



ISSUE NO 33

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This issue of ELECTRON contains information provided by the Ministry of Economic Development on the Electricity Amendment Act 2006. That Act makes a number of changes to the Electricity Act 1992 and some of those changes have a direct influence on registered people.

One of the main changes in the Electricity Amendment Act 2006 that relates to registered people is that instead of registration categories being listed in legislation the Board has the responsibility for setting the categories in line with guiding principles set down in the amended legislation.

The Board is also required to consult with stakeholders on matters such as registration categories.

The Board has discussed proposed registration categories for the future and, to commence the consultation process, a discussion paper on the subject has been sent to all people/organisations who have their names on the Board's mailing lists. The discussion paper can also be viewed on the Board's website at www.ewrb.govt.nz



John Sickels
Registrar/Group
Manager EWL

This issue of ELECTRON also contains details of the Board's registration category proposals and gives details on how comments on the proposals should be made.

As registered people are considered to be key stakeholders in the Board decision making process I would encourage all people to closely consider the new registration category proposals and provide comment.

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Safety • Competency

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Improved regime for energy safety – new legislation

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

On 23 November 2006, Parliament amended the Electricity Act 1992 and Gas Act 1992, and introduced a new Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Act.

The amended and new legislation will ensure continued access to safe and reliable energy for everyday use and for use in industry.

The legislation also requires electricity generators and distributors and gas network

owners, to have safety management systems in place as a new initiative to minimise the public's exposure to risk. It also introduces consistent regimes for the electricity and gas sectors based on the registration of workers, competency-based licensing, updated procedures for addressing complaints against workers, and updated enforcement provisions.

Occupational Regulation Provisions

Broadly, the legislation introduces consistent regimes for workers in the electricity and gas sectors based on the registration of workers, competency-based licensing, updated procedures for addressing complaints against workers and updated enforcement provisions.

The Electrical Workers Registration Board and the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board will play a critical role in the successful implementation of this legislation. They have been delegated the responsibility for the registration and licensing of their workers.

The legislation includes a number of checks and balances to ensure these responsibilities are properly discharged. For example, the Boards must act in accordance with clear principles guiding registration and licensing. Other accountability mechanisms are outlined below.

Registration and licensing regime – The registration and licensing regime will be more flexible to allow for specialist registration categories and for competencies to be specified for the particular work authorised under each registration category.

Competency-based licensing – Another important feature of the legislation is to

provide for competency-based licensing. This will ensure that before a worker is issued with a new licence, his or her competence is up-to-date, for example, in relation to the use of new equipment and changes in standards and regulations.

Exemptions from the licensing regime – Most exemptions from the licensing regime for doing prescribed electrical work continue, but the electrical exemptions for registered persons not working for payment or reward, and for “qualified engineers” are not carried forward. There is however a more general provision for the Boards to grant exemptions.

Employer licences – Employer licences will continue in the electricity and gas industries. These licences have been used for over 10 years and are an alternative to individual worker licences, but they still require the same high level of competency of workers.

Complaints against electrical workers – The arrangement for assessing complaints against electrical workers has been substantially changed, with the role of complaints assessment committees being replaced by the appointment of one or more investigators who investigate complaints and, if considered warranted, prosecute the case before the Electrical Workers Registration Board. Frivolous or vexatious do not, however, have to be investigated. The Plumbers, Gasfitters

and Drainlayers Act has generally similar provisions for dealing with complaints.

Accountability of the Boards and Clarity of Roles – The legislation provides greater guidance to the Boards on their roles and on procedures to be followed, and establishes increased accountability of the Boards to the relevant Minister.

There is also greater clarity about the respective roles of the relevant Industry Training Organisation and the Board.

Specifically, the Acts require the Boards to follow guiding principles set down in the Acts, when determining registration and licensing matters. The Boards are also required to consult with stakeholders on key matters such as registration classes, competence programmes, standards, and terms and conditions. The Boards will require the Minister's approval for notices relating to registration classes, standards, terms and conditions.

Electrical Workers Registration Board Membership

The existing Electrical Workers Registration Board is retained, with some amendments to membership to reflect changes in functions (in particular, the new role with respect to employer licences). There are also generally similar changes to the membership of the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board.

Transition Arrangements

Importantly, the legislation provides that existing registrations and licences are carried forward.

