

Welcome to this the first issue of ELECTRON for 2009.

This issue of ELECTRON contains an article on the worrying trend that appears to have developed relating to the fundamental requirement to carry out polarity testing.

The Board has released a discussion paper on its initial position relating to employer licensing and information on the subject can be found in this issue of ELECTRON. The full discussion paper is available for viewing on the Board's website at www.ewrb.govt.nz

The Minister for Building and Construction is seeking expressions of interest from people wishing to be considered for appointment to the Board and details on the subject can also be found in this issue of ELECTRON.

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Sickels".

John Sickels
Registrar/Manager
EWLG



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.

Polarity Testing

Since June 2008 the Board has considered nineteen recommendations to suspend the registrations of;

- eight electricians; and
- seven line mechanics; and
- three electrical inspectors; and
- one electrical service technician.

All of the recommendations related to failure to test prescribed electrical work that had been carried out and, with the exception of work carried out by one line mechanic, all of the work in question involved the transposing of phase and neutral conductors.

It is of considerable concern that within a seven month period the names of nineteen people have been drawn

to the Board's attention for the failure to carry out fundamental polarity tests which are a prerequisite for the safety of both the industry and the public at large.

The failure to carry out polarity tests has the potential to create life threatening situations and also can create serious fire hazards.

The industry is urged to note the concerns relating to polarity testing and take the necessary action to stop a worrying trend.

Technical and General Question Corner

Q When the phase and neutral conductors of overhead electric lines are transposed, why doesn't the service fuse always blow?

A The ability of the service fuse to operate in the event of a phase/neutral transposition is dependant on the fuse rating, characteristics and the impedance of the return fault path.

If the phase and neutral conductors are transposed the earth path will be via the main earthing conductor to the earth electrode only.

As such, if the combined impedance of the earth return path (the main earthing conductor, earth electrode and earth mass all in series) is too high, then insufficient current will flow and the service fuse will not rupture.

Election of Presiding and Deputy Presiding Members

At the January 2009 meeting the Board re-elected Don Pryde as its Presiding Member and Sam Ponga as Deputy Presiding Member.

Don is an electrician from Dunedin and Sam is an electrical inspector from New Plymouth.

Board Meeting Dates 2009

The Board has set its meeting dates for 2009 and these are as follows;

- Wednesday 21 and Thursday 22 January 2009** (Friday 23 if required)
- Wednesday 18 and Thursday 19 February 2009** (Friday 20 if required)
- Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 March 2009** (Wednesday 25 if required)
- Wednesday 22 and Thursday 23 April 2009** (Friday 24 if required)
- Wednesday 20 and Thursday 21 May 2009** (Friday 22 if required)
- Wednesday 24 and Thursday 25 June 2009** (Friday 26 if required)
- Wednesday 22 and Thursday 23 July 2009** (Friday 24 if required)
- Wednesday 26 and Thursday 27 August 2009** (Friday 28 if required)
- Wednesday 23 and Thursday 24 September 2009** (Friday 25 if required)
- Wednesday 21 and Thursday 22 October 2009** (Friday 23 if required)
- Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26 November 2009** (Friday 27 if required)

Examination Dates for 2009

The Board have set its registration examination dates for 2009 and they are as follows;

May 2009

- 2 May Electrical Service Technician "A"
Electronic Security Installer
- 9 May Electrical Service Technician "B"
Tradespersons Electrical Work
Certificate

June 2009

- 20 June Electrical Service Technician "A"
Electronic Security Installer
Electrician Theory
- 27 June Electrical Service Technician "B"
Tradespersons Electrical Work
Certificate
Electrician Regulations

September 2009

- 12 September Electrical Service Technician "A"
Electronic Security Installer
- 19 September Electrical Service Technician "B"
Tradespersons Electrical Work
Certificate

November 2009

- 21 November Electrical Service Technician "A"
Electronic Security Installer
Electrician Theory
Electrical Inspector
- 28 November Electrical Service Technician "B"
Tradespersons Electrical Work
Certificate
Electrician Regulations

Employer Licences

The Electricity Amendment Act 2006 (the Amendment Act) introduced changes to the manner in which employer licences are provided for under the Electricity Act 1992.

The Amendment Act transfers all functions associated with employer licensing to the Board and the Board has released a discussion paper which sets out its initial position in relation to such licensing.

The Board would like to give all interested parties the opportunity to comment on the Board's views on how employer licensing should be governed and managed in the future and the discussion paper has been sent to all persons on the Board/EWLG mailing lists.

