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This issue of ELECTRON contains information on the appointment of new members to the Electrical Workers Registration Board and the appointments of a new presiding and deputy presiding member.

In February of this year issue 46 of the ELECTRON provided information on nineteen interim suspension of registration recommendations made to the Board. Since February the Board has considered a further eight interim suspension recommendations. The recommendations related to transpositions, connections of neutral conductors and defective work.

The type of work which the interim suspension recommendations related to, can create life threatening situations as well as fire hazards. The industry is urged to take the necessary actions to stop such work being carried out.

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EWLG



Safety • Competency

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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.

Appointments to Electrical Workers Registration Board

The Minister of Building and Construction released the following media release announcing new appointments to the Board.

Building and Construction Minister Maurice Williamson today (2nd July, 2009) announced four appointments to the Electrical Workers Registration Board.

Eddie Eeles has been reappointed for a second term and three new appointments have been made.

The board has seven members, five are required to be registered electrical workers and two lay members.

The new members include:-

Neil McLeod

Mr McLeod is a self employed registered electrical contractor with a current knowledge of the electrical sector. He was a councillor on the Whangarei District Council from 1998 until 2005 serving on a number of committees including the judicial committee.

Michael Macklin

Mr Macklin is a registered electrician and is currently a Director of Bremca Industries, a company specialising in the design, engineering, manufacture and sales of electrical switchgear, automation systems and heating solutions. Mr Macklin was previously employed by the New Zealand Police from 1975 to 1995 with the last seven years in the role of a Court Prosecutor.

Mr David Bradshaw (lay member)

Mr Bradshaw was previously the director of the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) from 1997 to 2007. Prior to

this he was the Office Solicitor for the State Services Commission. Mr Bradshaw will bring a high level of understanding governance principles through his work with regulatory boards at the SFO along with strong disciplinary knowledge and expertise.

Eddie Eeles (re-appointment)

Mr Eeles is a registered electrical inspector who has worked in the electrical industry for over forty years. He has been a company director, a past national president of the Electrical Contractors Association of New Zealand and a founding director of the Electrical Training Company. Mr Eeles was appointed to the Board in 2006.

Notes

These appointments replace Sam Ponga and Bernadine Hannan who have served one term on the board and not sought reappointment. Tom Leong retires after two terms. Eddie Eeles' reappointment takes effect from the end of his current term on 30 November. The Board is a third party funded, non-profit making statutory body and is administered by the Department of Building and Housing.

Election of Presiding and Deputy Presiding Members

During June 2009 the Board elected Eddie Eeles as its Presiding Member and Penny Mudford as Deputy Presiding Member.

Results of disciplinary hearings

HERMAN CHARLES STEVEN (also known as Steven Narayan (EST 12726) and Prasanna Kumar Gopala and Steven Gopala Narayan and Herman Steven Gopala and Prasanna Narayan and Prasanna Kumar and Prasanna Gopala).

PRASANNA KUMAR GOPALA (also known as PILAI (E 242602))

Nine complaints were lodged against Mr Herman Charles Steven (also known by the names listed above) from Auckland, regarding work carried out at separate addresses in the Auckland and South Auckland areas.

During investigations into the complaints it became apparent that Mr Stevens had assumed the identity of Mr Prasanna Kumar Gopala (a registered electrician) to carry out and certify the work which was the subject of the complaints.

This conclusion was supported by information the Board received confirming that Mr Gopala left New Zealand a number of years before the work in question was carried out and certified and had not returned since.

A document examiner also identified the author of the handwriting on certificates of compliance relating to the work in question as Mr Steven's handwriting.

The Board considered the complaints and found Mr Steven guilty of disciplinary offences under section 118 of the Electricity Act 1992 and ordered, amongst other things, that Mr Steven's electrical service technician registration be suspended until he attends and completes an electrical service technician level "A" course of instruction and passes the electrician service technician level "A" written examination and practical assessment and attends a Board approved safety tuition refresher course.

As Mr Gopala left New Zealand over 5 years ago and has not returned since and no reply has been received from Mr Gopala as to whether he wished his name to be retained on the electrical workers register, the Board directed the Registrar to remove Mr Gopala's name from the register.

Please note that while the following complaints may have been lodged by complainants using one of Mr Steven's aliases, for the purposes of the following summary Mr Steven's is referred to as such.

