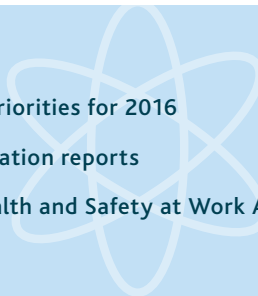


## IN THIS ISSUE:

- Availability of documents
- Would you like to receive ELECTRON electronically?
- New agreement with Standards New Zealand
- Board priorities for 2016
- Investigation reports
- The Health and Safety at Work Act



*This is the first issue of Electron for 2016. The Board has much to achieve this year and has identified three priorities it wishes to progress throughout 2016. We have developed dedicated project teams for each of the three workstreams.*

*Workstream 1 is focussed on making sure that the workforce can easily access the latest information on current practice to support them in their day-to-day activities on the job.*

*The Board is committed to keeping New Zealanders safe, by ensuring that high quality electrical work is carried out. Workstream 2 involves a pilot to develop an appropriate and effective audit programme to ensure compliance, safety and competence for prescribed electrical work.*

*With assistance from MBIE, the Board has been consulting with Approved Competence Programme Providers on the proposed approach to redeveloping competency training material, which is the focus of Workstream 3.*

*There is more about these priorities in this issue of Electron and we will endeavour to keep you updated on these priorities throughout the year. You will also receive email updates from time to time, to help keep you up to date.*

*This issue of Electron also contains important information from Worksafe New Zealand ahead of the new health and safety legislation coming into force in early April. I strongly encourage you to take some time to read this article and familiarise yourself with the upcoming changes.*



**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](http://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.

## Would you like to receive ELECTRON electronically?

A large number of people now receive ELECTRON electronically. If you would like to receive the newsletter by electronic means please contact the Board on 0800 66 1000 to arrange.

*If you have any enquiries or comments on this newsletter please phone 0800 66 1000 or email [info@ewrb.govt.nz](mailto:info@ewrb.govt.nz)*

## New agreement with Standards New Zealand

A new agreement has been entered into with Standards New Zealand for a further two years. The agreement covers 72 Standards and enables access through the internet to view, download and print the documents.

The agreement allows the following people to have access to the Standards;

- Practising licence holders
- Employer licence holders
- Trainees who have training agreements with the Skills or Connexis organisations
- Training providers
- Competency programme providers
- Board Members and licensing staff.

### Access the Standards covered by the agreement

The Standards covered by the agreement can be accessed as follows;

1. Go to the Board's website at [www.ewrb.govt.nz](http://www.ewrb.govt.nz)
2. Select the "NZ Standards" link from the "Do it now" menu
3. Login using RealMe
4. Select "Standards New Zealand" from the menu
5. Enter the Standard you require in the "Search" box (eg 3000) and click on "go"
6. Select say AS/NZS 3000:2007 from the drop down box
7. View the PDF of AS/NZS 3000:2007.

Please note that while you are on the Standards New Zealand website other facilities may be subject to restrictions.

Please contact Standards New Zealand if you require further information about that organisations website facilities. A full list of the Standards included in the new agreement are available for viewing on the Board's website at [www.ewrb.govt.nz](http://www.ewrb.govt.nz)

## Board priorities for 2016

This year the Board has identified three priorities it wishes to progress throughout 2016.

The first focuses on connecting with the workforce, the second on auditing for compliance and the third workstream is focussed on the competency of electrical workers.

The following summarises these three streams of work in further detail.

### Connecting with the workforce

Workstream 1 is focussed on making sure the workforce can easily access the latest information on current practice to support them in their day-to-day activities on the job.

It also creates an effective channel for two-way communication between the Board and electrical workers. The team has started

work on a project to build an online worker toolbox, so workers can have all the information they need to maintain regulatory compliance at their fingertips.

The team is in the preliminary design phase for creating the toolbox and they are extremely keen to hear from anyone who would like to participate in a user-group. If you are interested, please contact Lynda Kamstra (04) 896 5667.

Workstream 1 has also been busy ensuring the register is up-to-date by compiling critical information missing from some contacts such as email addresses.

This is a timely reminder for anyone whose contact details may have changed, to get in touch.

The team is also working on a database clean, which involves removing the details of those electrical workers who have had no contact with the Board for at least three or more years.

### Auditing for Compliance

You will have received an email from us, providing you with some information about the pilot auditing programme which has just got underway.

To recap, the Board is committed to keeping New Zealanders safe, by ensuring that high quality electrical work is carried out.

The intention of this pilot is to develop an appropriate and effective audit programme to ensure compliance, safety and competence for prescribed electrical work.

Delta Utility Services Limited was chosen by the Board to conduct the pilot in Dunedin/Mosgiel and surrounding areas and Telarc is running the greater Auckland region pilot.

Electrical workers from all licence classes based in these locations have begun to be selected at random from the register of electrical workers to participate in this pilot.

