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John Sickels
Registrar

Hon Harry Duynhoven, Associate Minister of Energy recently announced a number of initiatives relating to the electrical/electronic industry.

The main initiative was that the Energy Safety Review Bill, which is based on the EnergySafe work previously carried out, is anticipated to be completed by Christmas.

Hon Duynhoven also expressed his firm view that registration/licensing in the "supply" sector of the industry would not be removed until suitable competency controls are introduced under the HSE Act.

In relation to the Board, Hon Duynhoven noted that since the original EnergySafe discussions took place, there has been considerable movement in the thinking about the use of Crown Entities and he wants to look at that aspect. The governance structure for building practitioners has been based to a fair extent on the Board and it shows the sort of approach Hon Duynhoven thinks should be looked at for the Board.

As 2004 draws to a close I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people in the industry for the support they have given to me and my staff during the year.

On behalf of the Board and the EWLG I would like to wish everyone in the industry a safe and happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

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Safety • Competency

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Ministry of Economic Development response to comment on the complaints process

Over recent months there has been negative written comment in the industry over the complaints process used by the EWLG and the actions of EWLG staff in administering the complaint processes required by law.

It has been strongly implied that Ministry of Economic Development staff employed in the EWLG staff are operating contrary to the law.

The Ministry of Economic Development rejects the inferences.

It is worthy of noting that the complaints processes used and EWLG staff actions have not been subject to criticism or successful challenge in any judicial forum.

It is also worthy of noting that in July 2004 as a result of a complaint from the registered person involved in the two cases which have been given prominence, the complete EWLG files on the matters were reviewed by senior Solicitors within the Ministry of Economic Development.

That review confirmed that the complaints cited were handled in accordance with the process set out in the Electricity Act 1992. The review also showed that in their reports EWLG staff members only reported facts relating to the complaints and did not, as implied, exaggerate or manufacture broader issues.

In the interests of ensuring that all people are aware of the fundamental processes used for complaints the following summarises the procedures employed.

When a complaint about a registered electrical worker is received the Registrar is required to refer the complaint to a Complaints Assessment Committee for assessment. The Registrar has no discretion to reject any complaint made against a registered electrical worker and it is the Committee who must consider the complaint.

Complaints are generally laid by members of the public or other registered electrical workers. From time to time the Ministry of Economic Development Groups such as the EWLG and the Energy Safety Service lodge complaints.

This action is usually taken when the supervision of trainees does not appear to be being carried out to the standard required by legislation and when there appears to be to deliberate disregard for the requirements of the regulations.

One of the complaints given prominence involved a trainee who was injured while working on an electrically live switchboard while the other related to the installation of an improper fitting.

Prior to the Committee considering any complaint, Investigators and/or Electrical Inspectors from the EWLG identify issues which it is considered the Committee may wish to address with the registered person.

This action is taken as the complaints process provides the public with an avenue for drawing attention to electrical work they may be concerned about and it is considered unrealistic to expect the public to be able to identify technical deficiencies in electrical work.

As examples there are a number of complaints received where the only advice the complainant can offer is that the "electrical work does not operate as I expected it to" or "I did not receive a certificate of compliance".

Where information provided in support of a complaint is inadequate or requires further explanation, EWLG staff may make further inquiries to ensure that sufficient information is available for the Committee to adequately consider the matter.

When any enquiries are completed the EWLG Investigators write to the registered person on behalf of the Committee and advise the issues the Committee may consider.

The identifying of issues is done so that the process is not delayed and the Committee does not have to hold a meeting

to discuss the complaint then hold another meeting to hear it.

Also, advising the registered person of the issues likely to require addressing gives the registered person the ability to be fully prepared for the Committee meeting.

At the Committee meeting it is usual for two EWLG staff to attend. The staff provide administrative services and give professional advice to the Committee and take no part in the decision making process.

The registered person can attend the Committee meeting and/or be represented by Counsel or any other person.

The complainant can also attend the Committee meeting if they wish.

All Committees operate in accordance with fully documented Standing Orders with the over riding objective of ensuring the principles of natural justice are observed. A copy of the Standing Orders is available from the EWLG.

