



**ISSUE NO 38**

**DECEMBER 2007**

This issue of ELECTRON contains details of the number of people entering the industry and it is very pleasing to see that this year the number of new entrants is nearly one thousand. The Board acknowledges the efforts of those in the industry who enter into training agreements and for the ongoing commitment of passing on valuable skills.

The Board had a productive year in which it entered into new and revised agreements with industry organisations. It is anticipated that the level of development achieved during the year will continue into the new year.

On behalf of the Board I would like to thank the many people in the industry who provide support and feedback on the many aspects of the Board's operations and I would like to wish everyone in the industry all the very best for the festive season.



**John Sickels**

RegistrarManager EWLG

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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](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.

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## Board meeting dates for 2008

The Board has set the following meeting dates for 2008 and these are as follows;

- Wednesday 23 and Thursday 24 January 2008 (Friday 25 if required)
  - Wednesday 13 and Thursday 14 February 2008 (Friday 15 if required)
  - Wednesday 19 and Thursday 20 March 2008
  - Monday 21 and Tuesday 22 April 2008
  - Wednesday 21 and Thursday 22 May 2008 (Friday 23 if required)
  - Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26 June 2008 (Friday 27 if required)
  - Wednesday 23 and Thursday 24 July 2008 (Friday 25 if required)
  - Wednesday 20 and Thursday 21 August 2008 (Friday 22 if required)
  - Monday 22 and Tuesday 23 September 2008 (Wednesday 24 if required)
  - Wednesday 22 and Thursday 23 October 2008 (Friday 24 if required)
  - Wednesday 19 and Thursday 20 November 2008 (Friday 21 if required)
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## Board examination policy relating to AS/NZS 3000:2007

Standards New Zealand has recently published Standard AS/NZS 3000:2007 and as the 3000 series of Standards form an integral part of the Board's examinations the Board wishes to advise the industry that;

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| <p>(a) until AS/NZS 3000:2007 is cited in the Electricity Regulations 1997 the Board's examination papers will be produced so that questions can be answered from either AS/NZS 3000:2000 or AS/NZS 3000:2007; and</p> <p>(b) until AS/NZS 3000:2007 is cited in the Electricity Regulations 1997 the Board's examination answer scripts will provide space for candidates to indicate from which edition of AS/NZS 3000 answers were obtained; and</p> <p>(c) when AS/NZS 3000:2007 is cited in the Electricity Regulations 1997 the Board's examination papers will relate to AS/NZS 3000:2007.</p> <p>(d) all other Board examination policy remains unchanged.</p> | <p>Please note:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The Board will advise in advance the date from which examinations will relate to AS/NZS 3000:2007.</li><li>2. If AS/NZS 3000:2007 is cited in the Electricity Regulations 1997 during the second half of a tutorial year, the date from which examinations will relate to AS/NZS 3000:2007 will be 1 January of the following year.</li><li>3. Examination prescriptions and teaching guidelines will be amended when AS/NZS 3000:2007 is cited in the Electricity Regulations 1997.</li></ol> |
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*The following article has been produced by the Electrotechnology Training Organisation (ETITO)*

Every year hundreds of new electricians are turned out for industry... And every year there are hundreds of people behind their success!

Since the 1st January 2007, 991 electrical engineering apprentices have been added to ETITO's training system, 2,277 apprentices have been allocated to training provider courses and 545 qualified electricians have been delivered to industry!

"Taking someone from apprentice to tradesperson really is a team effort," says Paul Hollings, ETITO Industry Training Manager – Electrotechnology and Telecommunications. "There's a team of people behind each and every one of them, providing the systems and assistance needed to help apprentices get through."

As the national standards setting body, ETITO develops the qualifications with, and on behalf of industry, and manages the training system for electrical apprentices, providing training support and subsidies towards the cost of training. ETITO also works with the Board to incorporate the Board's supervision and registration requirements into the ETITO developed qualifications.

The critical workplace training is carried out by the employer, who ensures the apprentice gains sufficient exposure to

relevant activities so they can be adequately trained and then assessed in the workplace. It's also the employer's responsibility to ensure that all training takes place safely, under a satisfactory supervision regime as mandated by the Electricity Act 1992, the Electricity Regulations 1997 and outlined by the Board's supervisory guidelines.

To support the on-job training, there are 15 separate training providers across the country contracted by ETITO to deliver 'off-job' training to apprentices – arming them with the underpinning theoretical knowledge needed to become an electrician.

Paul says that with so many passionate and skilled people working in unison to turn out top notch tradespeople, industry can be sure that tomorrow's tradespeople have the skills and knowledge needed to succeed. "If the apprenticeship training trend continues in 2008, we can look forward to turning out even more qualified tradespeople than the 545 produced this year!"

If you'd like to find out more about the electrotechnology apprenticeship training system, visit [www.etito.co.nz](http://www.etito.co.nz) or contact an ETITO training manager.

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## Underfloor foil insulation

*The Board has noted with concern that during the year three people have died while installing underfloor foil insulation.*

The Board would like to urge the industry to draw to the attention of any homeowner wishing to install foil insulation the following media statement which was released by the Associate Minister of Energy earlier this year.

### Keeping safe when installing underfloor insulation

Associate Energy Minister Harry Duynhoven is warning homeowners to be aware of the risk of electrical shock and

electrocution when installing underfloor thermal insulation using staples.