The Electrical Workers Registration Board and the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board can now start work on defining new registration categories and standards, and the terms and conditions of registration and licensing. In doing so, the Boards must consider retaining the existing worker registration classes, and they must consult with stakeholders.

The new legislation will come into force in stages, to allow for implementation such

as the introduction of any new registration classes and the completion of regulations.

More information about the implementation of the legislation will be published on the Energy Safety Service website (www.ess.govt.nz) in due course.

Safety Management Systems

The Electricity Amendment Act introduces the added safety net that requires Safety Management Systems to be developed for electricity distribution systems and for large electricity generating plant. Regulations will set out precisely who will need to have in place a safety management system. The Gas Amendment Act introduces similar requirements for gas distribution systems.

The inclusion of safety management systems provides a framework for the owners of these systems to take responsibility for developing their own safety regimes. This approach acknowledges modern risk management concepts.

New Offences

The amendments provide for new offences, including offences in respect of a person intentionally or negligently creating a risk of serious harm or significant property damage, and offences in respect of breaches of the occupational licence conditions.

Penalties for serious harm to a person or serious property damage have been increased to reflect similar penalties in the Health and Safety in Employment Act.

Accident Notification and Investigation

The Electricity Act, Gas Act and Health and Safety in Employment Act require certain accidents to be notified.

The new legislation allows for notification to either of the administering agencies, Energy Safety Service and Department of Labour, as fulfilment of that obligation. This means that from 5 December 2006 industry no longer has to notify an accident to both agencies.

Scope of Prescribed Electrical Work

The definition of prescribed electrical work (PEW) is extended to allow for the inclusion of design, testing, inspection and supervision. However the specific scope and therefore the range of work subject to the licensing regime will continue to be prescribed in regulations as at present.

Development of Regulations

Work is in progress to amend the Electricity Regulations and the Gas Regulations to support

the new provisions in the Electricity Act and the Gas Act, including in particular mailers related to safety management systems.

Other updates to the regulations will also be introduced at the same time.

It is expected that public consultation documents, discussing proposed amendments to both sets of regulations, will be available in May 2007.

There are also working parties with industry on the safety management system regulatory framework.

It is hoped to have new regulations in place later in 2007.

Proposed registration categories

At its March 2007 meeting the Board discussed proposed registration categories for introduction under the amended legislation and in accordance with the guiding principles set down in the Amendment Act the Board wishes to commence consultation with stakeholders on registration categories for the future.

The following sets out the Board's initial proposals for registration categories and provides brief commentary on the reasons for the proposals.

(a) Retain the category of electrician

Reason: While the name has changed over the years the electrician category of registration has been in place in New Zealand since the 1920s. The electrical work an electrician can carry out is well understood by the industry and the public.

(b) Retain the category of electrical inspector

Reason: It would appear inappropriate for the category to be discontinued as the only other registration category to which electrical inspectors could be transferred to would be that of electrician. If that action was taken there would be the potential for considerable conflict in the industry as present electrical inspectors have had to either pass examinations for electrical inspector or have been granted the registration category through the transitional provisions of the Electricity Act 1992.

(c) Amend the category of electrical service technician

Reason: Since 1992 there has been continued debate in the industry about the combining of the previous radio electronics serviceman, appliance serviceman and restricted

certificate registration categories into that of electrical service technician. The main concern has been that some holders of the electrical service technician registration consider that their registration category does not reflect the type of work being carried out under the registration.

As such the following categories of electrical service technician registration limitations are initially proposed:

- (i) Electrical Service Technician – Unlimited
This category would cover the existing unlimited electrical service technician registration.
- (ii) Electrical Service Technician – Appliance Servicing
This category would cover servicing of appliances supplied by up to 400 volts and could be limited into "A" and "B" levels as at present.
- (iii) Electrical Service Technician – Electronics Servicing
This category would cover servicing of electronics equipment including personal computers, televisions etc supplied by up to 230 volts.
- (iv) Electrical Service Technician – System Servicing
This category would cover servicing of heating, ventilating and air conditioning equipment not covered by the two above mentioned limited electrical service technician categories.

(d) Retain the category of line mechanic with existing limitations

Reason: There has been considerable debate in the industry about “de registering” line mechanics in the “non installation” sector of the industry however while that debate may continue the Board needs to make provision for line mechanics to continue to operate.

