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In this issue of ELECTRON we discuss the review of supervision procedures the Board is carrying out, high and low risk work, a recent prosecution and the Board's new publicity campaign.

The Board has also moved to open discussion on the ability of trainees to issue electrical safety certificates in some circumstances. There would be strict controls around this but the Board believes that debate around this issue is appropriate.

As the holiday season approaches the Board has begun an awareness campaign targeting homeowners and DIYers. The campaign encourages homeowners to think a little more closely about electrical work being carried out in their homes.

On behalf of the Board I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in the industry all the very best for the festive season.

JOHN SICKELS – REGISTRAR



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.

If you have any enquiries or comments on this newsletter please phone 0800 66 1000 or email info@ewrb.govt.nz

Review of supervision procedures for trainees

For a number of years the Board has made available Trainee Supervision Procedures to assist employers of trainees, people who supervise trainees, trainees and the public with interpretations of the supervision requirements in the Electricity Act 1992 (the Act) and the Electricity (Safety) Regulations 2010 (the regulations). To provide further assistance, the Board has set out methodologies for the successful and safe supervision of trainees.

The Board has carried out a review of the procedures and as a result of that review a consultation document titled "Supervision of Trainees Holding a Limited Certificate" has been released for comment. The document updates the existing procedures and introduces new sections including "What can a supervisor supervise?" and "Verification of a trainees work".

In the "Verification of a trainees work" section the Board has proposed that provision be made for a trainee to complete an electrical safety certificate for any particular "low risk work" if the supervisor authorises the trainee to do so. The proposal does not include issuing an electrical safety certificate for any maintenance or repair (including replacement) work carried out on the high-risk work listed in regulation 6A(2) of the regulations.

The discussion paper is available for viewing on the Board's website at www.e wrb.govt.nz

Supervision procedures for persons other than limited certificate holders

The Board has developed supervision guidelines for people who are working under the exemption provided by section 76 of the Act and released a consultation document for comment.

In the document the Board have endeavoured to ensure that key legislative requirements are known to supervisors and people being supervised.

The discussion paper is available for viewing on the Board's website at www.e wrb.govt.nz

Provisions to allow licensed persons to work under supervision

The Electricity Regulations 1997 contained provisions which allowed electrical service technicians and line mechanics to assist in doing prescribed electrical work outside the limits of their registration class provided they were appropriately supervised.

The provisions were not retained when the 2010 regulations came into force.

The Board has released a discussion paper on introducing the supervision provisions for licensed people and the document is available for viewing on the Board's website at www.e wrb.govt.nz

Revision of register

The Act provides for the Registrar to carry out a revision of the register.

In the near future the Registrar will write to all registered persons who have not communicated with the Board since September 2012 and enquire as to whether they want to retain their registration. If the Registrar does not receive a reply within three months, or if the letter is returned unclaimed, the Registrar will then give notice in writing to any practitioner's last known address that the practitioner's registration will be cancelled within 20 days.

The Registrar will publish the list of names of all practitioners whose registration is intended to be cancelled in ELECTRON prior to any cancellation and give those persons the opportunity to respond.

High and low risk prescribed electrical work

From time to time the Board receives complaints about high-risk prescribed electrical work which is listed in regulation 6A(2) of the regulations.

In a number of the complaints the question arises as to whether work such as the replacement of fittings (ie a mains entry box) requires inspection.

If a fitting such as a mains box is replaced the work is subject to regulation 59(3) and that means the work is maintenance or replacement work and as such is not high risk prescribed electrical work and therefore does not require inspection.

The work doesn't require inspection as while it is still "mains work" it is not high risk prescribed electrical work as the definition of high risk prescribed electrical work does not include maintenance or replacement work.

When the Board considers complaints relating to whether or not prescribed electrical work requires inspection the Board interprets "replacement" of fittings as the "like for like" replacement. Where any fitting replacement is not "like for like" there are new risks involved and the fitting replacement will be treated as new installation work.