The warning comes after three homeowners received fatal electric shocks this year when stapling underfloor insulation material into power cables.

- As with any electrical work being carried out, whether in the home or at work, it is essential that any potential hazards or risks are identified and eliminated.

- When stapling underfloor thermal insulation it is essential to keep staples well clear of any power cables.
  - Work preparation must include identification of cable location and, where required, cable protection to eliminate the possibility of stapling the cable.
  - Turning off the power while installing the insulation is recommended, however this action does not necessarily eliminate the hazard. A cable that has been damaged by a staple could still make the aluminium foil live when the power is turned back on and create the same electric shock hazard.
  - Damage to a power cable may result in a fatal electric shock and there is also risk of an electrically initiated fire if an electrical cable is damaged during the installation.
  - Homeowners who have any doubts or concerns about installing underfloor thermal insulation safely should have the work carried out by professional installers," Harry Duynhoven said.
- Homeowners who have any questions or need further advice should contact Energy Safety on free phone 0508 377 4636 or visit: [www.ess.govt.nz](http://www.ess.govt.nz)

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## Expressions of interest for question writers

*The Board is calling for expressions of interest from people who would like to be considered for contract positions as registration examination question writers.*

If you are interested in participating in writing questions for Board examinations please send, before 31 January 2008, a copy of your CV to:

The Registrar  
Electrical Workers Registration Board  
PO Box 10-156  
Wellington

# Results of complaint hearings

## Terence Robert Trembath (E 8929)

A complaint was lodged against Mr Trembath, an electrician from Nelson, by a homeowner.

It was alleged that Mr Trembath carried out prescribed electrical work without a current practising licence, failed to complete a Certificate of Compliance within one day of completion of the work, and failed to issue the Certificate to the owner/occupier within 20 working days.

It was further alleged that when Mr Trembath issued a Certificate of Compliance for this work, the Certificate had been backdated, which made it a false return.

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

- Contravened regulation 39(5) of the Electricity Regulations 1997 by failing to issue a Certificate of Compliance within one day of completion of the work or termination of the contract for work;
- Issued a false return under section 118(1)(d) of the Electricity Act 1992, by back dating a Certificate of Compliance;
- Contravened section 95 of the Electricity Act 1992 by working while not being the current holder of a practising licence;
- Contravened Regulation 40(2) of the Electricity Regulations 1997 by failing to give a Certificate of Compliance to the homeowner within twenty working days of it being issued.

The Board fined Mr Trembath \$1,750.00 and ordered him to pay costs of \$1,000.00.

The decision was appealed in the Nelson District Court which resulted in the Court upholding the Board's decision, but setting the fine to \$1,000.00.

## Electrician

A complaint was lodged against an electrician from South Auckland, by a homeowner.

It was alleged that cables were not protected and that the electrician had failed to protect against direct contact and accordingly had created a situation dangerous to life.

It was further alleged that the electrician failed to adequately test and had furnished a false return by certifying non-compliant work.

The Board considered the complaint and found the electrician guilty of a disciplinary offence in that the electrician;

- Furnished a false return by certifying non-compliant work that had been carried out by others and which included live exposed un terminated conductors.

The Board fined the electrician \$750.00 and ordered the electrician to pay costs of \$1,000.00.

## Comment

Please note that a person who certifies the work must personally test that work in accordance with regulation 37 of the Electricity Regulations 1997, and cannot rely upon tests carried out by others to fulfil this obligation.

## Electrician

A complaint was lodged against an electrician from Timaru, by a homeowner.

It was alleged that the electrician transposed the phase and neutral conductors when replacing metering. As a result of the non-compliant work it was alleged that the electrician had failed to adequately test.

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

- Contravened regulation 37(3) of the Electricity Regulations 1997 by failing to test. Transposed conductors failed both the visual and polarity tests;
- Negligently created a risk to life or limb (electric shock) by transposing phase and neutral conductors, which were not electrically safe.

The Board fined the electrician \$2,250.00 and ordered the electrician to pay costs of \$1,000.00.

# 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 Energy Safety 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 Energy Safety.

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

## Accident 79

An electrician received flash burns to a wrist and hands while changing a 400 volt contactor in a berm-mounted substation.

The neutral lead from a contactor had protruding bare conductors which made contact with an exposed live low-voltage terminal in the transformer, causing a short circuit flashover.

The company involved has reviewed its procedures for this type of work.

## Accident 80

A trainee line mechanic received fractured bones in one foot when a pole that was being unloaded rolled from a truck.

The trainee, who was from another work team, had entered a work zone between the pole and the truck to borrow a shovel.

The pole was fully fitted up with the cross arm and braces and was resting on the cross arm while a sling was being repositioned when it started to roll over.

The trainee was unable to get out of the way in time.

The company involved has reviewed its practice of pole handling and has discontinued the practice of transporting poles with the cross arms fitted.

Also, persons from another work party must not enter a work site without approval from the person having control of the worksite.

## Accident 81

A line mechanic received a fatal electric shock when the line mechanic contacted two live overhead conductors while descending downwards in an elevated work platform through low voltage (400 volt) conductors. The line mechanic somehow contacted two different phase conductors with bare hands.

The company involved is reviewing procedures for working on live-voltage conductors.