As such the following categories of line mechanic registration limitations are initially proposed:

Line mechanic – Distribution

Line mechanic – Transmission

Line mechanic – Traction

(e) Introduce a category for Qualified Engineers with new criteria to that which is presently applicable

Reason: Qualified Engineers have, by virtue of their qualifications in electrical engineering, fundamentally been entitled to carry out all the work of an electrician.

As Qualified Engineers have varying levels of practical “hands on” work experience it would be appropriate for the Board to limit the Qualified Engineers’ scope of work under any new registration category to the type of work the Engineer can show evidence of experience in.

For example an Engineer who has work experience in communication systems could be registered as a Qualified Engineer limited to the work of an Electrical Service Technician – Electronics Servicing. Conversely an Engineer with work experience in the work of an electrician would be registered as a Qualified Engineer limited to the work of an electrician.

With the Amendment Act introducing the design aspect into prescribed electrical work the Board needs to make provision for design Engineers and such Engineers would have available to them the registration category of Qualified Engineer – Design.

The qualifications for registration in any of the Qualified Engineer registration categories would be that any applicant must either have the status of “Qualified Engineer” under the Electricity Act 1992 or be a Technician Member, Professional Member of IPENZ (MIPENZ or FIPENZ) or CP Eng. In addition any applicant must have passed the Board’s electricians level electrical wiring regulations examination.

(f) Introduce categories for the present and future other groups (i.e. installation of security systems, restoration of supply, cable jointing and electrical work associated with plumbing and plumbing/gasfitting)

Reasons:

- The introduction of the electrician (limited to the installation of security systems) registration category lead to considerable apprehension in the industry as basically the introduction was seen as a “watering down” of the electrician registration category.

The Board indicated to the industry at the time of the electrician (limited to the installation of security systems) registration category introduction that the matter would be rectified with the introduction of new legislation.

- The previous restoration of supply and cable jointing restricted certificate registration endorsements were amended with the introduction of the Electricity Act 1992 to become limitations to the line mechanic registration category.

It is considered that the introduction of separate registration categories for restoration of supply and cable jointing will alleviate difficulties that have been experienced in the “supply” sector of the industry.

Plumbers and plumber/gasfitters have been accommodated under the Electricity Act 1992 and regulations to that Act through certification, and it is proposed to introduce a specific registration category for such people.

Comments sought on registration category proposals

- 1 The Board would appreciate any comments on the registration category proposals by **18 May 2007**. Comments should be sent to:

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

Please ensure that your submissions clearly identify your organisation (if any) and any other individuals or organisations represented in the submission.

The Board would prefer to receive your submission as a word document attachment to an e-mail, but fax or posted submissions are all welcomed. Also, we would appreciate receiving submissions in the following format:

Section No.	Issue/Proposed Change	Comment/Reason for comment
		I support/disagree with... because...

Official Information Act 1982

- 2 Please note that any submissions received by the Board will constitute 'official information' under the Official Information Act 1982. That Act is designed to give the people of New Zealand access to information, but with exceptions to preserve the public interest and personal privacy.
- 3 The Board will prepare a summary of submissions received, together with the Board's responses. This summary is intended for circulation to parties who have made submissions.
- 4 In providing your submission, please advise the Board if you have any objections to the release of your submission, and, if you do object, the parts of your submission that you want withheld, and the grounds, under the Official

Information Act, for withholding them. The Board will carefully consider your reasons when preparing and releasing any summary, and in considering any formal Official Information Act requests that might be received in the future.

Privacy Act 1993

- 5 Any personal information that you supply to the Board in the course of making your submission will be used by the Board only in conjunction with the consideration of matters covered by this discussion paper.
- 6 Your name will be included in any summary unless you inform the Board that you do not wish your name to be included.

Election of new Presiding and Deputy Presiding Members

At the February 2007 meeting the Board elected Don Pryde as its Presiding Member and Sam Ponga as Deputy Presiding Member.

Don is an electrician from Dunedin and previously held the position of Deputy Presiding Member of the Board.

Sam is an electrical inspector from New Plymouth and has been a Board member since Jan 2006.

Murray Willis, who had been the Board's Presiding Member since 2001, did not seek re-election. The Board and the Registrar would like to acknowledge and thank Murray for the work he has done during his term as Presiding Member of the Board.

Correction

On Page 2 of Issue 32 under "Examination Report" the following phrase:

"most candidates did not know the effects of transporting conductors"
should have been

"most candidates did not know the effects of transposing conductors".

