



ISSUE NO 10

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Welcome to the last edition of ELECTRON for 2003.

2003 has been a year in which much has been achieved by the Board and the its partners.

Further achievements are included in this issue of ELECTRON.

Standards New Zealand and Standards Australia have signed a new agreement, which provides for the continuation of joint standards for both countries.

- The Board has been involved for many years in the harmonisation of electrical occupational licensing between New Zealand and Australia and the Board sees the joint standards system as an important part of the process of training for electrical workers in both countries.

The Board congratulates both Standards New Zealand and Standards Australia for an excellent outcome that can only benefit electrical worker training and licensing.

Agreement has been reached with the Immigration Service on the requirements for overseas-trained electrical workers wishing to immigrate to New Zealand and further detail on the subject is in this issue of ELECTRON.

Agreement has also been reached with the Electricity Supply Industry Training Organisation, which will mean that people will be registered by the Board on the basis of holding ESITO

- issued Certificates.



I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Board to thank all those people in the industry for the assistance given to the Board during the year.

I would also like to personally thank all the people for the support and advice given so willingly to both myself and our team.

We wish you all a very merry and a safe Christmas and New Year.

John Sickels
Registrar

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Safety • Competency

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TECHNICAL AND GENERAL QUESTION CORNER

Q What is the optimum number of RCDs in a domestic installation?

A The number of RCDs in a domestic installation is dependent on the size and layout of the installation. Consideration should be given to the effect on the occupants and services in the event of an RCD tripping.

In general, it is recommended that a minimum of two RCDs be provided for an average domestic installation with approximately half the lighting and general purpose socket outlets on each RCD.

Q Why shouldn't TPS sheathed cable be installed in contact with polystyrene?

A Polystyrene and similar insulation materials such as polyurethane in contact with TPS cable causes migration of the plasticiser in the PVC cable sheath leaving the sheath hard and brittle.

It is therefore recommended that the cable be separated from the polystyrene by a physical barrier such as PVC conduit. PVC conduit does not contain plasticiser so it is unaffected.

Alternatively, cable with a non-migratory PVC sheath could be used.

Q To what Standard are appliances required to be tested?

A After any electrical repairs are carried out to an electrical appliance the appliance is required to be tested in accordance with AS/NZS 3760.

Q Is it a requirement to keep the results of appliance tests?

A While it is not a legal requirement to keep the results of appliance tests it is recommended that a copy of the results be retained. This will enable the person who carried out the tests to provide evidence of such testing if required for any reason in the future.

Q How will people in the industry be able to keep up to date with all the changes that keep being made to the regulations and the Standards?

A The Board has an overall strategy to make all information available to those people who uplift practising licences. As such the Board will continue to provide all amendments to the Act, regulations and other documents that are cited in the regulations to people with practicing licences.

Q Why was the date for comments on the Boards practising licence refresher course document extended?

A There was considerable disquiet in the industry that the document was not distributed to all people who were ultimately affected by it. Accordingly the comment date was extended, the document was placed on the Boards website and an electronic version of the document was sent to all persons whose email address were known to the Board.

New agreement for joint Standards between New Zealand and Australia

The Chair of Standards New Zealand, Mr Richard Westlake, has recently announced that a new Memorandum of Understanding for the development of joint standards between Standards New Zealand and Standards Australia International Limited has been signed.

The MoU replaces an agreement between the two national standards bodies that has been in place since 1992.

The key points of the new MoU are:

- The term of the MoU will be three years with the expectation that it would be reviewed prior to expiry and continued beyond the three year period
- The workload for development of joint standards will be split on the basis of expertise, the level of interest in each country and equity
- An expectation that in the long term there will be a 85:15 split of the administration of development of joint standards between Australia and New Zealand. This split reflects the relative size of both countries economies and is consistent with the previous agreement
- There will be a simple and effective process that ensures stakeholders in both countries are consulted on joint standard development and an administration function that minimises cost and time required to ensure joint standards are developed in response to market needs and the integrity of the standards development process
- Both Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand may adopt each other's national standards.

