



A message from the

Construction Occupations Registrar



Construction Note: 2025/03

16 July 2025

Mutual Recognition for Trainee Certifiers in the ACT

In the ACT several trainee building surveyors (certifiers) are employed by ACT-licensed certifiers. Trainees do not currently meet qualification requirements for an ACT certifier licence however many hold either one of the following NSW licences:

- NSW Building Surveyor – restricted (known as an A3 licence)
- NSW Building Inspector (known as an A4 licence)
- ACT Licensing Pathway for NSW Licence Holders

Under the Mutual Recognition Act 1992 (Cwth), individuals who hold a current occupational licence in one Australian jurisdiction—and are not subject to disciplinary action—are entitled to an equivalent licence in another jurisdiction. Receiving jurisdictions may also impose conditions on a licence to achieve an equivalency.

The ACT Construction Occupations Registrar (the Registrar) has reviewed the functions of an ACT certifiers and compared them with NSW A3 and A4 licence functions and has determined the following ACT licence equivalencies:

NSW Licence	ACT Equivalence	Conditions
NSW Building Surveyor – restricted (class	General Surveyor Licence	Limited to certification work for BCA class 1 and 10 buildings only

NSW Licence	ACT Equivalence	Conditions
1 and 10 buildings)		
NSW Building Inspector	General Surveyor Employee Licence	Limited to inspecting building work at prescribed stages and stages stated in a building approval for BCA class 1 and 10 buildings only, excluding final stage inspections or where a performance solution is required to achieve compliance

Please note: to ensure an equivalent ACT licence, any condition on your NSW licence will also be applied.

Insurance Requirements

While mutual recognition does not require applicants to demonstrate skills or knowledge, they must still meet public protection requirements under ACT law. This includes holding the mandatory insurance as specified in the Construction Occupations (Licensing) Regulation 2004.

NSW Building Surveyor – restricted (class 1 and 10 buildings) who apply via mutual recognition using an employer’s insurance will only be issued with a General Surveyor Employee Licence.

How to Apply

Complete the [mutual recognition application form](#) and include:

1. Proof of NSW licence, and
2. Evidence of required insurance

If eligible, the applicant will receive an equivalent ACT licence within one month. If additional information is required, it may take longer for the licence to be issued.

Further information

If your trainee does not hold an equivalent NSW licence or you need further assistance, contact the Construction Workplace Licensing and Registration Section at CWPL@act.gov.au.

Construction notes have been developed to raise awareness and educate the building and construction industry about common issues identified on building sites by Access Canberra building inspectors, and best practice approaches to address them.

The issues outlined in these notes have been identified through compliance assessment by Access Canberra or following a complaint from owners. Importantly, we welcome your input – if you have come across an issue that needs clarification or, to provide feedback, **email us: cat@act.gov.au**

You have received this email from the ACT Construction Occupations Registrar as our records indicate you hold a current construction occupation licence to undertake work in the ACT building and construction industry. If you do not hold a current licence, or believe you have received this email in error, please email us at: cwpl@act.gov.au to be removed from future communications or to **unsubscribe**.

    