



## ISSUE NO 29

SEPTEMBER 2006

Issue 28 of ELECTRON contained details of the Electrical Workers Licensing Group's (EWLG) move from the Ministry of Economic Development to the Department of Building and Housing (DBH).

The EWLK moved to DBH as planned on 1 September 2006 and I am pleased to advise that the transition was smooth and met Cabinet directives.

- Also on 1 September 2006 the Building Issues Minister Hon Clayton Cosgrove released a statement which in part said that the transfer of the EWLK to DBH is another step in providing improved and integrated services for the building and housing sector.

Hon Cosgrove's full statement is reproduced in this issue of ELECTRON.

The Technical and General Question Corner recommences in this issue of ELECTRON. Please remember that if you have any questions relating to the Electricity Act 1992, the Electricity Regulations 1997 or Standards please let us know and we will make every effort to provide

- an answer.



The EWLK will be convening an industry meeting to discuss core practising licence refresher course requirements in the near future and further detail on the meeting is contained in this issue of ELECTRON.

**John Sickels**

Registrar/Group Manager EWLK

## IN THIS ISSUE

Editorial

Technical and General Question Corner

Examination Report

Practising Licence Refresher Course

Hon Clayton Cosgrove's News Release



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:

**Editor:** Kathryn Young  
PO Box 10-156, Wellington  
info@ewr.govt.nz  
Phone 0800 66 1000

## TECHNICAL AND GENERAL QUESTION CORNER

### Q Who is required to give a certificate of compliance to the owner/occupier of the fittings/premises when prescribed electrical work requires inspection in accordance with regulation 41 of the Electricity Regulations 1997?

A The electrical inspector who inspects the prescribed electrical work is required to give a certificate of compliance to the owner/occupier of the fittings/premises.

### Reasoning for answer

The regulations set out the requirements for checking prescribed electrical work.

Regulation 39 sets requirements for the testing and certifying of prescribed electrical work.

Regulation 41 further requires that specific prescribed electrical work must be inspected. That inspection is in addition to the testing and certification requirements of regulation 39.

The administrative requirements for certifying, testing and inspection are set out in regulations 40 and 42 respectively, however those regulations do not specifically identify who must satisfy the administrative requirements relating to the giving of certificates of compliance.

However regulation 51(b)(iii) states that it is an offence, in respect to any prescribed electrical work to which regulation

39 applies, after having certified such work, to fail to comply with any of the requirements of regulation 40.

In addition regulation 51(c)(iii) states that it is an offence, in respect to any prescribed electrical work to which regulation 41 applies, after having inspected such work, to fail to comply with any of the requirements of regulation 42.

It is therefore an offence for the certifier of prescribed electrical work to fail to comply with the administrative requirements for certification and an offence for the electrical inspector of prescribed electrical work to fail to comply with administrative requirements for inspection.

As stated above, regulations 40 and 42 set out administrative requirements and both regulations contain requirements to give certificates of compliance to owners/occupiers of the fittings/premises within twenty working days of their completion.

Regulation 40(3), however, provides that the certifier of prescribed electrical work does not have to give a certificate of compliance to an owner/occupier where regulation 42 applies.

The certificate of compliance must therefore be given pursuant to regulation 42. It is an offence, as stated above, for the electrical inspector to fail to comply with regulation 42.

The electrical inspector is therefore required to give a certificate of compliance to the owner/occupier of the fittings/premises when prescribed electrical work requires inspection pursuant to regulation 41.

---

## Examinations Report

The Board has recently released a full report on the May 2006 examination round to all training providers and the report can be viewed on the Board's website at [www.ewrb.govt.nz](http://www.ewrb.govt.nz)

The following chart summarises the results of the May 2006 examination round.

	Number of candidates	Number of candidates who passed	Percentage passed
EST A	215	186	86.5
EST B	70	65	93
Totals	285	251	90(av)

# Approach to Associate Minister about Board Practising Licence Refresher Course

*In Issue 28 of ELECTRON the Board advised that it had developed its own practising licence refresher course which training providers can use either as their tuition course, or as a guide for alternative tuition courses to satisfy the prerequisite tuition requirements for the issue of Board practising licences.*

The Electrical Training Company, Electrical Contractors Association and Site Safe (the consortium) have advised the Associate Minister of Energy that the Board produced practising licence refresher course is not suitable and they prefer a tuition course developed by the Electrical Training Company and SiteSafe.

The consortium proposes that the Board purchase the tuition course and annual updates of the course from the Electrical Training Company and that SiteSafe select, moderate and audit course presenters. The Board would pay the Electrical Training Company and Site Safe for the auditing of the course.

The Minister considered the views of the consortium but noted that responsibility for determining the core training requirements for the practising licence refresher course resides with the Board. Sections of the industry could then include specific additional industry training into practicing licence refresher courses if such training was required by an industry sector. Costs associated with obtaining training would be the responsibility of applicants for practising licences.

In view of the matters raised by the consortium it is considered that a cross section of the industry should be given the

opportunity to provide comment on the content of the Board's generic core practising licence refresher course.

