

ELECTRON

EMPOWERING TODAY'S ELECTRICAL WORKERS

ISSUE No. 86 DECEMBER 2016

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Welcome to the 86th issue of ELECTRON newsletter.

We are now only three months away from the commencement of the 2017/2019 re-licensing round, which will open on 3 April 2017. All 2015/17 practising licences will expire on 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. In this edition of ELECTRON there is an article encouraging you to start getting prepared so when the round opens, it will be quick and easy for you to re-licence.

Also in this issue the Board announces they have joined forces with the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board (PGDB) with the launch of the "Report a Cowboy App." We encourage you to use the App to assist in combatting illegal workers.

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.

RICHARD STUBBINGS – REGISTRAR



EWRB and PGDB join forces to combat illegal workers

The EWRB is forming a united front with the Plumbers, Gasfitters & Drainlayers Board (PGDB) by adding illegal electrical workers to the list of trades that can be reported through the Report-A-Cowboy App.

The App, launched late last year by the PGDB, has proven to be a successful way to start closing the gap on illegal workers in the industry.

The EWRB-PGDB partnership is all about protecting property owners, keeping the public safe, and supporting legitimate tradespeople.

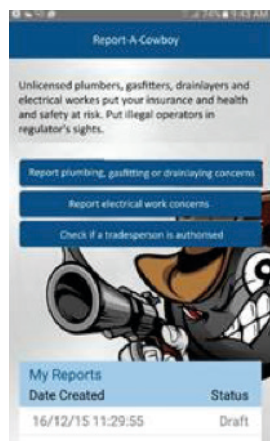
If you find yourself repairing the defective work of people who were unauthorised to do the work initially, you should feed this information directly back to the Boards' investigations teams using the Report-A-Cowboy App.

How to download the App

R.A.C (Report-A-Cowboy) App

Click the App Store or Google play image to download

You will be presented with the following screen where you will be



invited to input and send information about illegal operators. It's quick and intuitive!

Working while being distracted

Imagine being on an airplane. Just as you start to descend into landing, a cellphone rings, and the pilot takes the call. Can you imagine how frightening that would be as a passenger? Landing an airplane is hard enough without inviting distractions.

Now, take that image into electrical work. How would your clients feel if your attention is divided while completing your work? Distractions like phone calls, text messages or just thinking about another part of your life may cause your electrical work to be unsafe or non-compliant.

To ensure safety is at the forefront of everything you do, cut out all distractions. You must be able to concentrate on your work and nothing else.

Have you or a family member got a medical condition that is affecting your ability to concentrate?

Are personal problems affecting your attention span?

Are you thinking about what's going on after work?

Are you resolving that quarrel you just had with your significant other?

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

Are there other people around who could potentially distract you? Answering these questions and others, will help create a more productive and safe atmosphere and limit distractions. If one or more of the above factors are evident, think about whether you should be at work or whether you should defer that more complex job until tomorrow.

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 starting 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 is on our website.

Installation Address Recording in the Electrical and Gas High-Risk Database (EGHRD)

(Article supplied by Energy Safety)

Many 'manually' entered addresses in the EGHRD are being entered incorrectly making it difficult to search and find the entry again. However, it's easy to avoid this problem.

There are now over 200,000 entries in the high-risk database. The system is designed to be searchable by anyone, including the public, so installation addresses need to be consistent and correct.

When a user starts entering an address they should see a list of suggestions below the address line. These suggestions come from the PAF database which is New Zealand Post's 'Postal Address File'- a database of around two million New Zealand postal addresses. Energy Safety has a licence for this and it is updated

by NZ Post quarterly. Currently around 70% of the addresses are entered in this manner, which is the preferred approach, but around 30% have been entered manually.

Electrical Inspectors have contacted Energy Safety advising that they, or their customers, cannot find the entry relating to the work done on customers' property. Most times this is due to an incorrect format or misspelt address being used. This can also affect the practitioner as an incorrectly entered record may be considered invalid under the legislation.

Energy Safety has undertaken an analysis of the manually entered addresses. This shows that some addresses are not entered correctly and that the spelling of many places is incorrect (eg Auckland is spelled more than 15 different ways and Christchurch more than 20 ways).

Energy Safety recommends that addresses are entered using the PAF, not manually, as this will minimise errors in the spelling and formatting of addresses.

How to avoid an error in the address entry:

In an ideal situation all addresses should be available in the drop down selection list (PAF). However, that is not always possible for some installations. The following three options are available in order of preference:

1. Enter the property number and street or road name, then select the correct address from the drop down list, if available.
2. If the drop down list does not find the property, start typing the name of the street or road, suburb (if available) and city. Select the address that is closest to the installation address from the dropdown selection list. Then edit this address by selecting "Edit" and enter the correct property number. Complete the rest of the form and save the record.
3. Carefully manually type in the correct spelling of the street address, suburb, city and postal code in the correct boxes in the format above. This method is not recommended and should only be used as a last resort because it has been shown to cause problems for practitioners entering records and wasted time for both practitioners and customers searching for records.

If you have any problems entering high risk information, please ring our free-phone number 0800 030 040.

Investigation Report – Prosecution 76

On 9 December 2016, Darrell Babington was sentenced having pleaded guilty to one representative charge of doing prescribed electrical work under the Electricity Act 1992. Mr Babington was employed by Switched On Property Maintenance. Mr Babington has a limited certificate that permitted him to do PEW while supervised but this expired on 26 April 2013. Mr Babington only became fully registered on 1 September 2014. In June and July 2014, he installed electrical fittings at seven different properties in Christchurch. At two of the properties, remedial work was required to fix safety issues with the work. Mr Babington was fined \$1,500 and ordered to pay solicitor's costs and court costs.