Our apologies for any confusion that arose from this error.

Practising Licence Renewal

The 2007/2008 annual practising licensing round will begin shortly.

Here are a few of the most commonly asked questions about re-licensing answered for your information:

Why do I have to have a practising licence?

All registered electrical workers must hold a practising licence if they carry out prescribed electrical work for reward. This is a requirement of Section 95 of the Electrical Act 1992.

What does this mean to me?

Most importantly, your valid practising licence tells your clients that you are a qualified electrical professional. It proves that you are legally allowed to carry out electrical work and that you are up to date on current safety procedures. Your practising licence is an important business tool. It gives the public (your clients) reassurance about your competency.

What do I have to do?

Look out for an email (if you have given us your email address) or your personalised practising licence pack. Information Packs will be mailed during May to the latest address we have for you on the database.

When you receive the pack either;

1. Apply online following the instructions outlined in your pack and make payment by credit card for \$92 or

2. Complete the personalised practising licence application enclosed, sign and return with your cheque or credit card payment for \$92.

What about my safety training?

To be eligible for a practising licence, your refresher courses for safe working practices, testing to ensure safety, basic first aid and CPR must be current. This requirement is detailed in Regulation 26 of the Electrical Regulations 1997.

What if I am not doing prescribed electrical work for reward and don't need a practising licence?

If you do not need a practising licence please tell us by sending the form back with the relevant details.

Important Note:

If you know that your safety training will expire before 30 June 2007 – Update it now!

Expired or incomplete safety training is the most common reason for practising licence applications to be held up. Courses for training fill very quickly – so beat the crowds and do it now! "

Practising licence refresher course training providers

The following is a list of people/organisations who have agreed to offer training in line with the Board's practising licence refresher course prescriptions:

North Island

Full North Island Coverage

Ontrack – (rail industry only) (David Allen)
email: dave.allen@ontrack.govt.nz

Utilitech (Line Mechanics only) (Chris Jobson) – Ph: 0800 UTILITECH

Northland

Northland Polytechnic (Ian Swindells) Ph: 09 430 5830

Northpower (Lex Calder) Ph: 09 430 1803 or
0274 744 394 email:lex.calder@northpower.com

Auckland

Manukau Institute of Technology (John Lamb)
Ph: 0800 111 030 or 09 968 8705 Fax 09 968 8703

M A Chopping Ltd – Ph: 09 524 2402 Fax: 09 524 2360
Mob: 021 946 326 email: mac@chopping.co.nz

Chandler Consulting Limited (Nick Chandler) –
Ph/Fax: 09 832 2653 Mob: 021 770 278

Appliance Industry Training Centre – (Gavin Bowden)
Ph: 09 573 1964 or Fax 09 573 1967

Firetech Training – (Wayne Philip) Ph: 09 4144242

Unitech – (James Cannan) Ph: 09 815 4321 x8737

Training Corp (Kerry Harris) – Ph: 09 832 2110

Mr B Cavanagh Ph: 09 5701792
email: wmmej.cavanagh@xtra.co.nz

New Zealand Electrical Institute (RJ Hanham) – Ph 09 626 5113

ACA Electrical (A Fruish) Ph: 09 476 1957 Fax: 09 476 1941

MJK Consulting Ltd (Line Mechanics Course only) (Mark Knuckey)
Mobile: 021 377 683
Email: mjk@paradise.net.nz

Mr R Proffit (Limited to electrical workers attendance at a course.
Excludes online training course) Ph: 09 299 9123
Fax: 09 299 9893

Training NZ (Roger McCall) Fax: 09 4452 664

Mr G Tonks – Ph: 0274 879 959

Hamilton

Wintec (Robin Sanderson) Ph: 07 834 8800 x8737
email Rob.Sanderson@wintec.ac.nz

Edge Ltd (Martin Burrows) Ph: 027 4473762 or 07 378 9355
email: edge.ltd@clear.net.nz

Mr G Tonks Ph: 0274 879 959

Tauranga/Rotorua/Bay of Plenty

Bay of Plenty Polytechnic (Colin Gibson) Ph: 07 544 0920
ext 6618 Fax 07 544 2386

Electrical Inspection and Services (Allister McGregor –
Ph: 07 3488220 or 0275 444 679 email: amcg@xtra.co.nz