The discussion paper is available for viewing on the Board's website at www.e wrb.govt.nz

The Board would appreciate any comments about the implications and impact of the proposals in the discussion paper by 30 March 2009. Comments should be sent to;

The Registrar
Electrical Workers Registration Board
P O Box 10156
WELLINGTON
Or fax (04) 473 2395
Or by e-mail to trish.tchernegovski@dbh.govt.nz

Details on how to make a submission on the discussion paper are contained in the paper.

Examination Report

The Board has released a report on the September 2008 examination round to all training providers.

Candidates achieved an overall pass rate of 83% for the examination round and the Board has noted the good pass rate.

The following chart summarises the results of the September 2008 examination round;

	Number of candidates	Number of candidates who passed	Percentage passed
ESTA	248	207	83.5
ESTB	100	80	80
Electrician Regulations	6	6	100
Electrician Theory	0	0	0
Electrical. Inspector	0	0	0
TEWC	8	7	87.5
E Security	0	0	0
Totals	362	300	83

TRAINING FOR TOMORROW

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



IT HAS TO HAPPEN, AND ETITO'S HERE TO HELP!

Today's unstable economic climate means that planning for the future can be a challenge.

But if the electrotechnology and telecommunications industries want to end the skills shortages that have been a hindrance for the past 10 years, training must continue – regardless of whether the economy is booming or not.

Moreover, training is especially important given the demographic pressures that New Zealand is facing.

Did you know that in the next 10 years around half of all tradespeople in New Zealand are expected to retire?

With such a significant number leaving the workforce, there's an obvious need for a sustained influx of people at the other end.

ETITO is committed to working with industry to minimise the impact of the downturn.

It's not about looking to blame or shame employers who can no longer keep their apprentices.

ETITO is aiming to make the most of an adverse situation – by working with industry to ensure apprentices can complete their apprenticeship and go on to make a valuable contribution to the industry.

For employers who are feeling the pinch, laying off an apprentice may be necessary, but before you do, be sure to talk to an ETITO training manager first.

ETITO is keen to try and make sure the investment in time and money by the apprentice, their employer and government [through ETITO] doesn't go to waste and ETITO training managers may be able to provide a solution, such as a secondment or apprentice-sharing arrangement.

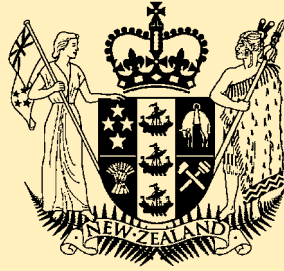
If you've never taken on an apprentice before, or you'd like to add a new apprentice to your team, you may find value in taking on someone who's already started their apprenticeship but now needs a new employer.

Many of these people have already finished a considerable portion of their apprenticeship which means they already possess a lot of practical skills – and are passionate about pursuing a career in this industry.

ETITO training managers may be able to help put you in touch with someone in this situation.

Paul Hollings, ETITO Industry Training Manager – Electrotechnology and Telecommunications, thinks that no matter what, employers need to remember to 'pay-it-forward'. "Without employers who are willing to train, there is no industry. And while most employers support industry training, we need everyone on board if the industry is to make it out the other side of this recession."

"There's no denying we're entering a critical period," says Paul. "The actions employers take now will have an enormous impact on the ability of industry to pick-up again when the economy recovers."



Members of the Electrical Workers Registration Board

The Minister for Building and Construction is seeking expressions of interest from people wishing to be considered for appointment as a member to the Electrical Workers Registration Board.

The Board's statutory functions include registering electrical workers under the Electricity Act 1992, ensuring the competence of registered electrical workers and exercising disciplinary powers. The Board receives professional and administrative support services from the Department of Building and Housing.

Two vacancies are required to be filled by persons who are registered under the Electricity Act 1992 and the other vacancy is required to be filled by a person who is not registered. In particular the Minister is seeking members who, along with an understanding of the profession will bring strong governance skills to the Board. Legal skills would also be desirable.

In order to qualify for Board membership a person must be able to demonstrate:

- High level strategic thinking capabilities
- Governance experience in a Board or Committee environment
- A commitment to promoting public interest and safety
- The desire to promote broad industry objectives

It should be noted that there is a significant time commitment for members of the Board. Applicants are required to make themselves available for up to 50 days per year for considering papers and attending meetings. There are approximately 11 board meetings per year.

Remuneration is in line with State Services Commission guidelines with the Presiding Member and Members receiving \$655 and \$415 per day respectively. The terms of appointment are for up to three years and members may be reappointed for a second term following a further selection process.

For further information and application forms, please contact

Judi Maddever, Advisor – Appointments & Governance, phone 04 470 1078 or email judi.maddever@dbh.govt.nz

Applications close **5pm, Friday 6 March 2009.**