New requirements for overseas trained electrical workers

Agreement has been reached between the New Zealand Immigration Service and the Board on the requirements for overseas trained electrical workers wishing to immigrate to New Zealand on the basis of their electrical experience.

The agreement basically means that before an overseas trained electrical worker arrives in New Zealand they will have had their practical experience and qualifications assessed by the Board and they will have notification from the Board that they are eligible to uplift a provisional licence.

The provisional licence will be issued in New Zealand on the completion of safety training and the nominating of a supervisor of electrical work who will be required to supervise the overseas trained electrical worker and certify work carried out by that worker when certificate is required.

New Memorandum of Understanding for Line Mechanics

The Electricity Supply Industry Training Organisation and the Board recently signed a new Memorandum of Understanding.

The new agreement means that the Board recognises National Certificates issued by ESITO for the purposes of line mechanic and electrical service technician registrations with relevant limitations.

The National Certificates, which are acceptable for registration purposes, are:

- National Certificate in Electricity Supply (Line Mechanic – Transmission) (Level 4) or a Certificate of Competency (Level 3)
- National Certificate in Electricity Supply (Cable Joiner).
- National Certificate in Electricity Supply (Line Mechanic – Distribution) (Level 4) or a Certificate of Competency (Level 3)

Certificates of Compliance

The Board continues to receive complaints concerning people who have failed to issue certificates of compliance for work, that has been carried out.

There are a number of reasons why such complaints are made however monetary disputes rate highly in the motivating factors.

The Board would like to remind all people who are required to issue certificates of compliance that while monetary factors in any complaint may be grounds for mitigation they do not negate the need to issue the documents.

Regulatory requirements for certification changed at the start of this year and the Board emphasises the need for workers to be familiar with the changes in regulations 39 to 42.

A certificate must now be provided to the owner/occupier within 20 working days after it has been issued. Certificates are issued at the completion of a job or when the worker can no longer complete the job (e.g. due to lock out, termination of contract or employment).

The Board considers that certificates of compliance form an integral part of the public assurance system that electrical work carried out satisfies the regulatory requirements.

RESULTS OF COMPLAINTS

Electrician

A complaint was received from a Government Department concerning an electrician from Palmerston North depicted on a television programme as breaching the safety provisions of the regulations.

The Board found the electrician guilty of failing to carry out testing in accordance with regulation 37.

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

Line Mechanic

A company lodged a complaint against a line mechanic from Christchurch for carrying out non-complying prescribed electrical work.

The Board found the line mechanic guilty of carrying out prescribed electrical work in a negligent manner and in a manner contrary to the regulations and that the work created a risk to life and limb.

The line mechanic was fined \$1,000 and ordered to pay costs of \$750.

Electrical service technician

A complaint was received from a Government Department concerning an electrical service technician from Bulls depicted on a television programme as breaching the safety provisions of the regulations.

The Board found the electrical service technician guilty of failing to carry out testing in accordance with regulation 37.

The electrical service technician was censured and ordered to pay costs of \$500.

Electrician

A complaint was received from a homeowner who was concerned about the safety of electrical work carried out by an electrician from Wellington.

The Board found the electrician guilty of failing to provide an isolation switch for a water cylinder, failing to provide mechanical protection for cables and providing a false certificate of compliance.

The electrician was censured and ordered to pay costs of \$1,000.

Electrician

A complaint was received from a homeowner who was concerned that an electrician from Drury had not provided a certificate of compliance for work carried out.

The electrician was found guilty by the Board of causing prescribed electrical work to be carried out in an unsatisfactory manner.

The electrician was censured and ordered to pay costs of \$750.

Trainee

A complaint was received from a Government Department concerning a trainee depicted on a television programme as failing to electrically test a washing machine.

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

New CD Available

In line with the Board's strategy of making information available the following article has been provided by AVO New Zealand Limited.

