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Welcome to the 85th issue of ELECTRON newsletter, and my first as Registrar. At the time of going to print I am on working day 50 and enjoying the people that work in the sector and the variety offered by the role. My key priorities during this first 50 days have been business continuity, preparing the 2015/2016 Board annual report, progressing the review of electrical classes of registration and starting the planning for the 2017/2019 re-licensing round.

The Board is currently working on three very important streams of work that will assist in delivering better outcomes for registered and licence holders. The three streams of work are;

- connecting with the workforce
- auditing and compliance
- enhancing the delivery of competency programmes.

Updates on each of these initiatives are included in this issue of the ELECTRON. I look forward to supporting the Board with their implementation.

Enjoy this issue of ELECTRON.

RICHARD STUBBINGS – REGISTRAR



Board Meet and Greet in New Plymouth

Twenty five New Plymouth based electrical workers came out early on 22 September to meet the Board over breakfast. The session was held as part of the Board's "Meet and Greet" initiative, which aims to get to know workers across New Zealand, understand the issues workers are facing and answer questions.

At the session, the Board talked about what they are prescribed to do under the Electricity Act 1992, and then went on to talk about the three different work streams that are currently underway.

Three key messages that came out of the session were that:

- electrical workers can access the Standards for free on the EWRB website;
- you don't need to wait until June to update your competency training – you can do it now, or whenever you have a quiet time at work;
- people are encouraged to feedback on the voluntary vs compulsory auditing, by responding to the [consultation paper](#). However, consultation has now closed on this.

The Board enjoyed getting a chance to meet electrical workers face-to-face in New Plymouth and answer lots of interesting questions. Further Meet and Greet sessions will be held across the country over the next few months. Keep an eye on your email for an invitation to a session near you.

Update on new competence programme material development

After several months of course material development, the Board has given the go-ahead for two pilot competence courses run by Weltec and Sitesafe, to be run at the end of October.

The pilots are an important part of developing the course, and will ensure the content that has been developed meets the needs of electrical workers.

Once the pilots have been completed, the feedback received will be analysed and any changes will be incorporated into the finalised version. A decision around when the material will be released for use by competence course providers will be made by the Board in due course.

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

For those who are interested in delivering the competence material, the Invitation to Qualify (ITQ) for the new competence programme was put up on the Government Electronic Tendering Service (www.gets.govt.nz) at the end of September. The deadline for registrations is 3pm, Friday 28 October.

Connecting with the Workforce

Last year the Board met with workers around the country to help better understand what workers need. The feedback received at these sessions led us to look more closely at how we could better connect with workers and keep you up to date with the changing requirements for compliant work.

Work is currently being done to develop a “toolbox”, which will help workers better understand their responsibilities and to give answers to frequently asked questions. The vision is for every worker to have easy, understandable and relevant access to the latest rules, regulations and standards relating to the work they are undertaking, including prompt advice of any changes affecting them.

The project is tracking to the schedule, and we hope to have a test version ready for feedback during the next 2-3 months.

Auditing for Compliance

Earlier this year, the Board conducted a pilot of its proposed audit programme. With the successful pilot completed, we are now developing an Audit Scheme, which will establish the ground rules and processes for future electrical worker audits.

The new Audit Scheme, which will be built on our learnings from the pilot, will become the standard on which future audits are based. However, that standard will only be set once the initial Audit Scheme has been fully tested in a further round of audits.

Some industry commentators have questioned whether it is the Board’s role to develop an audit programme. Under the Electricity Act, the Board is required to “promote, monitor, and review the ongoing competency and safe work practices of registered persons and licence holders”. Having an effective audit programme is one of the ways in which we can do this.

More than this, audits provide the Board with essential information about where to direct future education and competency programmes. They also help give the public confidence in Electrical Workers, and the registration and licensing scheme. For the individual practitioner, the audit is an opportunity to obtain valuable feedback on their work practices.

The Board’s current focus for audits is only on licensed persons, focusing specifically on electrical compliance and competence. Of course, we are all aware that WorkSafe NZ (Energy Safety) audits electrical installations. We are working with Energy Safety so where possible our audit programmes are not auditing the same things and that we both benefit from the other’s audit learnings.

Next steps

- Comments received from the sector in relation to the consultation paper that closed on 7 October will be

considered by the Board.

- JAS-ANZ and Telarc have been engaged to further develop the documentation which will help with the delivery of the Audit for Compliance programme. Using this documentation, further pilot audit work is to be completed by Telarc in the Auckland, Waikato and Bay of Plenty Regions starting in early 2017. This is a continuation of the audit programme development that the EWRB is doing and will continue to refine over the coming months.

Please keep an eye on upcoming editions of Electron to find out about progress of the new Audit Scheme.

2017/2019 Relicensing Round is coming soon – get prepared!

All 2015/17 practising licences will expire on 30 June 2017, and the 2017/2019 relicensing round will run from 1 April 2017 till 30 June 2017.

All registered electrical workers must hold a practising licence to carry out prescribed electrical work. This is a requirement of Section 95 of the Electricity Act 1992.