We are expecting audits to begin in the next week.

For those electrical workers participating in the pilot, this will involve an assessor accompanying them for half a day to look at the prescribed electrical work they are carrying out and the associated documentation.

Once the pilot is complete on 31 May 2016, results of the audits will be analysed and further communication from the Board will be provided to all electrical workers to determine the next steps.

If you have any further questions about the pilot, check out our website or contact the Board on 0800 66 1000.

### Competence training programmes

As part of a wider project of initiatives, the Board is currently reviewing the provision of competence training programmes for electrical workers.

With assistance from MBIE, the Board has been consulting with Approved Competence Programme Providers on the proposed approach to redeveloping competency training material.

The Board is proposing to appoint a vendor to redevelop competency training material. The new material would be owned by the Board and all providers would be required to use it in their competency programmes. This would ensure consistency of training material.

A request for feedback on this approach went out to providers before Christmas. There was a good response, with all who submitted comments indicating support and giving constructive feedback.

Some providers indicated they would be interested in joining a forum to further discuss redeveloping the training material. A workshop was held in Auckland on 24 February.

Further consultation with some of the larger training providers is being considered to ensure the Board and MBIE are able to understand their perspectives.

The Board and MBIE will be conducting a tender process this month to appoint a training material supplier.

More detail on the proposed approach can be found here:

<http://www.e wrb.govt.nz/assets/EWRB/files/News-and-resources/consultation-papers/Proposed-changes-to-EW-Competence-Programme.pdf>

## Investigation Reports

Recent investigations undertaken in relation to a non-registered persons working in contravention of the Electricity Act 1992 have resulted in the following prosecutions;

### Prosecution 68

On 8 October 2015, Mr Wayne Combe was sentenced in the Tauranga District Court on one charge of doing prescribed electrical work. At the time the work was carried out, Mr Coombe was not registered. Mr Coombe carried out a heat pump installation at a Tauranga address, and left the installation with live wires visible. Mr Coombe was fined \$3,375 and ordered to pay court costs of \$130 and solicitor's costs of \$226.

### Prosecution 69

On 16 February 2016, Mr Kiran Gobind pleaded guilty to five charges of doing prescribed electrical work and five charges of issuing incorrect Certificates of Compliance.

Mr Gobind is the director of KPG Electrical Ltd.

During 2014, Mr Gobind was a franchise contractor operating in Auckland, installing heat pumps. On five occasions in mid-2014, Mr Gobind installed heat pumps at addresses, including performing the connections, but was not a licensed or registered electrical worker. One of those addresses was a kindergarten.

Mr Gobind filled out Certificates of Compliance for the work done, listing E numbers belonging to licensed electricians. In addition, Mr Gobind claimed that he was a registered electrician when questioned.

Mr Gobind was fined \$4000 and ordered to pay solicitor's costs and court costs.

## THE HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK ACT FROM THE GROUND UP

The following article has been provided by WorkSafe New Zealand



***The new Health and Safety at Work Act comes into force on 4 April. To help you prepare WorkSafe New Zealand's Marcus Nalter explains how it might apply to a typical residential building site***

Just about the first job on any new building site is to put up a safety fence, do the foundation work and lay the slab. You've got to get that right before anything else can go up.

Once the slab is ready it can get pretty hectic on site – with any number of tradies from any number of companies on site at any one time. From the outside, and to an untrained eye, it can look chaotic. But it needs to be organised chaos. All the various parts need to work together to pull the project together.

It's the same with health and safety. You need strong foundations and everyone needs to work together.

Take that typical new house build. There are lots of players involved – the client, maybe an architect, a lead contractor and all the subbies. Under the new Health and Safety at Work Act they will all have a role to play in keeping not only their own workers safe on site but others as well.

It's called 'overlapping duties' but in practice what it means is the person or business that is best placed to manage a risk that affects more than just their own workers has primary responsibility to do so – but everyone has to play their part.

So, on our house build the company that's contracted to dig the drains has a duty to ensure the excavator is operated safely – with proper measures in place to keep workers on foot away from the digger and the like. But if the lead builder (let's call them ABC Construction) has workers in the area too they have a duty to ensure their people are kept safe as well. So there needs to be discussion and agreement between ABC and the drain layer about how the risks associated with the digger are being managed.

The law is designed to encourage co-operation on site. For example, all workers will need access to first aid gear. ABC Construction is going to be there for the duration of the project so it's likely they will provide first aid facilities. The tiler that's working on the bathroom for a couple of days needs to ensure they have access to first aid as well. But they don't necessarily have to bring their own; they could do that by confirming they can use ABC's gear if needed.

Whenever a new subbie turns up there should be an induction process which includes discussion about current site hazards as well as any new hazards they might introduce. In fact, health and safety should be a feature of the tender process for work and there should be an exchange of any relevant information before subbies even arrive on site.