The specific details of the complaints are:

Complaint number 1

A complaint was lodged against Mr Steven by an electrical inspector.

It was alleged that Mr Steven;

- created a risk to life or limb by leaving exposed one end of a live TPS cable inside a meter board,
- carried out prescribed electrical outside the limits of his electrical service technician registration,
- furnished a false return.

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

- contravened section 118(1)(a) of the Electricity Act 1992 by carrying out prescribed electrical work outside the limits of his registration,
- contravened section 118(1)(b) of the Electricity Act 1992 by negligently creating a risk to life or limb,
- contravened section 118(1)(d) of the Electricity Act 1992 by furnishing a false return.

In relation to complaint number 1 Mr Steven's registration was suspended until he attends and completes an electrical service technician level "A" course of instruction and passes the electrician service technician level "A" written examination and practical assessment and attends a Board approved safety tuition refresher course.

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Complaint number 2

A complaint was lodged against Mr Steven by a homeowner.

It was alleged that Mr Steven:

- failed to adequately identify conductors,
- protected a socket outlet in a damp area with wrong type of RCD,
- failed to earth a recessed light fitting,
- carried out prescribed electrical outside the limits of his Electrical Service Technician registration, and
- furnished a false return.

The Board considered the complaint and found Mr Steven guilty of disciplinary offences in that he;

- contravened regulation 70(2) of the Electricity Regulations 1997 by failing to adequately identify conductors,
- contravened regulation 69 of the Electricity Regulations 1997 by protecting a socket outlet in a damp area with the wrong type of RCD, and failing to earth a recessed light fitting,
- contravened section 118(1)(a) of the Electricity Act 1992 by carrying out prescribed electrical work outside the limits of his registration,
- contravened section 118(1)(d) of the Electricity Act 1992 by furnishing a false return.

In relation to complaint number 2 Mr Steven was fined \$500.00.

Complaint number 3

A complaint was lodged against Mr Steven by a homeowner.

It was alleged that Mr Steven;

- carried out prescribed electrical outside the limits of his electrical service technician registration, and
- furnished a false return.

The Board considered the complaint and found Mr Steven guilty of disciplinary offences in that he;

- contravened section 118(1)(a) of the Electricity Act 1992 by carrying out prescribed electrical work outside the limits of his registration,
- contravened section 118(1)(d) of the Electricity Act 1992 by furnishing a false return.

In relation to complaint number 3 Mr Steven was fined \$500.00.

Complaint number 4

A complaint was lodged against Mr Steven by a drainlayer.

It was alleged that Mr Steven;

- failed to install an underground mains cable at the correct depth,
- failed to install an RCD for a switch located in a damp area,
- carried out prescribed electrical outside the limits of his electrical service technician registration, and
- furnished a false return.

The Board considered the complaint and found Mr Steven guilty of disciplinary offences in that he;

- contravened regulation 70(1)(a) of the Electricity Regulations 1997 by failing to mechanically protect cables,
- contravened regulation 90 of the Electricity Regulations 1997 by installing a switch in a damp area without an RCD,
- contravened section 118(1)(a) of the Electricity Act 1992 by carrying out prescribed electrical work outside the limits of his registration,
- contravened section 118(1)(d) of the Electricity Act 1992 by furnishing a false return.

In relation to complaint number 4 Mr Steven was censured and fined \$875.00.

Complaint number 5

A complaint was lodged against Mr Steven by an investigator from the Electrical Workers Licensing Group.

It was alleged that Mr Steven;

- failed to segregate low voltage and extra-low voltage cables,
- failed to protect cables within two metres on the access hatch to the ceiling space,
- carried out prescribed electrical outside the limits of his electrical service technician registration, and
- furnished a false return.

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

- contravened regulation 69A of the Electricity Regulations 1997 by failing to segregate low voltage and extra-low voltage cables,
- contravened regulation 70(1)(a) of the Electricity Regulations 1997 by failing to mechanically protect cables,
- contravened section 118(1)(a) of the Electricity Act 1992 by carrying out prescribed electrical work outside the limits of his registration,
- contravened section 118(1)(d) of the Electricity Act 1992 by furnishing a false return.

In relation to complaint number 5 Mr Steven was censured and fined \$500.00.

