a) *decline to licence the person as a building practitioner;*
...
- (2) *A person may appeal to a District Court against any decision of the Board—*
- (a) *made by it on an appeal brought under subsection (1);*
...

331 Time in which appeal must be brought

An appeal must be lodged—

- (a) *within 20 working days after notice of the decision or action is communicated to the appellant; or*
- (b) *within any further time that the appeal authority allows on application made before or after the period expires.”*