



ELECTRICAL WORKERS REGISTRATION BOARD

PROPOSED CATEGORIES OF REGISTRATION

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1. Executive Summary

The Board will be seeking the approval of the Minister for Building and Construction to the following categories of registration for electrical workers:-

- (a) Electrical Inspector;
- (b) Electrician;
- (c) Electrical Engineer;
- (d) Electrical Installer;
- (e) Electrical Service Technician;
- (f) Electrical Appliance Serviceperson (Endorsed to disconnect and reconnect);
- (g) Electrical Appliance Serviceperson;
- (h) Associated Tradesperson;
- (i) Line Mechanic;
- (j) Cable Jointer.

2. Process for the introduction of new registration categories

Prior to formal publication of any registration categories in a Gazette Notice, the Board must have consulted with interested parties on its proposal for the contents of the Notice.

Following consultation, the Board must then submit a draft Gazette Notice to the Minister for approval.

If the Minister approves the draft Gazette Notice the Board is then able to publish the Notice and the registration categories will come into effect in accordance with any date specified in the Notice.

This paper contains the Board's proposal for the contents of the Gazette Notice.

3. Background

The Electricity Amendment Act 2006 makes a number of changes to the registration regime for electrical workers. Categories of registration will no longer be prescribed in legislation. Rather, in the future, they will be determined by the Board with the approval of the Minister. This will provide a more flexible registration and licensing regime which will allow for specialist registration categories. Competencies will be specified for the particular work authorised under each registration category.

The Board released its first consultation paper on proposed categories of registration in April 2007. Fifty-five submissions were received. A second discussion paper was released in May 2008. Sixty-nine submissions on that paper were received. A third discussion paper was issued in November 2008 and attracted forty-seven submissions.

All submissions received were carefully considered by the Board before making its final decision.

4. The Approach taken by the Board

The existing system of registration for electricians has proved over the years to be a very sound and robust system of registration. The Board has used that system as a model for the new categories of registration.

That system has electrical registration competencies incorporated into a national certification qualification framework with Board examinations used as measurement tools for specific unit standards. Alternatively, registration as an electrician can be achieved through “time served” training and completion of the same Board examinations referred to previously. While the majority of people obtaining registration as an electrician do so through the competency based system the optional system that accommodates trained electrical workers who fall outside of the competency based system or persons who present with overseas training and qualifications has proved to be of value.

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 a complete retraining when a person wishes to aspire to a different category 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.

Underpinning the Board’s approach is the fundamental issue of competency to undertake the electrical work in question. Most of the proposed categories of registration have wide “Limits of Work” which will enable practitioners to operate on a variety of work without the need to acquire additional registration. It will remain the responsibility of the individual practitioner to ensure that he or she is competent to do the work in question.

5. The Categories of Registration

Several new categories of registration are proposed to better recognise the specialist skills required today in specific areas within the electrical industry.

- A new category “Electrical Installer” recognises the particular skills and competencies required to install and service a range of electrical systems.

- A group of new categories of registration delineates the different categories of electrical servicing work and the skills and competencies required for each category.
- A new category “Associated Tradesperson” will enable Plumbers, Gasfitters and Plumbers/Gasfitters to carry out servicing work on electrical fittings associated with plumbing and gasfitting.
- There will now be only one category of registration for line mechanics. The supply industry will determine who should carry out different types of prescribed electrical work without the need for practitioners to acquire additional registration.
- A new category “Cable Jointer” has been introduced to recognise the specialist skills required for cable jointing.

Full details of the proposed categories of registration are set out in the table on the following pages.

