



IN THIS ISSUE

This issue of ELECTRON is dedicated to new requirements originating from the introduction of the Electricity (Safety) Regulations 2010.

A question and answer section has been incorporated in this issue along with information on certificates of compliance which include the new declaration of conformity requirements, essential registration capabilities for all new classes of registration and access to standards.

If there are any questions on any aspects of the new regulations please let us know and both the question and answer will be published in future issues of ELECTRON.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read '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.

Electricity (Safety) Regulations 2010



The following article has been provided by the Ministry of Economic Development

The Electricity (Safety) Regulations 2010 came into force on 1 April 2010, with a two year transition period to allow for full implementation. The Electricity Amendment Act 2006 also came into force on 1 April 2010.

The new Electricity (Safety) Regulations reflect a modern and flexible, risk-based and performance-based framework.

The new regulations:

- replace the old regulations
- continue to set out the safety requirements for the application of electricity, the safety of installations and appliances, and the licensing of workers
- introduce safety management systems (SMS) for large electricity generators and distributors
- provide for a 'soft' transition over a two year period, for the new obligations for SMS to be put in place and audited.

The SMS requirements are flexible and provide for performance based systems to enable compliance to be met by the most appropriate means.

The new regulations modify the requirements for electrical appliances to provide more flexibility without compromising public safety. This will include test reports to recognised

standards, or compliance with essential safety requirements for medium risk and some low risk electrical appliances. This risk based approach provides flexibility to innovate without compromising safe outcomes and is consistent with the World Trade Organisation's approach to appliance safety.

The new regulations also modify the requirements for electrical installations by providing more prescriptiveness, and reinforcing the existing risk based approaches.

The latest version of AS/NZS 3000:2007 is fully implemented together with its companions in the new regulations. Additional requirements are provided for alternative power systems and refrigeration systems.

Certification and testing requirements are expanded, reflecting the inclusion of testing, certification, inspection and supervision in the widened definition of prescribed electrical work.

The regulations also clarify the installation practices can be applied to small works and the requirements applying to high voltage installations and works have been aligned.

Energy Safety has updated its website to reflect the new regulations and it is also preparing a compliance guide.

Classes of registration

Since issue 51 of *ELECTRON* was published in excess of 42,000 letters were sent to all people whose names are recorded on the Board's registers advising of the new classes of registration, limits of work for the new classes, transitional arrangements for registration and the new registers that have been developed.

If there are any questions relating to the information provided in the letters please telephone the Board's contact centre on 0800 66 1000.

TECHNICAL AND GENERAL QUESTION CORNER

Q I understand that the supervisor of electrical work term has been removed from the Act and would you please explain who can now supervise trainees?

A It is correct that term “supervisor of electrical work” is no longer defined in the Electricity Act 1992 and the authority for any person to supervise is obtained through the Board’s limits of work for the new classes of registration. While the previous “supervisor of electrical work” status was subject to a prerequisite three year registration requirement the Board has acknowledged the success of the competency based training programmes and has determined that every person who is registered is entitled to supervise within the limits of work applicable to their own registration unless the Board has placed a limitation on that registration.

Q Is there a regulation that covers the work a trainee is allowed to do?

A Regulation 93 of the Electricity (Safety) Regulations 2010 sets the limits of work for trainees and also makes provision for trainees to assist with all the prescribed electrical work their supervisor is authorised to do.

Q Can a trainee work under the basic supervision part of the Act without a limited certificate?

A Any person, including a trainee, can be work under supervision in accordance with section 76 of the Act however if the trainee worked under that section the trainee would not be able to engage in any work that was connected to a power supply and would not be able to connect any work to a power supply. On the other hand if a trainee worked under a limited certificate issued by the Board the trainee would be able to do the work in question provided the trainee was supervised under such control and direction to ensure that:

- (a) the work is carried out competently, and
- (b) while the work is being undertaken, appropriate safety measures are adopted, and
- (c) the completed work complies with the Electricity (Safety) Regulations 2010.