If any person has any questions relating to any part of the complaints process or the functions of the EWLG John Sickels, Group Manager, is available to answer enquiries and is available to discuss issues with industry groups.

Competency audits carried out in Otago and Southland

As part of the Boards strategy to use the audit process as an educational tool, a selection of Otago and Southland electricians were recently requested to send in their last ten certificates of compliance. From the returns a selection of work carried out under the certificates of compliance were chosen for audit.

The purpose of this audit was to demonstrate whether or not the groups which the Board considers to be "low risk electricians" were actually correctly filling out certificate of compliance's and completing compliant work.

The criteria for certificates of compliance chosen for audit were generally "sensitive" areas such as schools, universities, hospitals, hazardous areas and public areas.

The audit inspections were carried out by Tony Doyle, an electrical inspector employed by the EWLG.

The results of the audit indicate that there were a few minor certification issues such as the incorrect use of a standard

certificate of compliance when an ongoing certificate of compliance would have been more appropriate.

It was also noted that when multiple workers are working on one site and the work is ongoing, then the individual workers should fill out an attachment to the ongoing certificate of compliance and certify and sign their part of the prescribed electrical work that requires certification.

This audit has shown that the work completed by the electricians involved was carried out to an excellent standard and compliant.

The advantage of the educational type audit system is that minor certification issues can be identified and corrected without the need for a complaints being laid against electrical workers.

It is the intention of the Board to continue with the educational type audit system with a target of 3,000 such audits for the 2005/2006 year.

Managing South Island Power Supply

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Issue 15 of ELECTRON reported on measures being taken in relation to the managing of the South Island power supply.

In late September the Upper South Island Winter Security Response Group meet for the final time and acknowledged that supply to consumers in the region had not been affected during winter 2004.

The Group also noted that the measures being put in place by Transpower over the coming summer would enhance

power system capacity and increase security of supply ahead of next winter.

With the upgrades in place, the upper South Island will have a voltage stability limit of approximately 1120 MW for winter 2005. This is 12% above the peak demand of 995 MW experienced in August this year.

Amendments to AS/NZS 3760 and AS/NZS 3551

Standards New Zealand has advised that it is planned to amend the above mentioned Standards.

The amendments will clarify the requirements for the testing of medical electrical equipment.

Board examination dates for 2005

Dates for the 2005 Board registration examinations have been set and these are as follows.

Date	Examination
7 May	EST A and Electronic Security Installer
14 May	EST B and Tradespersons Electrical Work Certificate
18 June	EST A, Electronic Security Installer and Electrician theory
25 June	EST B, Tradespersons Electrical Work Certificate and Electrician regulations
10 September	EST A and Electronic Security Installer
17 September	EST B and Tradespersons Electrical Work Certificate
19 November	EST A, Electrician theory, Electrical Inspector and Electronic Security Installer
26 November	EST B, Tradespersons Electrical Work Certificate and Electrician regulations

Examination Report

The following is a summary of the results of Board examinations conducted to date this year.

March 2004

A total of 107 candidates sat the March examinations with a total of 87 successful candidates.

Examination	Total Candidates	Candidates passed	% Passed
EST A	72	54	75 %
EST B	35	33	94 %

June 2004

A total of 1,366 candidates sat the June 2004 examinations with a total of 1,098 successful candidates.

Examination	Total Candidates	Candidates passed	% Passed
Electrician Theory	335	265	79 %
Electrician Regulations	485	426	88 %
EST A	385	320	83 %
EST B	131	87	66 %

September 2004

A total of 299 candidates sat the September examinations with a total of 240 successful candidates.

Examination	Total Candidates	Candidates passed	% Passed
EST A	232	189	81.5 %
EST B	66	50	76 %
TEWC	1	1	100%

Full reports on the three examination rounds has been sent to all contracted training providers and these are available on request to any person who would like a copy.

To obtain a copies of the reports please contact Kate Rossiter on 0800 66 1000.

The end of November is the last examination round for 2004 and results for that round will be published in early 2005.

