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The Associate Minister of Energy, Hon Harry Duynhoven has approved the release of a revised draft Code of Practice for the supervision of trainee electricians.

There is further detail on the revised Code of Practice in this issue of ELECTRON.

I would like to thank those people who made comments on the draft Code of Practice and I would again encourage all people and organisations to consider the revised document and provide comments.

The closing date for comments is 16 June 2006.

The Board has approved the release of amended teaching guidelines for electrician level examinations and the closing date for comments on the document is also 16 June 2006.

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EWLG



Safety • Competency

ELECTRON is published by the Electrical Workers Licensing Group, the service unit of the Ministry of Economic Development for the Electrical Workers Registration Board. If you have any enquiries or comments on this newsletter please contact:

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Code of Practice for the supervision of trainee electricians

In issue 23 of ELECTRON the industry was advised that the Electrical Workers Licensing Group (EWLG) had produced a draft Code of Practice for the supervision of trainee electricians and that the Associate Minister of Energy, the Hon Harry Duynhoven had approved the release of the document for comment.

In addition to the advice in ELECTRON letters seeking comment along with a hard copy of the draft Code of Practice were sent to those people and organisations whose names appear on EWLG mailing lists.

All submissions received on the draft Code of Practice have been considered and a revised draft Code of Practice has been produced.

The fundamental amendments made to the draft Code of Practice are summarised as follows:

A trainee electrician may work under general supervision if the trainee electrician is assisting with the carrying out of prescribed electrical work on fittings and/or conductors that are isolated from any source of electricity.

A trainee electrician, being trained under a competency based training programme, should work under direct supervision when the trainee electrician is assisting with the carrying out of prescribed electrical work on fittings and/or conductors that are not isolated from any source of electricity.

The direct supervision would change to general supervision when the trainee electrician was assessed as competent against a suite of Unit Standards by an Assessor and a Training Provider.

The previous eighteen month on job "hands on" training requirement has been deleted for any trainee electrician being trained under a competency based training programme.

A trainee electrician being trained under a "time served" training programme should work under direct supervision when the trainee electrician is assisting with the carrying out of prescribed electrical work on fittings and/or conductors that are not isolated from any source of electricity.

The direct supervision would change to general supervision when the trainee electrician has completed eighteen months on job "hands on" training and passed the three stages of the Electrical Workers Registration Board (Board's) electrician's practical assessment programme or practical examination.

The objective of the draft Code of Practice has been inserted into the document as follows:

"The objective of this Code of Practice is to provide employers, people who supervise trainee electricians, trainee electricians and the public with certainty as to what is expected in the areas of providing and working under supervision in the electrical industry."

To address the submissions received relating to some employers and apprentices having a lack of knowledge and basic understanding of their respective responsibilities, the responsibilities of employers for safety of employees and the safety responsibilities of persons who carry out work provisions of the Electricity Regulations 1997 have been included.

Also the safety tuition and employers responsibilities for the competency of electrical worker provisions of the Electricity Regulations 1997 have been included.

References to the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 have been included.

The Associate Minister of Energy Hon Harry Duynhoven has approved the release of the revised draft Code of Practice for the supervision of trainee electricians.

Copies of the revised draft Code of Practice for the supervision of trainee electricians are available from Janine Anderson, Executive Assistant, telephone 0800 66 1000 or 04 978 3115 or email janine.anderson@med.govt.nz

Any comment you may wish to make on the revised draft Code of Practice for the supervision of trainee electricians would be appreciated and should be forwarded by 16 June 2006. Details on where to forward comments are included in the revised draft Code of Practice.

Teaching Guidelines

As reported in issue 25 of ELECTRON the Board has produced teaching guidelines for electrician level examinations for comment.

A number of enquiries have been received in relation to the teaching guidelines and the following sets out the history of the guidelines.

In 2000 the Board accepted the Australian and New Zealand Electrical 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 all of the requirements for electrician's registration have been integrated into the National Certificate in Electrical Engineering Electrician for Registration (level 4) [Ref: 1195] qualification.

As part of the Board's capstoning policy the critical capabilities, which form part of the core capabilities, have been integrated into specific unit standards and the measurement tool for passing those unit standards is the passing of the Board's electrician level theoretical and "regulations" examinations.

In view of the above mentioned developments the subject material for the electrician level theoretical and "regulations" examinations is now based on the critical capabilities.

The practical aspects for electrician registration have been incorporated into the National Certificate in Electrical Engineering Electrician for Registration (level 4) [Ref: 1195] qualification as a consolidation of on and off job assessments.

Comments received on the draft teaching guidelines have been considered and the guidelines have been amended.

Copies of the guidelines have been sent to all contracted training providers and the document can be viewed at www.ewrb.govt.nz

The Board has approved the release of the amended teaching guidelines for final comment and the Board would appreciate any comments on the document by 16 June 2006. Comments should be sent to:

The Registrar
Electrical Workers Registration Board
PO Box 10156
WELLINGTON
Or Fax (04) 978 3125
Or by e-mail to: janine.anderson@med.govt.nz

Examination Report

The Board conducted another full round of registration examinations during November 2005 and the following chart summarises the results of those examinations.

A full report on the examination round has been forwarded to all contracted training providers and the report can be viewed on the Board's web site at www.ewrb.govt.nz

	Number of candidates	Number of candidates who passed	Percentage passed
ESTA	352	303	86
ESTB	219	162	74
E.Regis	659	526	80
E.Theory	599	319	53
TEWC	21	19	90
E.Inspector	68	51	75
ES	0	0	0
Nov 2005	1918	1380	72

Comment on electrician theory examination

While the result of the electrician theory examination is considerably better than the 36.5% obtained for the corresponding examination last year the result for the examination is disappointing with a pass rate of 53%.

It is difficult to understand why there are such wide variations with the pass rates for this examination and not others. This has not occurred in any other examination type (where there are sufficiently large numbers of candidates to make a comparison) since 2003.

All examination papers are moderated with a view to ensuring that questions are within the guidelines and within the general experience of candidates.

As stated in the article on teaching guidelines in this issue of ELECTRON, the subject material for the electrician level theoretical and "regulations" examinations is now based on the critical capabilities and it is envisaged that the change will benefit candidates as the examinations will be based on material candidates should be being trained on through competency based training programmes.

Complaints Assessment Committees



The Ministry of Economic Development is inviting nominations from industry, organisations and the public 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 ten people will be considered by the Associate Minister of Energy for inclusion on the 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 will be discussed with proposed members on a case by case and regional basis.

Application forms and information packs are available from Janine Anderson, Executive Assistant telephone 0800 66 1000 or 04 978 3115 or email janine.anderson@med.govt.nz

Results of complaints

Since issue 23 of Electron Complaints Assessment Committees have considered twenty seven complaints, which had been laid against twenty one electricians and five inspectors.

The Committees referred twenty of the twenty seven complaints to the Board for disciplinary hearings. The Committee dismissed the other seven complaints.

Access to Standards

In issue 26 of ELECTRON details were given on how Standards can be accessed from the Standards New Zealand web site.

If you hold a valid practising licence or if you are a trainee with Electrotechnology Training Organisation

or the Electricity Supply Industry Training Organisation please use this service to obtain Standards. Full details on how to gain access to Standards are listed in issue 26 of ELECTRON.