

## ISSUE NO 34

MAY 2007

The Board and Site Safe have reviewed the agreement between the two organisations for the issuing of combined Board Practising Licences and Site Safe Passports.

Further detail on the new agreement is available in this issue of ELECTRON.

The Board has been concerned at the low level of awareness relating to the supervision of trainees in the industry and in view of those concerns the Board has approved Supervision Procedures for Trainee Electricians.

Fundamentally the Supervision Procedures bring together the legal requirements for supervision in one document which the Board considers will be of assistance to people who either provide or receive supervision.

The reporting of electrical accidents is prominent in this issue of ELECTRON. Electrical accident reporting is being continued to ensure the industry has all information relating to electrical accidents available to it.

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*Safety • Competency*

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

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# New agreement with Site Safe

Issues 11 and 13 of ELECTRON contained details of the Board's agreement with Site Safe.

The Board and Site Safe have reviewed the agreement and the new arrangements are as follows:

1. the agreement between Site Safe and the Board should be maintained, and
2. the safety refresher course associated with the agreement will be one that continues to integrate the Site Safe Passport and Board practising licence refresher course prescription requirements, and
3. the electrical component of the safety refresher course associated with the agreement will be based on the Board's electrician/electrical inspector practising licence refresher course prescription dated 26 February 2007, and
4. Site Safe will bring an industry group together to develop the electrical component of the safety refresher course associated with the agreement, and
5. Site Safe will appoint training providers to offer the safety refresher course associated with the agreement in accordance with Site Safe criteria and, from the electrical component of the course perspective, those trainers will be required to meet the criteria set out in the Board's practising licence refresher course policy, and
6. any trainer who satisfies (5) above will be entitled to offer the safety refresher course associated with the agreement.

The independent not-for-profit construction industry organisation

**working with you to make your site safe**



**Expressions of Interest for Site Safe Electrical Passport Trainers**

**Are you currently training in line with the EWRB's practising licence refresher course prescription?**

Site Safe are looking for Contracted Trainers for their Electrical Passport in different regions around the country.

You will need to:

- Have agreed to offer training in line with the EWRB's practicing licence refresher course prescriptions and policies
- Have an extensive practical background in the construction industry
- Have a sound understanding of health and safety principles and practices pertaining to construction and supported by a familiarity with current Health and Safety Legislation
- Be an outstanding communicator - able to work effectively with workers and managers from all sectors of the construction industry

**Does this sound like you? If you answered yes to all the above we would like to hear from you.**

To request a job description and to lodge your expression of interest contact:

Christopher Leach, Site Safe New Zealand  
PO Box 9445, Wellington.  
Email cleach@sitesafe.org.nz Tel: (04) 494 8333  
**Applications close 4.00pm Friday, 15 June 2007**  
[www.sitesafe.org.nz](http://www.sitesafe.org.nz)

## Supervision procedures

*Each year the Board becomes aware of instances where people registered under the Electricity Act 1992 and trainee electricians are either unaware or unsure of the electrical legislative and regulatory requirements relating to supervision. This situation is a concern to the Board.*

In view of its concern the Board has approved new Supervision Procedures which the Board believes will be of assistance to the electrical industry and the public by bringing the electrical legislative and regulatory supervision requirements together in one document.

The Supervision Procedures also incorporate methodologies to achieve successful supervision outcomes.

