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In July 2010 the Board approved the release of a discussion paper on proposed rules for employer licensing and information on the subject is contained in this issue of ELECTRON. The Board is seeking comment on the proposed rules and I would encourage the industry to provide comment to the Board on this aspect of our licensing system.

This issue of ELECTRON contains another question and answer section. This section is proving to be a popular part of ELECTRON and if there are any questions any person would like answered on the Board's operations or the electricity legislative and regulatory requirements please let us know.

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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.e wrb.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.

Employer Licences

During April 2009 a discussion paper was released which set out the Board's initial position in relation to employer licensing and the discussion paper attracted fourteen submissions. At that time the Board agreed, with the exception of transitioning existing employer licences into the Board's systems, to hold further development on such licences in abeyance until the new electricity regulations were introduced.

As the Electricity (Safety) Regulations 2010 have now been in place for over three months the Board has approved the release of a further discussion paper to enable interested parties to consider proposed rules of the Board for employer licensing.

The discussion paper has been forwarded to all employer licence holders and 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 proposed rules in the discussion paper by 3 September 2010.

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

Examination Reports for May and June

The Board has released a report for the May 2010 examination round and comment on June 2010 round.

In the May examination round candidates received an overall pass rate of 76%.

The following chart summarises the results of the May 2010 examination round;

	Number of candidates	Number of candidates who passed	Percentage passed
EAS	154	117	76
EST	67	52	78
Totals	221	169	77

In the June examination round candidates received an overall pass rate of 58%. The pass rates for electrical appliance serviceperson and electrical service technician were very good at 86% and 83% respectively and the pass rates for electrician regulations and electrical inspector were good at 65%. However the pass rate of 27% for electrician theory was disappointing.

A report of the May 2010 examination round is available for viewing at www.e wrb.govt.nz

The following chart summarises the results of the June 2010 examination round;

	Number of candidates	Number of candidates who passed	Percentage passed
EAS	348	297	86
EST	89	74	83
Electrician regulations	848	553	65
Electrician theory	561	153	27
Electrical inspector	45	29	65
Totals	1,891	1,106	58

Review of the June 2010 examination results

The Board has reviewed the June 2010 examination round results and is concerned at the unusually low pass rate for the electrician theory examination.

The Board has considered reports from its Chief Examiner on the examination, comments from examination markers and two letters on behalf of seven candidates. No comment had been received on the examination paper from the electrical tutors at the time of the Board's review and the Board will be making further enquiries from electrical tutors to seek to understand why there was such a low pass rate in this particular examination.

The comments received to date would indicate that the questions asked in the examination are within the Teaching Guidelines published by the Board and are in line with the competency based training systems under which candidates work.

In the meantime, and to ensure no candidate is disadvantaged, the Board will be offering all candidates who failed the examination the opportunity to sit another electrician level theory examination at no cost. The Board will consider the results of that examination as part of its analysis of the June 2010 examination result.

TECHNICAL AND GENERAL QUESTION CORNER

Q In your last answer section you said that every installation that operates at low or extra low voltage must comply with either Part 1 or Part 2 of AS/NZS 3000:2007. I wire a lot of single phase domestic installations that are protected by 60 amp fuses and I was wondering if all domestic installations are treated the same?

A Regulation 57 states that every installation that operates at low or extra low voltage must comply with Part 1 or Part 2 of AS/NZS 3000:2007 however a "domestic installation" is subject to regulation 60.

Regulation 60 states that;

"A person who installs a domestic installation that has a maximum demand at or below 80 amperes single phase or 50 amperes per phase in multi-phase must ensure that the installation complies with Part 2 of AS/NZS 3000".

It follows that when a single phase domestic installation has a maximum demand of less than 80 amperes it must be wired in accordance with Part 2 of AS/NZS 3000:2007.

Q Do trainees require a limited certificate to assist with prescribed electrical work?

A Any person, including a trainee, can 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.

Q The Board's new certificates of compliance include a declaration of conformity. Does this mean that I have to treat the new declarations as a Statutory Declaration?

A Declarations of conformity are not Statutory Declarations required to be made under the Oaths and Declarations Act. Whenever a Statutory Declaration is required under the Electricity (Safety) Regulations 2010 it is clearly stated. An example of when a Statutory Declaration is required can be found at regulation 53.

Q In ELECTRON 53 an answer was given to a question about warrants of electrical fitness. Just so I am clear, who can issue a warrant of electrical fitness for a connectable installation that has had no electrical work carried out on it for over five years?

A An electrical inspector or a person, who immediately before the Electricity (Safety) Regulations 2010 came into force, was authorised by the Secretary to issue warrants of electrical fitness under regulation 97 of the superseded Electricity Regulations 1997.

Audit results for work carried out under Certificates of Compliance

The Board has recently considered the results of audits that had been carried out on work that had been certified under the certificate of compliance system.