While April 2017 might seem like a long way off, it’s a good idea to start getting prepared so once the round opens, you can relicense quickly and easily.

Here are some key things you can do to start getting prepared:

- Make sure you have a RealMe user name and password. If you need to create an account, you can do so [here](#).
- Update your competency training. Any training that is due to expire prior to 30 June 2017 must be updated before you are able to renew your practising license. To find a training provider, have a look on our website.
- Check that your details (address, employer etc) are up to date on the EWRB Register. This is especially important if your employer will be renewing your licence for you – as they will not be able to renew it until your details are updated.
- If this is your first time applying for a license, or if you want to change the photo currently on your card, you will need to submit a photo. To help make sure you have a suitable photo, we encourage you to have your photo taken at your nearest PostShop.

More information on the relicensing round will be on the EWRB website soon.

Rewarding career opportunity at Standards New Zealand

A unique opportunity exists to join the Standards New Zealand Development team as a Principal Advisor Development, with a key focus on electrical and electro technical standards development. As a Principal Advisor Development, you will manage the successful completion of a programme of projects within the electrical and electro technical sectors, consistent with the requirements in the Standards and Accreditation Act 2015.

You will also have the opportunity to work on standards in other key sectors. You will be responsible for relationship management with potential commissioners of standards solutions, including regulators, key business and industry leaders, as well as development committee members and other stakeholders contributing to the development of standards.

For more information and to apply please go to the [MBIE website](#). (Article supplied by Standards NZ)

CHORUS Wiring Homes for Fibre

When building a new home, or completing a major renovation, home wiring that makes the most of our new fibre network is essential for the best broadband experience. We encourage home owners to discuss their requirements with a competent wiring contractor.

Check out: chorus.co.nz/contractors and tcf.org.nz

Basic requirements for a new home or a home undergoing major renovation:

- Conduit/pipe from boundary to house
- External Termination Point (ETP)
- Home Distributor or Star Wiring Box
- Conduit/pipe (or at least fibre and copper cabling) from ETP to home distributor box
- At least four Cat6 cables from the home distributor box to the primary consumption point (typically behind the main TV)

Why an ETP?

The ETP allows our technician to connect the home's internal cabling to the external service lead.

We will install an ETP when we come to complete the connection

but if you want to install one earlier, they can be purchased from an electrical wholesaler.

Why conduit or pipe inside?

When installing fibre, our technician needs to bring cable from the ETP to the home distributor box.

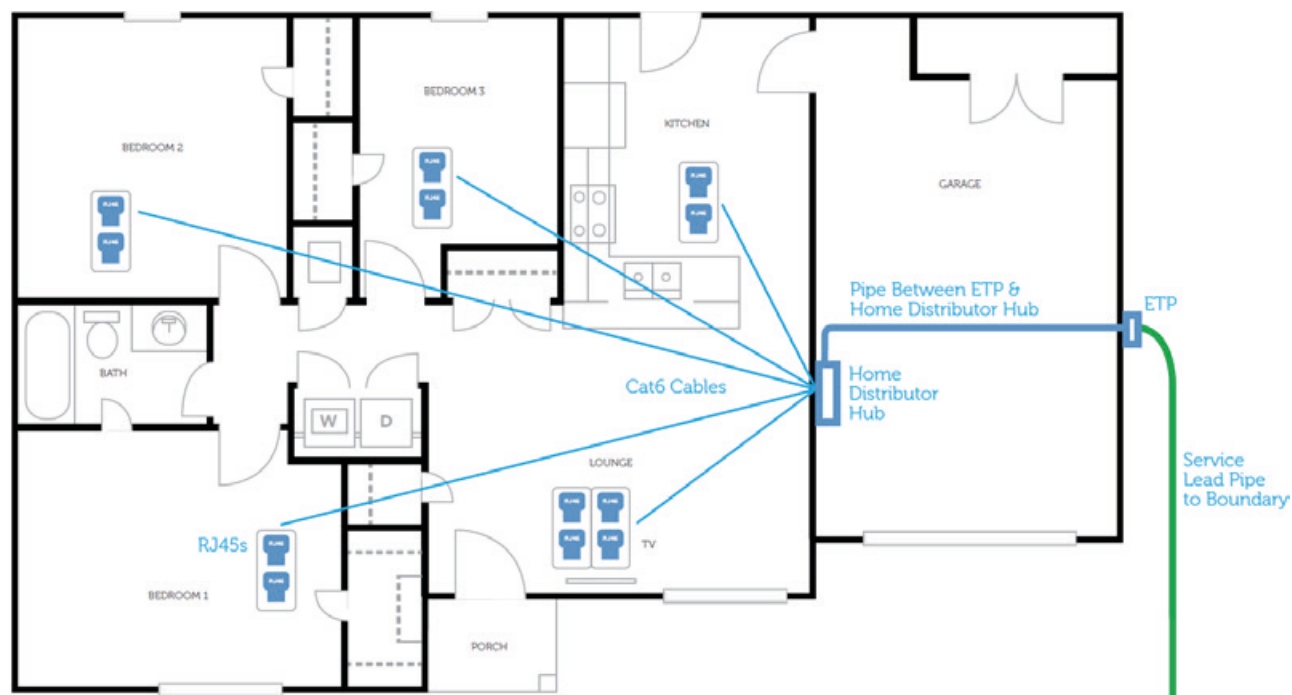
Conduit or pipe provides a pathway for the cable to be fed through. To make this easier, the pipe needs to have swept bends, not elbows or flexi duct. This cable could be fibre or a combination of fibre and copper called composite cable. You can install this yourself, but it needs to be managed carefully. There needs to be 1.2m slack at each end.