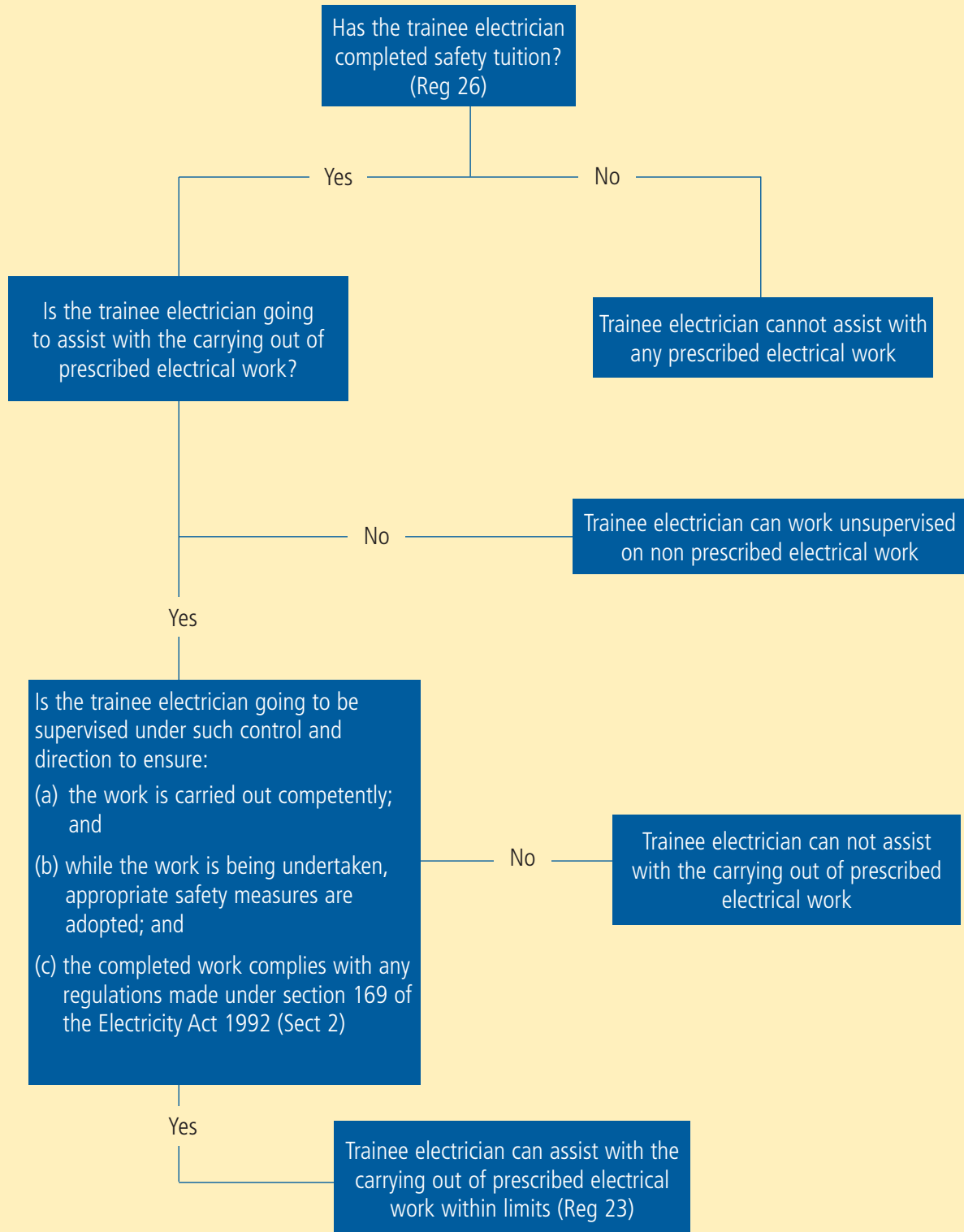
From a Board perspective the Supervision Procedures are a means of compliance in relation to the supervision

requirements of the Electricity Act 1992 and the Electricity Regulations 1997.

A copy of the Supervision Procedures has been sent to all persons on the Board/EWLG mailing lists and are available for viewing on the Board's website at [www.ewr.govt.nz](http://www.ewr.govt.nz)

The following chart shows the Supervision Procedures for trainee electricians

## SUPERVISION PROCEDURES FOR TRAINEE ELECTRICIANS



## Availability of documents

To enhance the question of accessibility and transparency of documentation and decisions of the Board, readers are reminded that agendas for Board meetings are posted on the Board's website at [www.ewrb.govt.nz](http://www.ewrb.govt.nz) one week prior to any meeting. In addition meeting agendas and minutes are available from the Registrar on request. Discussion papers and complaint hearing decisions that are not subject to Board Publication Orders are also available from the Registrar on request.

# ACCIDENTS

*As part of the Board's strategic goal to make all information available the Board is continuing to reproduce the summary of reported accidents published by the Energy Safety Service that relate to registered electrical workers and trainees in this and future issues of ELECTRON.*

The Board wishes to advise that any conclusions related to the accidents reported in ELECTRON are conclusions of the Energy Safety Service.

The following reported accidents are the fifth in the present series.

## **Accident 47**

### **Electrician – electric shock**

An electrician was given the task of fault-finding on an ozone generator that had failed.

During the work, the electrical system was locally isolated, but no written permit was obtained or formal isolation procedure followed.

The fault was located and linked to a cooling water flow switch.

Near completion of the work, with the ozone generator still isolated, water was observed on a transformer in the electrical system.

The water was mostly wiped up.

The electrical equipment was then recommissioned.

When the electrician noticed a few drops of water on the dielectric tubes, the electrician used a rag to wipe the water away without isolating the equipment again.

In the process, the rag touched high-tension terminals, causing the electrician to receive an electric shock.

## **Accident 48**

### **Electricians – burns**

Two electricians were attempting to locate a fault in a motor control centre.

The electricians received burns to their hands and flash burns to their eyes when a live wire fell out of a terminal onto earthed metal, causing an arc flash.

A catastrophic failure of other circuits within the motor control centre resulted.

Following the incident, the company involved replaced rotary switches on the motor control centre panels with a more robust type of isolating switch. The original switches were supplied directly from busbars.

