

Process of application for an Australian Waterwell Licence

General background.

The various state governments are responsible for the issue of waterwell licenses and are your first point of contact in the application process. Co-operation and consistency in approach and process is enhanced and managed by the National Uniform Drillers' Licensing Committee, currently chaired by the Executive Officer of the Australian Drilling Industry Association.

The national licensing examination structure confers 3 classes of licence: Class 1, Class 2 and Class 3.

Class 1	This license is restricted to drilling operations in non-flowing (sub-artesian) single aquifer systems and limited to a maximum production casing diameter of 150mm NB.
Class 2	This licence, in addition to operating in Class 1 conditions, permits large diameter drilling operations in non-flowing (sub-artesian) single and multiple aquifer systems.
Class 3	This licence, in addition to operating in Class 1 and Class 2 conditions, permits drilling operations in flowing (artesian) aquifer systems.

Each class of licence has possible endorsements which reflect the method or methods of drilling which the licensed holder is licensed to use in the development of waterwells. Each licence must have at least one method endorsement. Additional endorsements may be added to a licence at need. The drilling method endorsements are:

- Cable tool
- Auger
- Rotary air
- Rotary mud.

Thus a licence holder would hold, for example, a Class 1 Licence with a cable tool endorsement, or a Class 2 licence with rotary air endorsement and a rotary mud endorsement.

At a State level, there may be other requirements. Some states allow another (lower) class of licence for installation of spearpoints and for piezometers. ADITC Ltd has also set and marks these examinations.

How licences are granted.

To be granted a licence, applicants must successfully complete a nationally consistent examination, and meet certain state-based requirements.

The relevant State Authority issues the licence. Each state will have requirements of the applicant, which may relate to legislative requirements, fees or other matters. Some states allow another (lower) class of licence for installation of spearpoints and for piezometers.

Australian Drilling Industry Training Committee Ltd (ADITC Ltd) is the body which sets, maintains and marks the examinations for the national Drillers' Licences, in consultation with the National Uniform Drillers' Licensing Committee. ADITC Ltd has

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also set and marks the examinations for spearpoint and piezometer installation. ADITC Ltd does not issue the licence.

Process of application for an examination.

1. Applicants approach the relevant state authority for a licence application, or for amendments to an existing licence.
2. The state authority sends information to the applicant. Information includes a standard application form provided by ADITC Ltd, and direction to the applicant to apply to ADITC Ltd for a licensing examination. Information includes direction to the applicant to send the completed application form, accompanied by the appropriate fee for the examination, directly to ADITC Ltd.
3. Applicant contacts ADITC Ltd providing the application form and payment, and applies for the examination indicating Class of licence and endorsement/s required.
4. ADITC Ltd dispatches the examination papers to the applicant, records application details and commences a file for the applicant.
5. Applicant completes the examination papers, and returns the examination papers to ADITC Ltd within three (3) months.
6. ADITC Ltd sends the exam results to the applicant and a copy of the results and the marked exam to the state authority. The state authority determines whether or not the licence will be granted.
7. ADITC retains records on application, examination outcome and dates of dispatch.

In addition to completing the examination, the applicant must also successfully carry out other requirements set by the state's licensing authority before a licence to be granted.

Other current understandings about the examination outcomes.

- Results are sent only to the applicant and to the relevant State Licensing Board **only**.
- Applicant receiving a mark of 80% or greater is considered a pass.
- An applicant is deemed to have "failed" if the mark received is between 0 – 69%. If an applicant is deemed not successful in the exam results, results are referred to the relevant Licensing Committee or Board for a final decision. If the applicant has "failed" then a waiting period of 3 months must lapse before they can reapply as a new applicant – incurring the same costs as a new application.
- If an applicant receives a mark of 70 – 79%, the applicant is automatically requested by ADITC to redo the incorrect questions at no extra charge (this only happens once). If the applicant still receives a mark below 80% it is passed on to the relevant state authority for their guidance.