



ISSUE NO 9

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Welcome to ELECTRON October 2003.

This issue of ELECTRON provides detail on a number of initiatives that are being progressed by the Board in line with the five year strategic plan, which was implemented last year.



- Requests for Proposals for the conducting and administering of the Boards examinations have been released.

The supervision guidelines, which were released last year, have been reissued and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those in the industry who have contributed to the development of the guidelines.

The Board has commenced an advertising campaign to educate the public on the need to engage licensed electrical workers. Details of the campaign are included in this issue of ELECTRON.

- A "result of complaints" section is now included in ELECTRON as an educational information tool for the industry.

The Board has released a discussion paper on new requirements for practising licence refresher courses.

While the document was originally sent to all people on the Boards mailing lists it has become apparent that many people do not have access to the document. As such the closing date for comments on the new requirements has been extended and both hard copy and electronic versions are available from our office.

John Sickels
Registrar

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Safety • Competency

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TECHNICAL AND GENERAL QUESTION CORNER

Q Why does AS/NZS 3000:2000 require 0.5 Ohms on earth continuity testing while AS/NZS 3760:2001 requires 1 Ohm?

A AS/NZS 3000:2000 is the Standard that relates to electrical installations while AS/NZS 3760 2001 covers the in service safety inspection and testing of electrical equipment. As such it has been determined in both Australia and New Zealand that the resistance values for earth continuity under each of the Standards in question will be different.

The reason for the difference is that each Standard has been developed from a different perspective to accommodate differing electrical needs.

One of the objectives of AS/NZS 3000:2000 is to achieve minimum resistance between the MEN point of any electrical installation and the mass of earth in the event of a fault.

It is considered that the 0.5 Ohms stated in AS/NZS 3000:2000 is a reasonable level to achieve the desired objective.

AS/NZS 3760:2001 covers a wide range of electrical equipment that can be being entered into service for the first time, in service, have been in service or is available for hire or resale. This equipment includes appliances.

The range of equipment covered by AS/NZS 3760:2001 can also have varying lengths and types of flexible cords as a means of electrical supply.

One of the objectives of AS/NZS 3760:2001 is to achieve, in the event of a fault, a reasonably good earth path from any piece of electrical equipment to the point where the initial earthing of the equipment is obtained. That point in many cases is a general purpose socket outlet.

It is considered that the 1 Ohm stated in AS/NZS 3760:2001 achieves the desired objective whilst

taking into account the wide range of equipment involved.

Q Can a line mechanic carry out work in relation to street lights?

A Regulation 19 of the Electricity Regulations 1997 states, in part, that line mechanics may do prescribed electrical work that involves the construction and maintenance of electric lines.

An electric line means all conductors (including fittings supporting, or connected to, those conductors), whether above or below ground, that are used, or intended to be used, in, or in connection with, the supply of electricity from the outgoing terminals of a generating station, a building enclosure, or other structure to -

- (a) the incoming terminals of another building, enclosure or other structure; or
- (b) an electrical appliance, in any case where the electrical appliance is supplied with electricity other than from a terminal in a building, enclosure, or other structure.

An electrical appliance means any appliance that uses, or is designed or intended to use, any other form of energy.

It follows therefore that a street light forms part of an electric line and as such a registered line mechanic (distribution) is entitled, by virtue of regulation 19, to carry out prescribed electrical work associated with the installation and maintenance of street lighting.

Q Does NZS 5261:2003 impact on electrical equipment?

A Section 2.7.1.6 of NZS 5261:2003, which relates to the installation of LPG cook tops states that where a cylinder is located inside, the cylinder shall not be

in the same compartment as a power point or electrical appliance, for example a waste disposal unit or a dishwasher.

Q Please clarify the partnership between the Electrical Workers Licensing Group and Inland Revenue? I am concerned about the release of my personal information.

A The Board is the statutory body that has the authority to hold personal information. Such information is subject to privacy and official information legislation and numerous requests are made each year by various organisations or persons for the release of documents under the Official Information Act. In all cases when information is requested about an individual, where that information has not been in the public domain, that individual is informed that a request has been made and the individual is given the opportunity to state whether or not the requested information should be released.

As the partnership with Inland Revenue is one where printed information received from Inland

Revenue is made available to the electrical/electronic industry the release of personal information is entirely separate.

The release of personal information provisions apply irrespective of whether or not the partnership with Inland Revenue exists.

Q Is it necessary to drive an earth electrode for the MEN connection provided at a metal lighting pole when the pole is set approximately two metres into the ground with the light being supplied from the local distribution system?

A An additional driven earth electrode is not required provided the pole itself provides a connection with earth which is equivalent to or better than that of an earth electrode.

There should be a proper means of making the MEN connection within the pole by the provision of a stud or other suitable means.

Registers to go On Line

Further enhancements have been made to our databases, which will enable the registers to be accessed by anyone using the web.

Access to the registers will enable any person to easily make an informed decision on whether or not the person they may be wishing to employ to do electrical work is suitably registered and licensed.

The On Line facility will contain all registered people's name, geographical location, class of registration held, date of registration, whether or not a practising licence is held and any limits placed on the registration by the Board.

The facility will be available from 24 November 2003.