Examination centre contact details, previous examination papers and model answers are available on the Board's website www.e wrb.govt.nz

Discussion Paper on Review of fees payable for Board Services

The EWLG has recently released a discussion paper to provide interested people with the opportunity to comment on proposals to review fees payable for Board services.

In summary the discussion paper proposes to:

- reduce the cost of on line applications for electrical worker practising licences from \$92.00 to \$60.00 for the 2005 practising licence round;
- reduce Certificate of Compliance fees from \$6.00 and \$50.00 to \$4.00 and \$25.00;
- reduce registration fees for National Certificate holders from \$103.00 to \$70.00;

- introduce new fees and rationalise existing fees.

It is considered that the proposed fee amendments have the potential to reduce the cost of compliance to practising licence holders and those people who purchase Certificates of Compliance by approximately \$1,100,000 per annum.

A copy of the discussion document has been sent to all registered persons and will be available on the Board's website www.e wrb.govt.nz

Update on core capabilities for electricians

In 2000 the Board accepted the Australian and New Zealand Electrical Regulatory Advisory Council (ERAC) developed core capabilities as the fundamental requirements for electrician's registration.

Since the development and acceptance of the capabilities and the concept of capstone testing, considerable progress has been made with integrating the capabilities into the national qualifications and registration/licensing requirements.

The capabilities have been incorporated into the National Certificate in Electrical Engineering (Electrician) (Level 4).

As part of the capstoning policy the critical capabilities have been integrated into specific unit standards. The measurement tool for the passing of the unit standards will be the passing of two Board conducted examinations.

One examination is regulatory, based on AS/NZS 3000, while the other is theory based.

While the regulatory examination has been part of the qualification for some time the theory examination has now also been incorporated into the qualification.

Examination subject material will be amended so that future examinations will be based on the critical capabilities.

The practical aspects for registration have been incorporated into the National Certificate as a consolidation of on and off job assessments.

Supervision guidelines will be cited in unit standards where the demonstration of practical "hands on" electrical work is required.

Results of complaints

Since Issue 15 of ELECTRON, Complaints Assessment Committees have considered thirty-two complaints, which had been laid against twenty-one electricians, three inspectors, one line mechanic, one electrical service technician and two trainees.

The Committees are referring seventeen of the twenty-one complaints to the Board for disciplinary hearings. One complaint is going to the Board with a recommendation that the Board considers interim suspension of the electrical service technician's registration pending the outcome of the disciplinary hearing.

The Committees dismissed the other fifteen complaints.

Results of Disciplinary Hearings

Andrew Daniel Louie (E 14643)

A complaint was lodged against Mr Andrew Daniel Louie, an electrician from Miramar, Wellington by a homeowner.

It was alleged that Mr Louie:

- Was not the holder of a current practising license while carrying out prescribed electrical work for reward; and
- Failed to issue a certificate of compliance.

The Board considered the complaint and found Mr Louie guilty of disciplinary offences in that he:

- Contravened section 95 of the Electricity Act by not holding a current practicing license when he carried out prescribed electrical work for reward; and
- Contravened regulation 39 of the Electricity Regulations 1997 in that he failed to furnish a certificate of compliance for work completed.

Mr Louie's electrician registration was suspended until he passes the electricians level Electrical Wiring Regulations exam, in light of the seriousness of the offence and because Mr Louie had previously been censured for offences of a similar nature. Mr Louie was ordered to pay costs of \$500.00.

Ian Phillip Sansom (E 8761)

A complaint was lodged against Mr Ian Phillip Sansom, an electrician from New Plymouth, by a Government Department for prescribed electrical work undertaken on a switchboard at New Plymouth, which resulted in severe injuries to Mr Sansom and damage to the switchboard.

Mr Sansom had decided to work on the switchboard live, when provision had been made for the switchboard to be

disconnected. The complainant alleged that the work was undertaken in a negligent and incompetent manner.

The Board considered the complaint and found Mr Sansom guilty of disciplinary offences in that he:

- Failed to take all practicable steps to ensure his safety while carrying out prescribed electrical work, in contravention of regulation 36 of the Electricity Regulations 1997; and
- Was not the holder of a current practising license while carrying out prescribed electrical work, in contravention of section 95 of the Electricity Act 1992; and
- Created a risk to the life and limbs of him and others, while under a duty of care to take all practicable steps to ensure the safety of him and others.