Complaint number 6

A complaint was lodged against Mr Steven by an investigator from the Electrical Workers Licensing Group.

It was alleged that Mr Steven;

- failed to protect cables that passed through holes in a metal switchboard cabinet,
- carried out prescribed electrical outside the limits of his electrical service technician registration, and
- furnished a false return.

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

- contravened regulation 70(1)(a) of the Electricity Regulations 1997 by failing to mechanically protect cables,
- contravened section 118(1)(a) of the Electricity Act 1992 by carrying out prescribed electrical work outside the limits of his registration,
- contravened section 118(1)(d) of the Electricity Act 1992 by furnishing a false return.

In relation to complaint number 6 Mr Steven was censured and fined \$500.00.

Complaint number 7

A complaint was lodged against Mr Steven by an investigator from the Electrical Workers Licensing Group.

It was alleged that Mr Steven;

- failed to protect cables that passed through holes in a metal switchboard cabinet,
- failed to install an RCD for a switch located in a damp area,

- carried out prescribed electrical outside the limits of his Electrical Service Technician registration,
- furnished a false return.

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

- contravened regulation 70(1)(a) of the Electricity Regulations 1997 by failing to mechanically protect cables,
- contravened regulation 90 of the Electricity Regulations 1997 by installing a switch in a damp area without an RCD,
- contravened section 118(1)(a) of the Electricity Act 1992 by carrying out prescribed electrical work outside the limits of his registration,
- contravened section 118(1)(d) of the Electricity Act 1992 by furnishing a false return.

In relation to complaint number 7 Mr Steven was censured and fined \$875.00.

Complaint number 8

A complaint was lodged against Mr Steven by an investigator from the Electrical Workers Licensing Group.

It was alleged that Mr Steven;

- failed to protect cables that passed through holes in a metal switchboard cabinet,
- failed to install an RCD for a switch located in a damp area,
- carried out prescribed electrical outside the limits of his electrical service technician registration,
- furnished a false return.

The Board considered the complaint and found Mr Steven guilty of disciplinary offences in that he;

- contravened regulation 70(1)(a) of the Electricity Regulations 1997 by failing to mechanically protect cables,
- contravened regulation 90 of the Electricity Regulations 1997 by installing a switch in a damp area without an RCD,
- contravened section 118(1)(a) of the Electricity Act 1992 by carrying out prescribed electrical work outside the limits of his registration, contravened section 118(1)(d) of the Electricity Act 1992 by furnishing a false return.

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In relation to complaint number 8 Mr Steven was censured and fined \$875.00.

Complaint number 9

A complaint was lodged against Mr Steven by an investigator from the Electrical Workers Licensing Group.

It was alleged that Mr Steven;

- failed to protect cables that passed through holes in a metal switchboard cabinet,
- carried out prescribed electrical outside the limits of his electrical service technician registration, and
- furnished a false return.

The Board considered the complaint and found Mr Steven guilty of disciplinary offences in that he;

- contravened regulation 70(1)(a) of the Electricity Regulations 1997 by failing to mechanically protect cables,
- contravened section 118(1)(a) of the Electricity Act 1992 by carrying out prescribed electrical work outside the limits of his registration,
- contravened section 118(1)(d) of the Electricity Act 1992 by furnishing a false return.

In relation to complaint number 9 Mr Steven was censured and fined \$500.00.

In addition to the above Mr Steven was ordered to pay costs of \$8,000.00, a sum the Board considers just and reasonable towards the costs and expenses of and incidental to the proceedings of the Complaints Assessment Committees in relation to the nine complaints and hearings by the Board.

Polarity testing

Issue 46 of ELECTRON contained information on nineteen interim suspension of registration recommendations made to the Board.

Since the publication of issue 46 of ELECTRON in February 2009 the Board has considered a further eight recommendations to suspend the registrations of;

- six electricians; and
- one line mechanics; and
- one electrical service technician/line mechanic.

The recommendations related to;

- three electricians, one line mechanic and one electrical service technician/line mechanic transposing of phase and neutral conductors; and
- two electricians incorrectly connecting main neutral conductors; and
- one electrician carrying work in a defective manner.

As advised in issue 46 of ELECTRON it is of considerable concern that the names of registered 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.

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