Material required for Board examinations

The following documents are required for the November 2003 Board examinations:

Electrical inspector written;

Electricity Act 1992, Electricity Regulations 1997 or the Electricity Regulations Compilation 2003, AS 1939 Supplement 1-1990; AS/NZS 3000:2000, AS/NZS 3760:2001, and NZS 3019 (Int):2002.

Electrician regulations

Electricity Act 1992, Electricity Regulations 1997 or the Electricity Regulations Compilation 2003, AS/NZS 3000:2000, AS/NZS 3001:2001, NZS 3019 (Int) 2002, AS/NZS 3760:2001 and NZECP 34.

Electrician theory

It not permitted to use any textbooks or reference material in the in the electricians theory examination.

Electrical service technician (Level A)

Electricity Act 1992, Electricity Regulations 1997 or the Electricity Regulations Compilation 2003, AS/NZS 3000:2000, NZS 3019 (Int) 2002, and AS/NZS 3760:2001.

Electrical service technician (Level B)

Electricity Act 1992, Electricity Regulations 1997 or the Electricity Regulations Compilation 2003, AS/NZS 3000:2000, NZS 3019 (Int) 2002, and AS/NZS 3760:2001.

Conducting of examinations

The Board is requesting proposals for effective and efficient nation-wide examination conducting and administrative services.

If you would like a copy of the Request for Proposals document please contact Sandra Murdoch (04) 498 0072.

The closing date for proposals is 28 November 2003.

Supervision Guidelines

In view of issues relating to supervision of electrical workers continually being drawn to the attention of the Board and the Electrical Workers Licensing Group supervision guidelines have been reissued.

It is strongly recommended that the guidelines be followed in the industry.

If you would like a copy of the guidelines please contact Sandra Murdoch (04) 498 0072.

Practising licence refresher courses

The Board has developed new minimum requirements for practising licence refresher courses.

The requirements have been developed as a result of a number of concerns the Board has about present tuition courses.

The Board would welcome comments on the new minimum requirements and the closing date for comments has been

extended by a month to 19 December 2003 due to the considerable interest in the document that has been released.

If you would like a copy of the new minimum requirements please contact Sandra Murdoch (04) 498 0072.

Advertising campaign

Concerns about faulty electrical wiring and inappropriate shoddy workmanship have prompted the Board to run a nation wide advertising campaign.

Advertisements will appear in forty publications from October to December 2003 warning of the dangers of employing unlicensed electrical workers.

A copy of the Boards advertisement is on the last page of this copy of ELECTRON.

Results of complaints

Provisional licence holder

A complaint was received from a homeowner who was concerned that Mr Prem Chand Singh, a provisional licence holder of Auckland, had carried out electrical work, which was not up to the required standard.

The Board found Mr Singh guilty of working outside the limits of his provisional licence

The Board censured Mr Singh and ordered him to pay costs of \$500.

Electrician

A homeowner lodged a complaint about an electrician from New Plymouth who failed to issue a certificate of compliance and then in a monetary dispute disconnected the power supply to the complainant's premises by removing fuses.

The Board found the electrician guilty of failing to provide a certificate of compliance and fined the electrician \$500 and ordered costs of \$750 to be paid.

Electrician

A complaint was received from a homeowner who was concerned that an electrician had failed to supervise a trainee, left live cables exposed to touch and failed to issue a certificate of compliance.

The Board considered the complaint and found the electrician not guilty of any offences. No further action was taken against the electrician in relation to the complaint.

Electrician

A homeowner complained that an electrician from Auckland failed to issue a certificate of compliance.

The Board considered the complaint and found the electrician guilty of failing to issue a certificate of compliance.

The electrician was censured and ordered to pay costs of \$500.

Electrical inspector

An electrician lodged a complaint against an electrical inspector in relation to the installation of builders temporary supplies.

The Board considered the complaint and found the electrical inspector not guilty of any offences. No further action was taken against the electrical inspector in relation to the complaint.

Electrician

An electoral inspector lodged a complaint against an electrician from Auckland who provided a certificate of compliance for work that did comply with the regulatory requirements.

The Board considered the complaint and found the electrician guilty of carrying out work while not holding a practising licence.

The electrician was censured and ordered to pay costs of \$500.

WARNING

BEWARE OF UNLICENSED ELECTRICAL WORKERS - YOU MAY BE AT RISK!

It is against the law to undertake most electrical work without holding a current Practising Licence.

Some electrical work associated with appliances, computers, office equipment and the installation of security alarm systems can also **only** be undertaken by holders of a current Electrical Service Technician, or Electrician Practising Licence.

You should always ask to see the electrical worker's Practising Licence before they start work for you.

Most electrical work Licensed Electricians undertake requires testing and certification before connecting to a power supply. You are entitled by law to an electrical Certificate of Compliance within 20 working days after the work has been tested and connected. This is

your assurance the work complies and is electrically safe.

Licensed Electrical Service Technicians can issue you with an Electrical Safety Certificate after testing, assuring you their work complies and is electrically safe.

You need to be aware that electrical workers operating without a current Practising Licence may be incompetent, inadequately trained, or not appropriately supervised and thereby can create unsafe situations for you and your property. Unsafe electrical work can be lethal.

If you are concerned about the safety of electrical work at your place, or want to know more about becoming a licensed electrical worker - phone 0800 66 1000 during office hours.

UNLICENSED WORKERS, YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!

www.ewrb.govt.nz



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