



ISSUE NO 40

APRIL 2008

This issue of ELECTRON provides details of the Board's November 2007 national examination round. In excess of two thousand candidates attempted examinations in the round and it is pleasing to note that 74.5% of candidates were successful with their exams. It is also pleasing to note that the EWLG completed the despatch of Board examination results by 11 January 2008.

- An article relating to the important question of segregation of cables appears in this issue of ELECTRON and I would encourage all people who are involved in the installation of cables operating at extra low voltage to note the information contained in the article.

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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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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 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.

Segregation of cables

The Board recently considered an enquiry as to whether or not the installation of "computer cabling" which operates at extra low voltage, satisfied the requirements of regulation 69A of the Electricity Regulations 1997 (the regulations) when installed in close proximity to Tough Plastic Sheath cable operating at low voltage.

Regulation 69A (1) states;

"Except as provided in regulation 72(3), electrical installations must comply with clauses 1.6 to 1.10, 2.2 and 3.5.2 of AS/NZS 3000."

The regulations define AS/NZS 3000 as AS/NZS 3000:2000.

The cable in question had its maximum operating voltage described as "30 V RMS (UL AWM Style 2919); 300 V RMS".

As the enquiry raised a number of issues the Board sought independent advice from a reputable testing laboratory and was advised by that laboratory that the manufacturer of the cable had notified that the "300V RMS" description on the cable related to a flame rating and not a voltage rating.

The Board was further advised that the manufacturer had emphasised to the reputable testing laboratory that the cable is designed to operate at up to 30 volts and not designed to operate at 300 volts.

The Board noted the cable manufacturer's advice and accepted the conclusion of the independent reputable testing laboratory that the cable described as "30 V RMS (UL AWM Style 2919); 300 V RMS" does not comply with the requirements of AS/NZS 3000: 2000 and therefore does not comply with regulation 69A of the regulations.

The Board is aware that "computer cabling" may be being installed in close proximity to Tough Plastic Sheath cable operating at low voltage and would like the industry to note the above mentioned cable manufacturer's advice and the conclusion of the independent reputable testing laboratory.

Agreement to register electricians trained in the Cook Islands

The Board recently approved a proposal from the ETITO for the registration of electricians trained in the Cook Islands. The new agreement will enable electricians from the Cook Islands to obtain a Certificate of Attainment which will be a prerequisite for electrician registration under the Electricity Act 1992.

The agreement is based on the successful Trans Tasman electrician training regime where trainees are trained on the same competencies in both Australia and New Zealand.

While the Cook Islands proposal is a customised version of the Australasian version, the proposal contains all

sixty six registration/licensing competencies agreed on by the Board and the Australian licensing authorities.

The Board's electrician level theoretical and regulations examinations form an integral part of the proposed Certificate of Attainment in that the examinations are used as specific Unit Standard measurement tools.

Electrical Inspector and Electrical Service Technician Examination Prescriptions and Teaching Guidelines

In November 2006 and July 2007 the Board sought comment from interested parties on draft teaching guidelines for Electrical Inspectors and Electrical Service Technicians and a total of eleven submissions were received and considered by the Board.

The Board has approved and released revised electrical inspector and electrical service technician teaching guidelines and these are available on the Board's website at www.ewrb.govt.nz

The release of the Electrical Inspector and Electrical Service Technician Teaching Guidelines is consistent with

sections 74 and 77 of the Electricity Act 1992 and do not reflect any decisions the Board may make in relation to future categories of registration as required by the Electricity Amendment Act 2006.

Output Agreement with Minister

The Board has entered into an Output Agreement with the Minister for Building and Construction.

The Output Agreement establishes performance expectations for the outputs provided by the Board and enables the Minister to monitor the Board, and hold the Board accountable for its performance.

Examination report

The Board recently released a report on the November 2007 examination round to all training providers.

Candidates achieved an overall pass rate of 74.5% which compares reasonably favourably with the November 2006 overall result of 78%.

As reported in issue 32 of ELECTRON in November 2006 the number of candidates for one examination round

exceeded two thousand for the first time and that trend has continued with two thousand and twenty seven candidates sitting the November 2007 examinations.

The following chart summarises the results of the November 2007 examination round;

	Number of candidates	Number of candidates who passed	Percentage passed
ESTA	384	295	77
ESTB	181	138	76
Elec. Regulations	640	431	67.5
Elec. Theory	685	527	77
TEWC	2	2	100
Elec. Inspector	129	111	86
E Security	6	6	100
November 2006	2027	1510	74.5

In issue 32 of ELECTRON the Board noted from the November 2006 electrician regulations and theoretical answer scripts that most candidates did not know the effects of transposing conductors. Accordingly the Board requested that all people involved with training, tutoring and supervising in the industry take action to ensure that the fundamental issue of the transposition of conductors be addressed.