Notes

- 1 Every person seeking registration in any of the categories of registration will be required as a prerequisite to have satisfactorily completed instruction in safe working practices, testing, basic first aid and cardio-pulmonary resuscitation as approved by the Board.
- 2 For the purposes of registration categories “Servicing” means any prescribed electrical work that involves the dismantling, repair, adjustment, reassembly and replacement of electrical fittings other than the installation of permanently wired conductors, of works or electrical installations intended for the generation, conversion, transformation, conveyance or control of electrical supplies”.
- 3 References to the Electricity (Safety) Regulations 2009 are references to the Exposure Draft of the Electricity (Safety) Regulations 2009 released by the Associate Minister of Energy and Resources in September 2009. That exposure draft is available for viewing under “2009 Regulatory Review” at <http://www.energysafety.govt.nz/upload/70004/Draft%20-%20Electricity%20Safety%20Regulations%202009.pdf>
- 4 As the Electricity (Safety) Regulations have not been introduced at the date of this paper, any reference in this paper to those regulations may be amended when those regulations are formally passed into law.

CATEGORY	REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS	LIMITS OF WORK
Electrical Inspector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passed the Electrical Inspector written examination; and • Passed the Electrical Inspector practical examination or assessment; and • Been registered as an Electrician for not less than three years and completed three years practical experience which is satisfactory to the Board; or • Had the status of Qualified Engineer under the Electricity Act 1992 for not less than three years and completed three years practical experience which is satisfactory to the Board; or • Been registered as an Electrical Engineer for not less than three years and completed three years practical experience which is satisfactory to the Board. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All prescribed electrical work as described in clause 1 of Schedule 1 of the Electricity (Safety) Regulations 2009; and • All inspection work described in regulations 70, 72 and 73 of the Electricity (Safety) Regulations 2009.
Electrician	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passed the Electrician theoretical written examination; and • Passed the Electrician regulatory written examination; and • Passed the Electrician practical examination or three stage assessments; and • Completed an Electrician competency based training programme or completed four years practical 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All prescribed electrical work as described in clause 1 of Schedule 1 of the Electricity (Safety) Regulations 2009.

	training/experience in the work of an Electrician which is satisfactory to the Board.	
Electrical Engineer	<p><u>Option 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immediately prior to the promulgation of the Electricity (Safety) Regulations 2009 was a Qualified Engineer under the Electricity Act 1992; or <p><u>Option 2</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holds a Bachelor of Engineering (Electrical) qualification; and Passed the Electrician regulatory written examination; and Passed the Electrician practical examination or three stage assessments; or <p><u>Option 3</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holds a National Diploma in Engineering (Electrotechnology) (Level 6), or New Zealand Certificate in Engineering (Electrical); and Passed the Electrician regulatory written examination; and Passed the Electrician practical examination or three stage assessments; and Completed three years practical experience which is satisfactory to the Board. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All prescribed electrical work as described in clause 1 of Schedule 1 of the Electricity (Safety) Regulations 2009.
Electrical Installer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passed the Electrical Installer theoretical written examination; and Passed the Electrician 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The installation and servicing of one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Security systems;

	<p>regulatory written examination; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passed the Electrician practical examination or three stage assessments; and • Completed an Electrical Installer competency based training programme or completed two years practical training/experience in the work of an Electrical Installer which is satisfactory to the Board. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (ii) Fire alarm systems; (iii) Railway systems; (iv) Lifts/escalators; (v) Heating/ventilating/air conditioning systems; (vi) Renewable energy systems of supply (not including any works, installation, appliance or fitting that may be connected to those systems of supply). <p>(The above list may be amended from time to time to accommodate other specialist areas that the Board may approve).</p>
Electrical Service Technician	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passed the Electrical Service Technician written theoretical examination; and • Passed the Electrical Service Technician practical examination or practical assessments; and • Completed an Electrical Service Technician competency based training programme or completed eighteen months practical training/experience in the work of an Electrical Service Technician which is satisfactory to the Board. The eighteen months practical training/experience must include at least six months training/experience on multi phase appliances or fittings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All servicing of single and multi phase appliances and fittings with no voltage limits including the disconnection and reconnection of those appliances and fittings from the permanent wiring for servicing purposes.
Electrical Appliance Serviceperson (Endorsed to disconnect and reconnect)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passed the Electrical Appliance Serviceperson (Endorsed to disconnect and reconnect) written theoretical examination; and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All servicing of single phase appliances that have an electrical rating of not more than 250 volts and are supplied by plug and flexible cord including the disconnection and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passed the Electrical Appliance Serviceperson (Endorsed to disconnect and reconnect) practical examination or practical assessments; and • Completed an Electrical Appliance Serviceperson competency based training programme or completed eighteen months practical training/experience in the work of an Electrical Appliance Serviceperson including which is satisfactory to the Board and which includes the disconnection and reconnection of single phase appliances. 	reconnection of those appliances where a plug is not fitted but the flexible cord is connected to a permanent connection unit
Electrical Appliance Serviceperson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passed the Electrical Appliance Serviceperson written theoretical examination; and • Passed the Electrical Appliance Serviceperson practical examination or practical assessments; and • Completed an Electrical Appliance Serviceperson competency based training programme or completed eighteen months practical training/experience in the work of an Electrical Appliance Serviceperson which is satisfactory to the Board. 	All servicing of single phase appliances that have an electrical rating of not more than 250 volts and are supplied by plug and flexible cord
Associated Tradesperson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtained registration from the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board as a plumber or a gasfitter or a plumber/gasfitter; and • Passed the Associated Tradesperson written theoretical examination(s); 	<u>Associated Tradesperson (Plumber)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The replacement of storage water cylinder heater elements and thermostats with elements or thermostats that have an electrical rating of not more than 250 volts and 16 amperes; and