The Board restricted Mr Sansom's registration for a period of six months with the condition that Mr Sansom is limited to work only in the employ of an approved employer. Mr Sansom was also ordered pay costs of \$500.

Comment: It is very important that the electrical worker takes all appropriate measures to ensure both personal safety and the safety of others.

Electrician

A complaint was lodged against an electrician who is a manager of a large electrical company by a homeowner at Dannemora.

It was alleged that the electrician left a live unterminated cable. He had allegedly installed a supply cable for an electric cooking hob. However, the hob was never installed and the cable was never terminated.

The Complaints Assessment Committee determined that the electrician had not personally carried out or tested the work, however he had certified it. The Committee considered that this resulted in a false certificate of compliance.

The Board considered the complaint and found the electrician guilty of a disciplinary offence in that he furnished a false certificate of compliance because although he had signed the certificate of compliance he failed to personally undertake the tests required for certification in contravened regulation 39(6).

The electrician was censured by the Board and ordered to pay costs of \$1,250.00. The Board directed that the electrician's name not be published.

Comment: It should be noted that when an electrician carries out work as described in this complaint the electrician must ensure the work is tested. That testing may be done by another suitably authorised person. However, it is a requirement, that when prescribed electrical work that requires certification is tested, that work must be certified by the person who tested it.

Ian Carter (E 6388)

A complaint was lodged against Mr Ian Carter by the president of a social club at New Plymouth. The complaint alleged that Mr Carter had undertaken prescribed electrical work that was not satisfactory. Specifically, the complaint alleged that Mr Carter was responsible for dangerous wiring, which included the use of unprotected strip connectors as junction boxes.

The Board considered the complaint and found that Mr Carter was not guilty a disciplinary offence, because while the use of strip connectors in lieu of junction boxes was unsatisfactory in the circumstances, it was not unsatisfactory to the extent that it required discipline.

No further action was taken against Mr Carter in relation to the complaint.

Electrician

A complaint was lodged against an electrician by a homeowner at Whangaparaoa. The complaint alleged that the electrician undertook prescribed electrical work that was unsatisfactory and that the electrician failed to furnish a certificate of compliance upon completion of the work in question.

The Board considered the complaint and found the electrician guilty of a disciplinary offence in that he failed to furnish a certificate of compliance in contravention of Regulation 39 of the Electricity Regulations.

In view of the circumstances in this case, the Board ordered that no action be taken. The electrician was ordered to pay costs of \$1,250.

Electrician

A complaint was lodged against an electrician by a homeowner at Auckland. The complaint alleged that the electrician left wires exposed in a main bedroom wall, installed sockets that were not operational, did not complete the job in question, did not provide a certificate of compliance, and was not the holder of a current practicing license when the work in question was carried out.

The Board considered the complaint and found the electrician guilty of disciplinary offences in that he:

- Was not the holder of a current practising license while carrying out prescribed electrical work, in contravention of section 95 of the Electricity Act 1992; and
- Failed to adequately identify conductors contrary to regulation 70(1); and
- Carried out prescribed electrical work in an unsatisfactory manner;

The Board restricted the electricians registration for a period of nine months with the provision that when a certificate of compliance is required for work undertaken, the electrician must furnish a copy of the certificate to the Registrar for potential audit. The electrician was ordered to pay costs of \$500. The Board directed that the electrician's name not be published.

Electrician

A complaint was lodged against an electrician by a Government department, as a consequence of the audit of the electrician's certificates of compliance. The complaint alleged that the electrician carried out prescribed electrical work contrary to the regulations and had issued a false certificate of compliance.

The Board considered the complaint and found the electrician guilty of a disciplinary offence in that he furnished a false certificate of compliance in contravention of regulation 40(1).

In the circumstances, the Board ordered that no action be taken. The electrician was not required to pay costs.