Many building sites already start the day with a tailgate or toolbox talk. Having open lines of communication between workers, supervisors and managers has always been a good idea. The new Act specifically encourages that sort of approach by introducing a duty to engage with workers that applies to all workplaces. It doesn't set down in stone what form that engagement should take, but a quick daily chat about safety and hazards on site each day is a good place to start.

There are some new worker engagement rules for larger workplaces (with more than 20 workers) and those in high risk industries, such as construction. For those businesses they are required to hold an election for a Health and Safety Representative (HSR) if requested by a worker. And they must consider forming a Health and Safety Committee (HSC) if an HSR or five workers request one. You can read more about the role of HSRs and HSCs at the WorkSafe website.

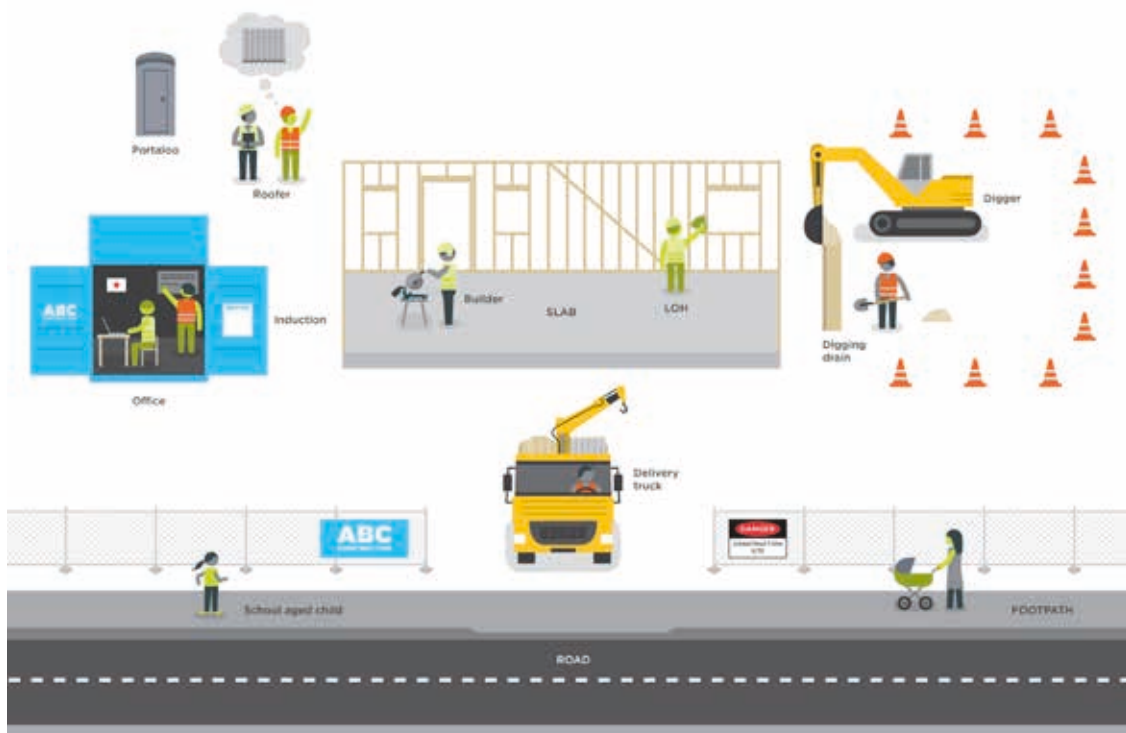
Health and safety doesn't have to be difficult and doesn't have to mean a lot of paperwork. The basics of good health and safety management aren't changing on 4 April. It starts with identifying risks, talking about them with anyone on site that might be affected, and finding appropriate ways to manage them. Of course not all risks can be eliminated – risk is part of life and will always be part of construction work.

The key is doing what is 'reasonably practicable' to control and minimise risks. So identify on-site risks, the likelihood of an incident and the consequences of them. Your control measures should reflect the seriousness of the risk.

Some risks are obvious. That new house is going to need a roof and that means working at height. We all know a fall can cause death or a life changing injury. The new law requires you to manage the risks of working at height (just as the 1992 law does). So if you are using good fall from height safety measures today (such as scaffolding, edge protection, nets, harnesses or soft landing systems) they will still be appropriate under the new law. If you aren't – it's time to sort yourself out.

The introduction of the new law is a great opportunity to review your current approach to health and safety. Think of it as a core part of your business and any project. It's not something you do once and file away on a shelf – make sure it is part of your daily routine.

***There are other changes in the Health and Safety at Work Act that businesses need to come to grips with as well – including new legal requirements for company directors and top management. To learn more head to the WorkSafe website: <http://www.business.govt.nz/worksafe/hswa>.***



Construction sites can be hectic - more than one business can have health and safety duties. Communication is vital.