What's a home distributor box?

It's a networking box that connects the incoming signal from the broadband provider to the rest of the home data network. Typically these have a couple of power outlets, a data patch panel and maybe an Ethernet switch. This is where our Optical Network Terminal (ONT) will be installed, however the modem or router will likely need to be placed elsewhere for optimal wireless performance.

Why four or more Cat6 cables to the primary consumption point?

Typically the modem will be installed at this location. A signal is delivered from the ONT to the modem on the first cable. And multiple signals will be delivered from the modem – data, phone and TV – back to the data patch panel in the home distributor box on the other cables. We recommend a minimum cable specification of Cat6 (UTP) from the home distributor box to each jack point.



So you want to install your own fibre cable from the ETP to the home distributor box?

Ideally, there will be a 20mm pipe between the ETP and the home distributor box. If the cable gets damaged or is faulty, it needs to be replaced. But if you decide to install your own cable, make sure you do the following:

- Leave at least 1.2m slack at each end to allow our technician to connect the premises to the telecommunications network
- Use a product recommended by Chorus. Check out chorus.co.nz/contractors

The preferred composite cable used to connect to the Chorus network is the Prysmian Opticat cable. Other suitable products can be found on our website.

(Article supplied by Chorus)

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 73

Between September and December 2014, Mr Camplin performed prescribed electrical work on a 36ft yacht in Auckland. He performed a wide range of PEW tasks, including converting the vessel from 120V to 240V power. The work was non-compliant and a number of safety issues were identified, including exposed metal components, and not segregating the low voltage AC systems from the extra low voltage systems.

Mr Camplin was not a registered electrician and was not authorised to do this work. In addition, Mr Camplin had indicated that he was qualified to do this type of marine electrical work. Mr Camplin pleaded guilty to one charge of performing unauthorised prescribed electrical work brought by the Board under the Electricity Act 1992. Mr Camplin was fined \$6075 in total, and ordered to pay Court costs of \$130, and solicitor's costs of \$226.

Prosecution 74

Between 1 and 31 July 2013, Mr Kumar performed prescribed electrical work at a residential property, namely the wiring of an electronic gate which included the laying out of electrical wiring. Mr Kumar was not a registered electrician and was not authorised to do the work in question.

Mr Kumar runs a company called Ace Electrical. Mr Kumar advised the owner of the address that he was a registered electrician. The advertisement Ace Electrical had on the Localist website referred to Mr Kumar and stated that Mr Kumar has over 15 years' experience in the field. It also lists "Registered

Electrician" as one of the company's products and specialities.

The case was heard in the Manukau DC before his Honour Judge Earwaker. The defendant did not appear. His Honour adopted a \$5000 fine on the lead charge of performing unauthorised electrical work, and imposed an additional \$1500 fine for the holding out charge (a total of \$6500). He ordered court costs for both charges, and solicitor's costs on the lead charge. The Judge also ordered reparation of \$2070 on the lead charge, payable in 28 days.

Prosecution 75

In June 2015, Wellington Alarm Services was engaged to carry out prescribed electrical work on the existing flood/security light system at Maoribank School, 32 Hillside Drive, Maoribank, Upper Hutt. The work included installing LED flood lights to existing circuits. It was carried out by Mr Todd the sole director of Wellington Alarm Services Limited, based in Petone.

Mr Todd was not a registered electrician and was not authorised to do the work in question.

Mr Todd was sentenced in the Hutt Valley District Court in front of Judge Butler. He was fined \$3,187.50, Board solicitor's fees \$226 and court costs of \$132.89.

Result of disciplinary hearing

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

On or about 14 July 2015 an Auckland, Associated Trade (Plumber & Gasfitter):

- carried out or caused to be carried out prescribed electrical work, being an offence under section 143(a)(i) of the Act, in that, he carried out prescribed electrical work without holding a current practising licence in breach of section 74 of the Act.
- failed to provide a return being a disciplinary offence under section 143(f) of the Act, in that, he failed to issue an Electrical Safety Certificate for the re-connection of a hot water cylinder.

The Board found the Associated Trade (Plumber & Gasfitter) committed the disciplinary offences outlined above and ordered him to pay

- a fine of \$500.00 (Section 147M(1)(f) of the Act); and
- \$250.00, a sum the Board considers just and reasonable towards the costs and expenses of, and incidental to the hearing of the complaint by the Board. (Section 147N of the Act).

And in accordance with section 128 of the Act the disciplinary action taken under section 147M of the Act will be noted on the Register of Electrical Workers for a period of 3 years.