	<p>and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passed the Associated Tradesperson practical examination(s) or assessment(s); 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disconnection from and reconnection to fixed wiring for waste disposal units, dishwashing machines, electronic water control units, water pressure devices, storage water heater thermostats and storage water heater elements provided the components have an electrical rating of not more than 250 volts and 16 amperes. <p><u>Associated Tradesperson (Gasfitter)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The replacement of fittings of gas fired equipment that have an electrical rating of not more than 250 volts and 16 amperes; and the disconnection from and reconnection to fixed wiring for fittings of gas fired equipment that have an electrical rating of not more than 250 volts and 16 amperes. <p><u>Associated Tradesperson (Plumber/Gasfitter)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All of the work able to be undertaken by a Plumber and a Gasfitter as above.
Line Mechanic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passed the Line Mechanic written examination; and Passed the Line Mechanic practical examination or assessment; and Completed a Line Mechanic competency based training programme or completed two years training/experience in the work of a Line Mechanic which is satisfactory to the Board. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All prescribed electrical work on electric lines.

Cable Jointer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passed the Cable Jointer written examination; and • Passed the Cable Jointer practical examination or practical assessment; and • Completed a Cable Jointer competency based training programme or completed two years training/experience in the work of a Cable Jointer which is satisfactory to the Board. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All cable jointing which is prescribed electrical work on electric lines.
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6. Transitional Registration Arrangements

When the new classes of registration and licences come into effect all existing registrations and licences will be carried forward. Those registrations will be transitioned as shown in the table on the following page:-

Present Category of Registration or Authorisation	New Registration Categories
Electrical Inspector	Electrical Inspector
Electrician	Electrician
Qualified Engineer	Electrical Engineer
Electrician limited from the transitional provisions of the Act	Electrical Installer
Electrician limited to domestic security installations	Electrical Installer
Electrical Service Technician unlimited	Electrical Service Technician
Electrical Service Technician limited to the servicing of fittings up to 460 volts and the disconnection and reconnection of those fittings from fixed wiring for servicing purposes (Level "B")	Electrical Service Technician
Electrical Service Technician limited to the maintenance of electrical appliances rated up to 230 volt, single phase supplied via plug and flexible cord including connection of single phase appliances to fixed outlets	Electrical Appliance Serviceperson (Endorsed to disconnect and reconnect)
Electrical Service Technician limited to the servicing of 230 volt fittings supplied by plug and flexible cord (Level "A")	Electrical Appliance Serviceperson
Tradesperson	Associated Tradesperson
Line Mechanic limited to distribution	Line Mechanic
Line Mechanic limited to transmission	Line Mechanic
Line Mechanic limited to traction	Line Mechanic
Line Mechanic limited to cable joining	Cable Jointer



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Registrar
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