## **Accident 49**

### **Electrician – electric shock**

An electrician received an electric shock while attempting to locate a fault in a light fitting.

An investigation found that the phase and earth connection in the light fitting had been transposed resulting in a metal support being made electrically alive.

When the electrician touched the metal support the electrician received a shock and fell onto a scaffold.

## **Accident 50**

### **Electrical operator – burns**

An electrical operator received burns while closing low-voltage busbar links. The operator was tapping a thread in the busbar with an uninsulated tube spanner when earthed metal to the rear of the link was inadvertently contacted.

The company involved modified the low-voltage panel to prevent a recurrence of the accident.

## **Accident 51**

### **Electrical service technician – burns**

An electrical service technician received burns to the upper arm while working on refrigeration equipment.

An investigation found that the electrical service technician failed to test that the electrical supply was isolated before starting work.

## **Accident 52**

### **Trainee – electric shock**

A trainee electrician received an electric shock from an insulated screwdriver while aligning the pin holder of a

fluorescent light in a freezer. The pin was being aligned for the installation of a new tube.

Moisture forming on the screwdriver and failure to isolate the supply to the light contributed to the accident.

The company involved was to issue an alert notice to all staff.

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## Practising Licence Renewal

*The 2007/2008 annual practising licensing round has commenced.*

*Here are a few of the most commonly asked questions about re-licensing answered for your information:*

### Why do I have to have a practising licence?

All registered electrical workers must hold a practising licence if they carry out prescribed electrical work for reward. This is a requirement of Section 95 of the Electrical Act 1992.

### What does this mean to me?

Most importantly, your valid practising licence tells your clients that you are a qualified electrical professional. It proves that you are legally allowed to carry out electrical work and that you are up to date on current safety procedures. Your practising licence is an important business tool. It gives the public (your clients) reassurance about your competency.

### What do I have to do?

Look out for an email (if you have given us your email address) or your personalised practising licence pack. Information Packs will be mailed during May to the latest address we have for you on the database.

When you receive the pack either;

1. Apply online following the instructions outlined in your pack and make payment by credit card for \$92 or
2. Complete the personalised practising licence application enclosed, sign and return with your cheque or credit card payment for \$92.

### What about my safety training?

To be eligible for a practising licence, your refresher courses for safe working practices, testing to ensure safety, basic first aid and CPR must be current. This requirement is detailed in Regulation 26 of the Electrical Regulations 1997.

### What if I am not doing prescribed electrical work for reward and don't need a practising licence?

If you do not need a practising licence please tell us by sending the form back with the relevant details.

### Important Note:

If you know that your safety training will expire before 30 June 2007 – Update it now!

Expired or incomplete safety training is the most common reason for practising licence applications to be held up. Courses for training fill very quickly – so beat the crowds and do it now! "

**MEDIA RELEASE:**

# Electrical apprentices prepare for opportunity of a lifetime



**Auckland – March 14, 2006**

ETITO has just announced the names of six electrical apprentices who are off on the opportunity of a lifetime – a 21-day Outward Bound programme at Anakiwa in the Marlborough Sounds. This specialist programme is tailored specifically for Industry Training Organisations [ITOs] and their apprentices to foster leadership and motivate young people to set career goals that will keep them in the industry.

New Zealand's electrical industry is facing a serious skill shortage and this initiative is just one of the ways ETITO is working with employers to develop emerging young leaders for the future, covering all travel and programme costs for the six apprentices.

Electrical employers were invited by ETITO to nominate an apprentice to participate in the programme who demonstrated leadership potential and met the selection criteria. Paul Hollings, ETITO Electrotechnology Portfolio Manager says the calibre of applications was extremely high.

“Their training performance both off and on the job demonstrates a genuine commitment to the electrical industry and the reports from their employers and training managers support that. The programme will challenge these apprentices to the core, encouraging them to take on new levels of responsibility and assist them in developing their career potential. It will be invaluable.”

The six successful ETITO apprentices who will join apprentices and trainees from other ITOs at Outward Bound on Saturday 2nd June are:

**Reyahn Leng**, The Electrical Training Company, Auckland

**Burnard James**, Singer Electrical, Auckland

**Shane Lynam**, B W Henderson, Papakura, Auckland

**Malcolm Paine**, Ward Chandler, Waikato

**Monique Leather**, The Electrical Training Company, Wellington

**Sean Thurlow**, The Electrical Training Company, Nelson

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## ETITO

ETITO is a multi-industry Industry Training Organisation [ITO], providing solutions relating to the capability of people to eleven New Zealand industry sectors, including the electrical industry.

Recognised by government and our industries as the national standards setting body, ETITO works with industry develop skill standards and qualifications; manage national training systems; provide skills leadership and; subsidise industry engagement in national qualifications training.

[www.etito.co.nz](http://www.etito.co.nz)