Zhi Ming (Martin) Qian (E 17065)

A complaint was lodged against Mr Qian by a Government department. The complaint related to prescribed electrical work undertaken at eight properties in Brown's Bay and Buckland's Beach, Auckland and contained numerous allegations including:

- Stainless steel sinks in steel cabinets in laundries had no earth bonding;
- Green and black insulated conductors were used for phase wiring;
- Spa bath pumps were not fitted with isolators, connection outlets had exposed primary insulation and pumps were "built in" with no access for maintenance;
- Wiring in ceiling space was not protected;
- Cables entering switchboards were not adequately protected where they passed through cut-outs in a cabinet;
- Certificates of compliance were issued before the installations were complete. At the time of certificate issue there were unterminated wires, and a building site foreman discovered many circuits not working and obviously untested when the power was eventually connected;
- Testing was inadequate;
- Inadequate supervision or use of non-qualified electrical workers;
- No attempt made to segregate the low voltage and the extra low voltage conductors;
- One power outlet had earth and neutral transposed;
- Two sub circuits did not operate.

The Board considered the complaint and found Mr Qian guilty of disciplinary offences in that he:

- Certified work before its completion in contravention of regulations 39(5),(6) and (7);
- Issued false returns. Mr Qian signed certificates of compliance prior to the completion of the work certified.

- Failed to visually test the work carried out by his trainee in contravention of regulation 37.
- Failed to take proper care when supervising his trainee in contravention of section 2(1) of the Act;
- Carried out prescribed electrical work in an unsatisfactory manner and in a manner contrary to regulation 87(3). Assisted by his trainee, Mr Qian terminated cables at fittings so that primary insulation was exposed and such terminations failed to make proper use of the strain relief clamps provided by the manufacturer on the fittings;
- Carried out prescribed electrical work in an unsatisfactory manner and manner contrary to regulations 69, 70, 71 and 87(1)(b). Green or unsleeved black conductors used as phase conductors are conductors that are not adequately identified and are deemed to be not electrically safe;
- Carried out prescribed electrical work in an unsatisfactory manner and manner contrary to regulation 69, by virtue of regulation 87(1)(h). Mr Qian failed to secure to a surface the socket outlet he installed for the spa bath;
- Carried out work in an unsatisfactory manner and manner contrary to regulations 69 (by virtue of 87(1)(f)), and 70. Mr Qian, assisted by his trainee, ran cables in the ceiling space across joists and did not secure the cables to surfaces when located near access hatches;
- Carried out prescribed electrical work in a manner contrary to regulation 69 by virtue of regulation 87(1)(f). Mr Qian did not ensure the cable entry hole to a metal cased switchboard was bushed. Cables protected by only primary insulation passed through this entry hole;
- Carried out prescribed electrical work in an unsatisfactory manner and a manner contrary to regulation 70 and NZECP 7. Mr Qian did not segregate low voltage and extra low voltage wiring systems at three of the residences in question.

The Board, in consideration of the serious nature of the offences, particularly the offence of issuing certificates of compliance prior to the completion of the work and suspended Mr Qian's registration until he passes the Electrician's Level Stage One, Two and Three Practical Assessments; Mr Qian is also required to attend a regulations tuition course; and pass the Electrician's Level regulations examination.

The Board also fined Mr Qian \$1500, and ordered Mr Qian to pay costs of \$1500.

Keith John Fenton (E 7013)

A complaint was lodged against Mr Fenton an electrician from Palmerston North by an employee of a district health board. The complaint alleged that Mr Fenton carried out a significant amount of inspection work in the patient areas of a hospital, while not being the holder of an electrical inspector's registration and had certified this work using the registration numbers of others.

The Board considered the seriousness of the complaint and found Mr Fenton guilty of disciplinary offences:

- Under 118(1)(a) of the Electricity Act 1992 in that he inspected and certified patient care areas of a hospital while not being the holder of an electrical inspector's registration nor authorised under an employee license, contravening the requirements of regulation 41(1);
- Under 118(1)(d) in that he furnished a false certificate of compliance by using another practitioner's registration number on that certificate of compliance;
- Under 118(1)(f) in that he carried out work that he was not authorised to do by virtue of his registration as an electrician, in carrying out inspections in patient care areas of hospitals.