The Board is pleased to now note from the November 2007 electrician level examinations that the questions relating to phase/neutral transpositions have been very well answered with candidates demonstrating a good understanding of the issue.

Congratulations

The Board would like to congratulate training providers and other people involved in tutoring and supervising for the time and effort put into making examination candidates aware of the important subject of transpositions.

The November 2007 examination report is available for viewing on the Board's website at www.ewrb.govt.nz

TECHNICAL AND GENERAL QUESTION CORNER

Q I have had a complaint laid against me and I wish to put my case to the Board but I am not sure what information I am allowed to have on the complaint. Would you explain what information I am allowed to have?

A The Board makes every effort to ensure that it conducts all of its business in an open and transparent manner and that is directly in line with the Board's strategic initiative to make all relevant information available.

In the area of complaint hearings the Board requires that all information the Board is considering is made available to the registered person against whom a complaint has been laid.

The information generally consists of the initial complaint, a Complaints Assessment Committee report and any correspondence relating to the complaint.

From time to time the Board may seek professional technical or legal advice on aspects of complaints and that type of advice is also made available to the registered person against whom a complaint has been laid.

Q I have heard that the Board has agreements with organisations and I was wondering who those organisations are and what the agreements are for?

A The Board does have agreements with a number of organisations and details of industry type agreements are as follows;

Agreement with Industry Training Organisations

The Board has Agreements with the Electrotechnology Industry Training Organisation and the Electricity Supply Industry Training Organisation for the registration of people who train as electricians, electrical service technicians and line mechanics.

Agreements with Site Safe

The Board has an Agreement with Site Safe and the Agreement is one where the safety refresher course associated with the agreement integrates the Site Safe Passport and Board Practising Licence refresher course prescription requirements.

The Agreement ensures that any duplication in training is removed and as such people wanting to be issued with a Passport/Practising licence are only required to satisfactorily complete a safety refresher course conducted in accordance with Site Safe and Board criteria.

Agreements with Industry Organisations

The Board has Agreements with the Electrical Contractors Association of New Zealand and the Appliance and Electronic Industry Association of New Zealand.

The purpose of the two Agreements is to classify members of both organisations as low risk in the Board's electrical worker audit strategy.

The following article has been provided by the Electrotechnology Training Organisation (ETITO).



How to make an apprenticeship work for you

Training apprentices is about making a valuable investment in the future of our industry. But it's not always smooth sailing. So ETITO has some tips and advice on how to make producing qualified and highly skilled tradespeople that much easier.

Tips from ETITO Training Managers

Selecting the right apprentice is imperative. Don't just take on your neighbour's son because he's available, choose someone with initiative, practical skills, maths ability and a desire to work in the industry.

Outline expectations. ETITO suggests that the employer and the apprentice sit down at the beginning of an apprenticeship to explain the work ahead to the apprentice. And to ensure the apprentice really gets off on the right foot, include your ETITO training manager in this session.

Having a training plan is the first step to ongoing success. Set goals for your apprentice to work towards and establish times to review your apprentice's progress – perhaps at the one, three and six month marks.

Show you care. If the employer is aware of what the apprentice is learning at tech it means they can reinforce the theory in the workplace and the apprentice will learn much more quickly.

Every day, ask yourself 'what can I teach today?' It will help keep training at the forefront of your mind.

Give your apprentice plenty of opportunity, recognition and value them as part of the team. It will make them want to stay with you once they've qualified. And even if they do leave and head off overseas, they're more likely to come back to you.

Tips from employers like you:

"Setting goals is an important part of an apprenticeship. To keep apprentices enthusiastic, encourage them to be self motivated and set their own goals. They usually want to achieve their goals each day and more often than not, work

longer than they should do," STEVE BURKE, DIRECTOR, STEVE BURKE ELECTRICAL, WELLINGTON.

"Liaise with your ETITO training manager or tech tutors to get regular feedback on apprentices' progress. That way, if there's a weakness somewhere, it can be worked on," BRUCE PEARSON, GENERAL MANAGER, B&M ELECTRICAL, PALMERSTON NORTH.

"Encouraging apprentices rather than finding fault works best. If I focus on the positives apprentices tend to move on more quickly," STEVE BURKE.

"Reminding apprentices to ask questions is important. It's also important to make sure that tradespeople are available to answer them," MARK RAWSON, MANAGER, PLUNKET ELECTRICAL, OAMARU.

"Be patient with your apprentices and remember you were an apprentice once!" RUSSELL HEYWOOD, ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING CONTRACTING MANAGER, MCKAY, WHANGAREI.

"Make sure you monitor your apprentices. Keep note of where they are at in their Workplace Logbook and give them responsibility as soon as you can," STEVE BURKE.

"Don't despair if an apprentice goes off on an O.E. Often they will come back and it's good for their personal development to work for someone else. More often than not they will realise that your company was a good one to work for after all!" BRUCE PEARSON.

If you'd like more advice on how to train apprentices, please contact your ETITO Training Manager.