Q What level of supervision is a trainee required to have and how would I know if the supervision I give is correct?

A Basically the Act requires supervision to be carried under such control and direction to ensure that (a), (b) and (c)

above are satisfied. The Board has approved supervision procedures which provide methods for achieving effective supervision. The supervision procedures can be used as a means of compliance document and can be viewed on the Board’s website at www.ewrb.govt.nz

Q Would you please explain in simple language who a trainee is?

A A trainee is a person who is wishing to be registered in one of the Board’s classes of registration and is receiving instruction or training for the chosen class of registration.

Q Will trainees who have been issued with a limited certificate be subject to Board discipline in the same manner as registered people?

A There is no provision in the Electricity Act 1992 for the Board to use its disciplinary powers against trainees however trainees must work in accordance with the conditions of any limited certificate or the Board could cancel any certificate or place further conditions on it.

Q Is it correct that by issuing limited certificates the Board is trying to exclude trainees from the classes of registration?

A The Board is not attempting to exclude any person, including trainees, from the classes of registration. The Board is issuing limited certificates to trainees to enable the trainees to carry out prescribed electrical work in the same manner as they have done for many decades.

Q Is a declaration of conformity only applicable for work carried out in accordance with Part 1 of AS/NZS 3000:2007?

A A declaration of conformity is required for every electrical installation, or part of an electrical installation, that operates at low voltage irrespective of whether the installation complies with either Part 1 or Part 2 of AS/NZS 3000:2007.

Q What is the purpose of a declaration of conformity?

A The purpose of a declaration of conformity is to identify the design of any electrical installation and the supply system with which the installation is compatible.

Q It seems to be an extra cost to have buy and fill out a declaration of conformity and a certificate of compliance for the same work. Do we have to buy and fill out two separate forms?

A The Board has approved a new certificate of compliance which incorporates the declaration of conformity requirements and therefore there is no need to use two forms for the same work. Further detail on the new certificate of compliance is included in this issue of ELECTRON.

Q Now that the regulations relating to examination entry have been removed how do I know what the requirements for examination entry are?

A The Board has a comprehensive set of rules relating to all aspects of Board examinations and those rules are available for viewing on the Board's website at www.ewrb.govt.nz

Certificates of compliance incorporating declarations of conformity

To align with the requirements of the Electricity (Safety) Regulations 2010 the Board has introduced new certificates of compliance. The certificates which incorporate the new declaration of conformity requirements are fundamentally the same as the previous version with the exception of the declaration of conformity section. That section requires detail to be provided of:

- (i) the design of any electrical installation, or part of an installation (ie Part 1 or Part 2 of AS/NZS 3000:2007);
- (ii) the Issuer (Designer);
- (iii) the location of work;
- (iv) a description of the electrical installation, or part of the installation, to which the declaration applies;
- (v) detail of the supply system (ie 230V/400V).

How to use the new certificate of compliance

Customer information

Please complete the certificate of compliance clearly and include:

- The customer's name, and contact details;
- The address of the electrical installation.

Declaration of conformity

Please identify:

- The design of the installation;
- The supply system of the installation.

Work details

The work details should be plainly stated. Please use the boxes provided to assist with the description of the work and if necessary attach extra pages.

Certification of work

Please complete the certification of work details in all cases.

Inspection details

Where the work requires inspection in accordance with the Electricity (Safety) Regulations 2010, the inspection section of the certificate of compliance must be completed by an electrical inspector.

General electrical worker responsibilities

If prescribed electrical work is carried out on a low voltage installation, or part of such an installation, and involves the placing, replacing or repositioning of conductors or fittings attached to conductors, the work must be certified in accordance with regulation 67 of the Electricity (Safety) Regulation 2010.