Accordingly, the EWLG is to convene an industry meeting to discuss the requirements for the core practising licence refresher course.

An independent facilitator will chair the meeting and later provide a written report to the EWLG and the Board.

The meeting will be held in Wellington on **Monday 16 October 2006**. Persons and organisations whose names appear on Board/EWLG mailing lists have been advised of the meeting.

Any person or organisation is invited to provide a written submission on the consortium's proposals. If you would like to comment please forward your comment to Patricia Tchernegovski at email address [patricia.tchernegovski@dbh.govt.nz](mailto:patricia.tchernegovski@dbh.govt.nz) prior to **9 October 2006**.

Alternatively submissions may be forwarded to Patricia Tchernegovski, Electrical Workers Licensing Group at PO Box 10 729, Wellington prior to the above date.

---

*The following is the full text of the Minister of Building Issues, Hon Clayton Cosgrove press release of 1 September 2006.*

## Electrical Workers Licensing Group transfer

*The transfer of the Electrical Workers Licensing Group to the Department of Building and Housing (DBH) today is another step in providing improved and integrated services for the building and housing sector, says the Building Issues Minister Clayton Cosgrove.*

The organisation has shifted from the Ministry of Economic Development. The Group provides registration and complaints assessment services to the Electrical Workers Registration Board, and is responsible for certifying the ongoing competency of the country's 38,000 electrical and electronic workers.

"This organisation plays an important role in a large industry," Mr Cosgrove said.

"Bringing it under the Umbrella of the DBH will benefit consumers and the building and construction industry."

Mr Cosgrove said nothing will change in the way electrical

and electronic workers have their registrations processed, and the same staff will be doing the job.

"In terms of service provision, it is very much business as usual," he said. "The public will be able to make complaints about electricians or get information via the usual channels, or by linking through from the DBH website [www.dbh.govt.nz](http://www.dbh.govt.nz)"

Mr Cosgrove said the transfer would allow for greater efficiencies and the pooling of expertise in managing occupational licensing within the building sector.

Other occupations overseen by the DBH include chartered engineers, associate engineers and architects, as well as the establishment of 13 licensed building practitioner classes. The Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Registration Board will transfer to the Department of Building and Housing in 2008.

"This Government has embarked upon a suite of reforms to raise standards across the building sector," Mr Cosgrove said.

"We are getting rid of the cowboys by introducing licenses for those who design and build while at the same time protecting

the Do-It-Yourself (DIY) culture, enhancing the Weathertight Homes Resolution Service to achieve faster, better outcomes for home owners, introducing a financial assistance pilot for the worse affected owners of leaky homes, investigating a home warranty insurance scheme, product certification, auditing and accrediting Building Consent Authorities and reviewing the Building Code, among other measures."

Mr Cosgrove said today's transfer is part of a substantial reform and development programme to help ensure that buildings and homes are built right the first time.

---

## Background Information

### What is the Electrical Workers Licensing Group (EWLG)?

The Group provides registration and complaints assessment services to the Electrical Workers Registration Board (EWRB), and is responsible for certifying the ongoing competency of about 38,000 registered electrical and electronics workers. It has a staff of 11 and an operating budget of \$3.6 million.

### What is happening?

The EWLK is being transferred from the Ministry of Economic Development to the Department of Building and Housing (DBH) today, 1 September 2006. The move does not involve any job losses nor require additional staff.

### Why is this being done?

The transfer is part of a suite of Government reforms to provide improved and integrated services to the building sector and the public, and to bring occupational licensing in the sector under one "roof".

### What will it cost?

There has been no additional Government funding for the transfer, with costs being absorbed within the funding baselines of the Department of Building and Housing and the Ministry of Economic Development.

### What are the benefits of the transfer?

The transfer will allow for greater efficiencies in the delivery of occupational licensing services within the building and housing sector. The DBH has oversight of a range of occupational licensing schemes. The integration of licensing services will achieve greater synergies and a more consistent approach to occupational licensing board appointments and monitoring, as well as better support and advice for the boards and the Building Issues Minister.

The DBH is responsible for the introduction of the licensed building practitioners regime and from today, the licensing of electricians. It also oversees the boards that licence architects, engineers and associate engineers. The administrative responsibility for appointing and monitoring the Plumbers, Gasfitters, and Drainlayers Registration Board will transfer from the Ministry of Health to the Department in January 2008.

### What will change?

It will be very much business as usual. Nothing will change in the way electrical and electronic workers are registered, and the same staff will be doing the job. To add to a seamless transition, the Group's contact details will remain unchanged.

### How can consumers make a complaint?

Consumers will be able to make complaints in exactly the same manner as they do currently.

They can:

- download a complaint form from the Electrical Workers Registration Board website at [www.ewrb.govt.nz](http://www.ewrb.govt.nz), or
- write to:  
Electrical Workers Licensing Group  
Department of Building and Housing  
PO Box 10 729  
Wellington

Or

- Call the Group's call centre on 0800 661 000.

Further information on the Electrical Workers Licensing Group will be available on the Department of Building and Housing website at [www.dbh.govt.nz](http://www.dbh.govt.nz) from September 1.