Edge Ltd Martin Burrows – Ph: 027 4473762 or 07 378 9355
email: edge.ltd@clear.net.nz

Mr J Bicker Ph: 07 552 5794 - Fax: 07 552 4696
Mob: 027 550 9374 email: jbicker@bopis.co.nz

M J Turner Ph: 07 571 4335 email:sparkiejohn@kol.co.nz

Taupo

Edge Ltd (Martin Burrows) Ph: 027 4473762 or 07 378 9355

Gisborne/Hawkes Bay

Edge Ltd (Martin Burrows) Ph: 027 4473762 or 07 378 9355
email: edge.ltd@clear.net.nz

Napier/Hastings

Independent Electrical Inspections (Noel Alderton) –
Ph: 06 844 3565 or 027 4453 375

Edge Ltd (Martin Burrows) Ph: 027 4473762 or 07 378 9355
email: edge.ltd@clear.net.nz

New Plymouth

G-Tech Ind Ltd (Athol Gibson) Ph 06 278 7761 or 0274 499 290
Fax 06 278 7761

Allan West Electrical Solutions Ph 027 5126210 AH
Ph 06 751 2621 email westmic@maxnet.co.nz

WIT (Graham Rook) – Ph: 06 757 3100 x 8720 g.rook@wit.ac.nz

Edge Ltd (Martin Burrows) Ph: 027 4473762 or
07 378 9355 email: edge.ltd@clear.net.nz

Hawera

G-Tech Ltd (Athol Gibson) – Ph/fax 06 278 7761 or
027 4499290

Allan West Electrical Solutions – Ph 027 5126210
AH 06 751 2621

Palmerston North

Universal College of Learning (Gavin Jack) Ph 06 952 7000
email: G.Jack@uacol.ac.nz

Levin/Horowhenua

Mr B Boothroyd – Ph 063626305
email: b.boothroyd@whitireia.ac.nz

Wellington

Weltec (Tony DellaBarca) Ph: 04 9202474

Mike Johnson Training Ph: 04 384 9606, 06 357 2111 or
025 247 7859 Fax 06 356 8025

New Zealand Electrical Institute (Alan Cuthbert)
Ph: 04 5627 301

Edge Ltd Martin (Burrows) Ph: 027 4473762 or
07 378 9355 email: edge.ltd@clear.net.nz

Mr B Boothroyd – Ph: 063626305
email: b.boothroyd@whitireia.ac.nz

Mr D Grove – Ph: 04 389 8899 or 021 042 8585

South Island

Full South Island Coverage

Ontrack (rail industry only) (David Allen)
email: dave.allen@ontrack.govt.nz

Utilitech (Line Mechanics only) (Chris Jobson) – Ph: 0800 UTILITECH

Nelson

Vircom EMS Nelson (Russell Burnaby) Ph: 021 527910

Vircom EMS Nelson (Gordon Phyn) Ph: 03 5445644
Mobile: 021 527908

HV Services (Ross McCorkindale) Fax: 03 5475487 Ph: 027 244 7633
email: rossmccorkindale@clear.net.nz

Blenheim

Wairau Power Services Ltd (Richard Pagan and Percy Noblett)
Ph: 03 578 4648 Fax 03 578 4649

Greymouth

Weltec Ph: 0274 418673 or AH 03 7324133

Christchurch

C P I T (Stephen Price) – Ph: 03 940 8143 email: pricest@cpit.ac.nz

Tasker Corporation (NZ) Ltd (Jennifer Tasker) –
Ph: 03 366 1931 email: i.m.s@xtra.co.nz

S I T (Brian Hargreaves) Ph: 03 341 1103 or 0800 867 883
Fax 03 341 110 email: brian.hargreaves@sit.ac.nz

Oamaru

Mr P Coughlan – Ph: 03 434 5478 or 021 379 544

Timaru

Aoraki Polytechnic (Ross Millar) Ph: 03 684 0869

Dunedin

Delta Utility Services Ltd (Tom Symister) Ph: 03 479 6660

Fax: 03 474 9361 Mob: 0274 345 652

email: Tom.Symister@4delta.co.nz

Otago Polytechnic (John Cleary) Ph: 03 479 6065

Central Otago

Mr A Blee Ph: 0274 744188 email: info@etandc.net

Invercargill

Southern Institute of Technology (Mike Grumball)

Ph 03 218 2599 x834 Fax 03 218 1629



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