The advice on types of prescribed electrical work contained in the Energy Safety Bulletin of 31 July 2015 should also be noted and relevant extracts are as follows;

Type of Prescribed Electrical Work	Relevant Legislation	Additional Guidance
Replacement	Established in ESR 6A. Allows relocation or extension only to replace a fitting.	In all cases this is low risk work. Replacement is principally driven by ESR 59. ESR 59(3) allows restoration to "Original condition".
Upgrade		When in accordance with manufacturer's instructions, or AS/NZS 3000, upgrading is a replacement. Upgrading to address increased supply fault rating is also a replacement. The installation of higher capacity fittings to address increased usage of an installation is an alteration. For mains work this becomes high risk.

Result of disciplinary hearing

In the following case the Board has directed the Registrar not to publish the name of the registered person concerned.

Electrician

A complaint was lodged against an electrician by an electrical inspector who had attended a property to carry out work on a revenue meter. The electrical inspector found that the meter was not sealed and the switchboard had been shifted and upgraded. No record of the "mains work" was found in a search of the High Risk data base.

The Board considered the complaint and found that the electrician;

- failed to have high risk prescribed electrical work inspected before connection; and
- failed to provide a certificate of compliance within 20 working days of completing the work.

The Board fined the electrician \$1,200 and ordered the electrician to pay costs of \$250.

Boards reasoning

As referenced earlier in this ELECTRON the Board accepts that low risk is the default in the regulations with regard to prescribed electrical work categorisation. The question though in this case was the extent to which work can be defined as maintenance, repair or replacement.

The Board considered that "replacement" work required the replacement to be "like for like" because there is less risk in maintaining or replacing fittings once they have been installed than there is in installing new fittings. However, where a fitting being replaced is not like-for-like, there are new risks involved which are more akin to a new installation.

In this case a formica switch board containing ceramic fuses had been moved and replaced with a larger capacity modern switch board equipped with residual current device protection and additional circuits had been added.

The Board considered that the prescribed electrical work could not be considered as "like for like" and the work in question was an upgrade to the existing fittings and required inspection before connection to the supply.

The Board's interpretation is consistent with advice promulgated by Work Safe in its 31 July 2015 Electrical Safety Bulletin.

Investigation Report

A recent investigation undertaken in relation to a non-registered person working in contravention of the Act has resulted in the following prosecution;

Prosecution 67

A Gisborne electrical business has been fined \$6000 in the District Court after its sole director and shareholder, Mr Gareth Hopkins, carried out prescribed electrical work despite not being registered to do so.

The Board moved quickly to take action against Mr Hopkins.

Between 1 April 2013 and 30 June 2014, Mr Hopkins performed around 38 different jobs, some involving prescribed electrical work, at a fast food outlet in Gisborne. In addition, Mr Hopkins issued electrical compliance certificates for the work done, and advertised as being able to do all electrical work on his Facebook page.

The prescribed electrical work that Mr Hopkins completed included:

- regularly inspecting and repairing faulty equipment, including a bain marie, fryers, cookers and display cabinets. He replaced the faulty parts, including elements, fuses and temperature probes, and installed, tested and livened the new parts.
- repairing damaged wiring and power points.
- completing preventive maintenance, including testing and checking all fittings, appliances, equipment and the main switchboard.

New consumer awareness campaign

The Board has begun a new consumer awareness campaign to encourage homeowners to think a little more closely about electrical work being carried out in their homes.

The campaign is an online one which targets homeowners and DIYers. The campaign's main messages are;

- always use a licensed electrical worker for all types of electrical work
- always ask to see an electrical worker's photo ID
- always ask an electrical worker to certify their completed work.

The first phase of the campaign began last year and the Board's aim is that by the end the new campaign, in early 2016, as many homeowners as possible will know that electrical work isn't something you can just do yourself.