Responding to a clear Industry demand for guidance in the testing of loop resistance and RCD's, AVO New Zealand have completed a 12 month in-house project to produce an interactive training CD that is comprehensive, easy to use, can be used to do a bit of quick revision, and more importantly, relevant to the work environment our customers find themselves in every day!!

Combining rather uniquely AVO NZ's training courses with graphics that has circuitry and real-world items combined, the result has been hailed as one of the most relevant and appropriate responses to addressing the needs of the Industry with no more delay. Avoiding the alternative of giving up any work time for a one-off course, the CD may be taken home or used at work when needed to do the job. Any topic reviewed as is required to "get the hang of it"!!!

On the CD is a full theory discussion, a session on how the testers work and why they are used at all, and then a major look at just

about every single thing one can do with a loop and RCD tester to not only prove safety of the installation but diagnose faults and work smarter. To make it more relevant, practical tips, ideas of real world test values expected, and business ideas are all included.

Employing the latest in graphics technology, the CD has had extensive 'peer review' by senior industry personnel before its release.

Technical help is linked directly to AVO NZ's web site and full backup is offered by AVO New Zealand to ensure the very best outcome for all customers.

A comprehensive on-line interactive demonstration may be viewed at www.avo.co.nz.

The CD is available via all leading wholesalers for \$25 + GST. Educational institutes enjoy a lower rate.

Filing your tax returns electronically

You can now file your company and individual tax returns, as well as your FBT and GST returns, electronically using Inland Revenue's website at www.ird.govt.nz

Donna Pechar, Project Manager, e-Enablement, Inland Revenue, says: "We are progressively providing businesses with electronic services that are, convenient, secure and easy to use".

"Inland Revenue has introduced online filing for tax returns this year to give taxpayers greater choice in how they interact with us.

The online services do not replace the traditional paper-based ways of dealing with Inland Revenue, but they do provide an effective way to get information and file tax returns for those who prefer to deal with us electronically," says Donna.

Don't forget to phone the Industry Partnership direct phone line **0800 TAXTALK (0800 829 825)** if you have any questions about tax (eg income tax, GST), social policy (eg child support, family assistance) or overdue debt or returns.

SITUATIONS VACANT



COMPLAINTS ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE POSITIONS

The Ministry of Economic Development is inviting nominations from industry, public organisations and individuals for positions on Complaints Assessment Committees.

The Electricity Act 1992 provides for the appointment of Complaints Assessment Committees to consider and report to the Board on complaints received about people who are authorised to do electrical work.

Up to 25 members will be considered by the Associate Minister of Energy for inclusion on a list from which Complaints Assessment Committees are appointed.

The list is maintained by the Ministry of Economic Development and the Ministry forms committees to consider complaints.

It is not possible to gauge if, or how many times, Committee members will be called to form a Committee however, Committee membership would be discussed with proposed members on a case by case and regional basis.

Application forms and information packs are available from Sandra Murdoch, phone (04) 498 0072 or email sandra.murdoch@med.govt.nz. Applications must be received by **Friday 30 January**.



NEED TO SPARK UP YOUR CAREER?

Use your technical knowledge to add value to the electrical industry in a newly created role.

The Electrical Workers Licensing Group provides services to the Electrical Workers Registration Board for electrical worker licensing, registration and discipline. The Group also manages the Employer License regime and carries out an extensive audit programme.

As an Electrical Inspector you will be responsible for investigating complaints received against electrical workers and preparing formal reports using your technical expertise. Your tact, analytical and mediation skills will be required to communicate your findings to various industry groups including the Electrical Workers Registration Board.

To be considered for this role, you will need to be registered with a current practising license as an Electrical Inspector and/or meet the eligibility requirements for Electrical Inspector registration. A New Zealand certificate in Electrical Engineering would also be an advantage.

In return for your outstanding communication and relationship building skills you will be rewarded with a career within one of the most prominent Ministries. This position is based in Wellington.

To apply for this role, send your CV, covering letter and an example of your report writing abilities to Sarah White at Challenger Consulting at mail@challenger.co.nz or alternatively call 04 568 2982 to obtain a position description.



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