The certification of work must be done;

- As soon as practicable after the work has been completed but in any case no later than 3 days after the completion of the work;
- In any other case, no later than the end of the day after the day on which the contract for the work terminates;
- Every certificate of compliance must be given to the person who commissioned the work or the occupier of the premises where the work was done within 20 days after the work was completed;
- Every certificate of compliance must be retained for three years by the person certifying the work, and if the work has been inspected, by the person inspecting the work.

Essential capabilities for all classes of registration

Eight years ago the Board introduced a registration system for electricians which has Trans Tasman electrical registration competencies incorporated into the national qualification framework with Board examinations used as measurement tools for specific unit standards. That system has proved to be very sound and robust and has been commended and widely adopted by the electrical industry and Industry Training Organisations. The Board has used that system as a model for the new classes of registration and has approved specific essential capabilities for all classes of registration.

A key aspect of the approach being taken by the Board is the opportunity for people to progress through the electrical registration competencies without the need to undertake complete retraining when a person wishes to aspire to a different class of registration. This will be achieved by a series of stepping blocks that can be built upon at any time to advance a persons skills and competencies in electrical work.

Discussions are being held with the Electrotechnology and Electricity Supply Industry Training Organisations on the introduction of the essential capabilities into the national qualifications.

Limited Certificates for Trainees and Supervision Procedures

As advised in issue 51 of ELECTRON The Board has approved the requirements for the issuing of limited certificates for trainees and supervision procedures. The requirements and procedures are available for viewing on the Board's website at www.ewrb.govt.nz

Access to standard specifications

The Electricity (Safety) Regulations 2010 cite a number of standard specifications and readers are reminded that the holders of valid Board practising licences and trainees who have limited certificates can access the Standards New Zealand database through the internet to view, download and print the latest versions of electronic standards files.

How can the Standards be accessed?

If you hold a valid Board practising licence or a trainee limited certificate issued by the Board go to Electrical Workers login at ewr.dbh.govt.nz/onlineAccount/Login.aspx

Enter your Username and Password, go to Standards NZ Menu option, this will take you through to the Standards NZ website.

Please note that while you are on the Standards New Zealand website you can also use other facilities on that site, however those facilities may be subject to restrictions.

Please contact Standards New Zealand if you require further information about that organisation's website facilities.

Please also remember that the Agreement with Standards New Zealand is a much valued one and as such all file keys issued by the Board should be treated in the same manner as PIN numbers for bank cards.

2010/2011 Re-Licensing

The 2010/2011 annual re-licensing round will begin shortly.

In the first instance the electrical workers register will be clocked over to allow the receipt of 2010/2011 licence applications.

Once this is complete an email will be sent to all registered electrical workers the Board hold an email address for. This email will advise that practising licences can now be applied for and will encourage licences to be applied for online at <https://ewr.dbh.govt.nz/onlineAccount/Login.aspx>

Details on how to apply for a licence online will also be included in the email.

In early June an information pack will be sent to all registered persons who are still to apply for a practising licence. An application form will also be included in the information pack.

If you need to attend safety refresher training a list of people/organisations that have agreed to offer training in line with the Boards requirements and those who offer CPR and basic first aid training are listed on the Board website at <http://www.ewrb.govt.nz/content/whatsnewdocs/TrainingProvidersApr09.pdf>

New teaching guidelines

With the introduction of the new classes of registration and associated limits of work the Board has approved new teaching guidelines for the following classes of registration;

- electrician
- electrical installer
- electrical service technician
- electrical appliance serviceperson (endorsed to disconnect and connect)
- electrical appliance service person

Copies of the new teaching guidelines have been forwarded to all training providers on the Board's mailing lists and the documents are also available for viewing on the Board's website at www.ewrb.govt.nz

It is envisaged that in the near future teaching guidelines will be available for the following classes of registration;

- electrical installer
- electrical engineer
- associated tradesperson

Teaching guidelines for the line mechanic and cable jointer classes of registration are presently under development.