In considering the severity of the offences committed by Mr Fenton, the Board removed Mr Fenton's name from the register of persons registered under the Act. The Board fixed, in accordance with section 132 of the Act, 11 September 2013 as the time after which Mr Fenton may apply to have his name restored to the register.

Comment: The Board considered it to be a very serious offence for Mr Fenton to claim a status that he was not entitled to, and to furthermore purport to be a person entitled to that status. The Board also took into consideration the fact that the complaint related to patient care areas in a hospital.

Ivor Alex Newson (E 223)

A complaint was lodged against Mr Ivor Newson, an electrician from Wellington, by an electrical inspector contracted by a power company. The complaint alleged that Mr Newson carried out prescribed electrical work on a revenue meter, and that:

- The meter terminal seal was missing;
- The meter disc was turning backwards;

The Board considered the complaint and found Mr Newson guilty of disciplinary offences in that he:

- Carried out work in an unsatisfactory and incompetent manner by installing a revenue meter so that it operated in reverse, (i.e. the line and load conductors were transposed); and
- Carried out electrical work on a switchboard in a manner contrary to regulation 69A (1). A revenue meter that operates in reverse has not been installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and its characteristics have been impaired in the process of installation; and
- Neglected to furnish a certificate of compliance prior to livening of the installation.

Mr Newson was ordered to pay a fine of \$750 and costs of \$1000.

Board meeting dates for 2005

The Board has set its meeting dates for 2005 as follows:

2nd and 3rd February	16th and 17th March	20th April
4th and 5th May	15th and 16th June	20th July
3rd and 4th August	14th and 15th September	19th October
2nd and 3rd November	14th and 15th December	

The location of meetings are determined by where complaints are held. If you would like further information on Board meetings please contact Janie Anderson telephone 0800 661 000.

Installation of security systems

In mid September the Board wrote to in excess of 8,000 people involved in the security industry and formally advised that an electrician registration limited to electronic security installer has been established.

The registration permits the holder to:

Undertake the prescribed electrical work associated with the installation of 230 volt ac security systems and subcircuits in domestic installations,

Disconnect and isolate existing subcircuits from switchboards for the purposes of ensuring the safe connection of cabling and security control panels to existing 230 volt subcircuits,

Reconnect the above mentioned existing subcircuits,

Replace fuse links.

An electrician with a registration limited to electronic security installer can not work on switchboards other than for the purposes of circuit isolation/reconnection or fuse link replacement.

The Board has strongly advised electrical workers in the security industry who do not hold an appropriate registration to either become a trainee while completing the competency based training requirements or uplift a provisional licence from the Board.

An information circular covering the electrician limited to electronic security installer registration and details on how to apply for a provisional licence is available by phoning the Boards office on 0800 66 1000.

Electrical Workers Registration Board positions

The Associate Minister of Energy wants to appoint two members to the Board.

The Board's statutory functions include registering electrical workers, ensuring the competency of electrical workers and exercising disciplinary powers. The Board receives administrative and professional services from the Ministry of Economic Development.

One of the vacancies is required to be filled by a person who is registered or entitled to be registered under the Electricity Act 1992. The other vacancy is required to be filled by a person who is not registered under the Act.

In order to qualify for Board membership a person must be able to demonstrate;

- High level strategic thinking capabilities;

- Governance experience in a Board environment;
- Commitment to promoting public interest and public safety;
- The desire to promote broad industry objectives.

Remuneration is in line with State Services Commission guidelines with the Presiding Member and Members receiving \$500 and \$330 respectively.

Applications close on **28 January 2004**.

Further information, application forms and information packs can be obtained from John Sickels, telephone 04 470 2250 or email john.sickels@med.govt.nz



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.

**ALL ELECTRICAL WORKERS ARE
REQUIRED TO BE RE-LICENSED
BY 30 JUNE 2004**

www.ewrb.govt.nz



**ELECTRICAL WORKERS
REGISTRATION BOARD**

Safety • Competency

EW04 5/04