

# REGISTERED
# BUILDER LICENCE
# GUIDE 2026-27

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# YOUR PATHWAY TO BECOMING A LICENSED BUILDER IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

*A practical guide to contractor licensing, supervisor registration, qualifications and training opportunities.*

For tradespeople, subcontractors, leading hands and aspiring construction business owners.

## Start with the right licence pathway

In South Australia, a building work contractor's licence and building work supervisor registration serve different purposes. Before choosing a course, identify the work you intend to do and the approvals that may apply.

| Contractor's licence | Supervisor registration |
|---|---|
| **Allows an individual or business to contract for building work within the approved licence conditions.** | Allows an individual to supervise building work within the approved registration conditions. |

An individual contractor may be able to nominate an appropriately registered supervisor rather than personally hold both approvals. CBS determines applicable requirements and conditions.

## The 5-step pathway

**1. Define your goal** Decide whether you want to contract for building work, supervise work, or pursue both pathways.

**2. Review your experience** Identify your trade history, project types, responsibilities and evidence of relevant work.

**3. Identify suitable qualifications** Consider whether CPC40120 Certificate IV or CPC50220 Diploma aligns with your skills and intended scope.

**4. Prepare your supporting evidence** Gather qualifications, project records, references and any business capability evidence requested.

**5. Check and apply through CBS** Review the current category-specific criteria and submit the appropriate application to Consumer and Business Services.

## What evidence might you need?

- Trade qualifications and relevant construction training
- Employment, contracting or supervision history

- Examples of completed projects and your role in them
- Referees or documents supporting the claimed experience
- Business knowledge and other documents relevant to the proposed contractor licence

Requirements vary by approval category. There is no single experience rule that applies to every applicant.

### How much experience and how many projects do you need?

For certain South Australian residential building work supervisor registration conditions (NCC Class 1 and 10, up to two storeys), CBS outlines different experience pathways. The following is a guide to commonly described minimum experience and project evidence; the exact requirements and acceptable evidence depend on the registration conditions sought.

| Indicative pathway | Experience | Projects |
|---|---|---|
| **Trade apprenticeship + relevant Certificate IV / higher qualification** | 3 years | 5 projects |
| **Trade apprenticeship pathway** | 4 years | 5 projects |
| **Relevant Certificate IV / higher qualification pathway** | 5 years | 5 projects |
| **Experience-based pathway** | 6 years | 5 projects |

Important: These figures relate to particular supervisor registration conditions, not a universal contractor licence rule. Additional qualifications or specified units may be required (including CPCCBC5003 and CPCCBC5010 for the three-year pathway). CBS may require a technical interview and will assess the relevance, recency and quality of your experience and project evidence. Meeting a minimum does not guarantee approval.

Not sure which pathway fits your experience? FCA can help you review your qualifications and training options before you decide whether to enrol. CBS alone determines registration and licensing eligibility.

## Where training fits

### CPC40120 | Certificate IV in Building and Construction (Building)

Develops skills in site management, estimating, contracts, legal requirements, building compliance and project coordination. The qualification contains 19 units and may support the knowledge component of a relevant licensing pathway.

### CPC50220 | Diploma of Building and Construction (Building)

Develops broader skills in building project planning, construction operations, management and supervision. Suitability depends on your career goals, prior experience and the CBS conditions you are targeting.

Important: completing either qualification does not automatically grant a contractor licence or supervisor registration. Qualifications and work experience are assessed against the relevant CBS requirements.

## GOVERNMENT-SUBSIDISED TRAINING: COULD YOU PAY LESS?

The South Australian Government may contribute towards the cost of approved vocational training for eligible students. Fran Capelli Academy (RTO 6055) offers Skills SA subsidised building and construction training opportunities, subject to course availability, individual eligibility and applicable funding conditions.

### CERTIFICATE IV IN BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION (CPC40120)

$446 advertised student contribution for eligible Skills SA funded students. This is not a universal fee: your eligibility, course availability, applicable charges and final student contribution must be confirmed by FCA before enrolment.

### WHO MAY BE ELIGIBLE?

You may qualify if you live or work in South Australia, meet applicable citizenship or visa requirements, and satisfy the relevant age, course and funding rules. Prior qualifications do not currently automatically exclude non-school students. FCA must complete the required upfront assessment and eligibility checks before confirming a subsidised place.

Not sure if you qualify? Book a free consultation. FCA can check your potential funding eligibility, explain the assessment process and confirm the current fees before you decide to enrol.

## FLEXIBLE ONLINE TRAINING — DESIGNED AROUND WORK

Study without travelling to a classroom every week. FCA's Certificate IV is delivered through scheduled real-time online classes, supported by independent learning, assessment activities and trainer guidance.

- Attend interactive trainer-led classes online using Microsoft Teams.
- Study from home or another suitable location with a reliable internet connection.
- Complete assigned learning and assessments between scheduled sessions.
- Ask questions and access trainer support throughout your course.
- Continue working while progressing through your qualification, subject to your timetable and workload.

### CERTIFICATE IV AT A GLANCE

CPC40120 | 19 units (11 core + 8 electives) | Planned duration: 36 weeks excluding scheduled holidays | Live virtual classes and independent study. FCA will confirm the current timetable, attendance expectations and assessment requirements before enrolment.

### DIPLOMA OPTION

CPC50220 Diploma of Building and Construction (Building) is also available as a training pathway. Ask FCA about its current delivery arrangements, duration, fees and any available subsidised places; these may differ from the Certificate IV.

## YOUR NEXT STEP: CHECK YOUR FUNDING AND COURSE OPTIONS

A short, free consultation can help you understand: (1) which qualification may suit your goals; (2) whether you may qualify for Skills SA funding; (3) the actual student fee; and (4) how online classes fit around your work commitments.

**BOOK YOUR FREE CONSULTATION: https://www.fca.edu.au/enroll-now/**

## Your personal pathway checklist

☐ I know whether I want contractor licensing, supervisor registration or both.

☐ I know the building work category or scope I want to pursue.

☐ I have listed my qualifications and relevant industry experience.

☐ I have examples or records of projects I have worked on.

☐ I want advice on whether Certificate IV or Diploma study suits my goals.

☐ I would like my Skills SA training eligibility checked.

## Ready to explore your training options?

Speak with Fran Capelli Academy about CPC40120 Certificate IV or CPC50220 Diploma, current Skills SA funding availability, your potential eligibility and flexible online study arrangements. No licence outcome or funding approval is guaranteed.

Check your potential funding eligibility • Confirm your fees • Discuss online classes • Ask about enrolment

**BOOK YOUR FREE CONSULTATION** www.fca.edu.au/enroll-now/

Fran Capelli Academy | RTO 6055 | www.fca.edu.au

### Official licensing information

For current requirements, licensing categories and applications, visit Consumer and Business Services via sa.gov.au and search “building work contractor licence” or “building work supervisor registration”.

**This guide provides general information, not a licensing determination or guarantee of employment, funding or registration. CBS makes licensing and registration decisions. Training eligibility and fees are subject to assessment.**