The Board audited work recorded on 857 certificates of compliance and of that number 9% were considered not to fully comply with the regulatory requirements. The main issues that were identified were;

- I. Non protection of cables
- II. No labelling of switchboards

The Board will continue to monitor work carried out under the certificate of compliance system and this year 500 audits are programmed to be undertaken.

Responsibility for prescribed electrical work

Over recent months the Board has become concerned that some registered and licensed people have indicated that they accept responsibility for prescribed electrical work that has been carried out in contravention of the Act and regulations.

The Board wishes to remind the industry of the importance of upholding the confidence in the electrical wiring regime, by ensuring that electrical work is only carried out by those who are properly trained and qualified and the confidence placed in certificates of compliance by home owners and prospective property purchasers.

As such the Board will not condone instances where registered and licensed people attempt to legitimate prescribed electrical work that unauthorised people carry out in contravention of the legislative and regulatory requirements.

Fittings and appliances

Issues relating to whether fittings and appliances are electrically safe have been drawn to the Board's attention and the Board would like to draw the industry's attention to regulation 80 of the Electricity (Safety) Regulations 2010 which requires that every new and used fitting and appliance that is sold or offered for sale to be electrically safe.

The regulation provides detail on how the electrically safe aspect can be achieved.

Investigations Report

Recent investigations undertaken in relation to non registered people working in contravention of the Electricity Act 1992 have resulted in a number of prosecutions. The following is a summary of recent prosecutions;

Prosecution 5

Mr Jamison Corke appeared in the Nelson District Court on 29 October 2009, charged with two offences under the Act for doing unauthorised prescribed electrical work.

The work related to two residential properties and included the issuing of certificates of compliance with a false registration number.

Mr Corke was fined \$1,600 and ordered to pay Court costs of \$260 and solicitors fees of \$250.

Prosecution 6

Mr Brent Pedersen appeared in the Wellington District Court on 1 December 2009, charged with four offences against the Act.

Two charges related to doing unauthorised prescribed electrical work and two were for Mr Pedersen holding himself out as a registered person under the Act (by signing certificates of compliance, using a false registration number).

The Judge adopted a global approach to the offending, adopting a starting point of \$5,000 for the offending, which was reduced for early guilty pleas, and the fact that reparation had been paid.

Mr Pedersen was fined \$3,000 and ordered to Court Costs of \$520 and Solicitor's fees of \$250.

Prosecution 7

On 15 December 2009 Mr Sean Rohloff was sentenced in the New Plymouth District Court for doing unauthorised prescribed electrical work.

Mr Rohloff was fined \$200 and ordered to pay Court costs of \$130 and Solicitor's fees of \$250.

Prosecution 8

Mr Hayden Payne appeared in Christchurch District Court on 22 January 2010 charged with doing unauthorised prescribed electrical work.

The work related to the installation of a three-way heat transfer system.

Mr Payne was fined \$1,600 and ordered to pay Court costs of \$130 and Solicitor's fees of \$250.

Prosecution 9

Mr Chris Lange appeared in the Christchurch District Court on 22 January 2010 charged with one offence under the Act, for doing unauthorised prescribed electrical work.

The work related to electrical wiring during the conversion of a bus to a motor home.

The Judge took a starting point of \$4,000. This was reduced by \$1,000, to take account of a sum withheld under the purchase agreement and he was then given credit for his guilty plea.

Taking into account Mr Lange's difficult financial circumstances, the fine of \$2,400 was reduced to \$1,000 and he was ordered to pay Court costs of \$130 and Solicitor's fees of \$250.

Prosecution 10

Following a defended hearing at the North Shore District Court on 19 March 2010, Mr Peter Vandenberg, a director of Atlas Plumbing Limited, was convicted of two offences against the Act.

The offences related to causing an apprentice plumber to perform unauthorised prescribed electrical work during the installation of a hot water cylinder and causing work to be done on that hot water cylinder in a manner that was dangerous to life.

Mr Vandenberg was fined a total of \$3,500 and ordered to pay Court costs of \$260 and solicitor's fees of \$350.

Prosecution 11

Mr Sloan Frost was sentenced in the Hamilton District Court on 15 April 2010 in relation to two charges of doing unauthorised prescribed electrical work under the Act.

The work involved the installation of two heat pumps in domestic residences.

Mr Frost was fined a total of \$500 and ordered to pay Court costs of \$130.



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.

This vacancy is required to be filled by a person who is registered or entitled to be registered under the Electricity Act 1992. In particular, the Minister is seeking candidates with electricity supply sector knowledge and experience.

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. The successful applicant will be required to make their self 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 term of appointment is for up to three years.

Further information and application forms are available on our website <http://www.dbh.govt.nz>, or please contact:

Judi Maddever, Advisor – Appointments & Governance, phone 04 817 4878 or email governance@dbh.govt.nz

Applications close 5pm, Friday 6 August 2010.