



electrical focus

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Amendment No. 1 to AS/NZS 3000:2000 Wiring Rules

Amendment No. 1 to AS/NZS 3000:2000 Wiring Rules was published by Standards Australia on 25 September 2001.

The amendment applies from date of publication and as such, came into effect from 25 September 2001, for all electrical installations in Western Australia.

Any instances of not being able to comply with this application date should be referred to the relevant electricity supply authority.

Wiring Rules FAQs Online

With the introduction of the new AS/NZS 3000:2000 Wiring Rules, Standards Australia Committee EL/1 has replaced the previous "Rulings" (to the previous SAA Wiring Rules) with FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions). The FAQs may be viewed on the "Wiring Rules" website at www.wiringrules.com.

At present, the website contains the first 9 FAQs endorsed for publication. Another 17 FAQs are expected to be available by the end of the year. Early in the New Year, a further 30 FAQs will be available.

The website contains other relevant information about the Wiring Rules, including:

- information about this current edition;
- how to obtain advice on information contained in the publication; and
- the history of the Wiring Rules.

Changes to Books of Preliminary Notices / Notices of Completion

The content of books of Preliminary Notice / Notice of Completion for electrical installing work is undergoing some minor changes. Stocks of the new books are expected to be available early in 2002. Stocks of existing books may continue to be used.

"Customer Copy" of the Notice of Completion

Currently, Notices of Completion are in duplicate form; the electrical contractor (or in-house electrical installing work licence holder) forwards the original copy to the relevant electricity supply authority and retains the duplicate as a record of the electrical installing work that was carried out.

A new copy of Notices of Completion, the "Customer's Copy", will now be provided in books of Notices. This new copy will simply be a duplicate of the Notice of Completion so will not involve any additional entries on the form. The Customer's Copy will allow the electrical contractor's client (the builder or owner of the installation) to receive details of the electrical installing work that has been carried out.

The electrical contractor will need to give (or forward) the "Customer's Copy" of the notice to the person who requested the electrical work to be carried out (this may be the occupier of the premises, builder, real estate agent etc, as appropriate).

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Office of
Energy WA

There will still be electricity supply authority and licence holder copies of the Notice of Completion.

These changes will bring the issue of electrical Notices in line with gas Notices and also practices in other States.

Inspection Test Certificates

The Office of Energy will amend the Inspection Test Certificate [sticker] for use with new connections.

The amended sticker will have space to record the following additional information about the electrical installation:

- impedance of the earthing system
- insulation resistance
- confirmation that the MEN link was installed
- location of the underground consumers mains (ie. to show the basic route).

This additional information will be of benefit to the owner of the installation.

Whilst the sticker will continue to be included in books of Preliminary Notices / Notice of Completion, stocks of the stickers will also be available in loose form (ie. single stickers).

Western Power Corporation Contractor/Worker Connection Schemes

The Office of Energy is aware of some misconceptions in industry regarding Western Power's Contractor Connect Scheme and its "H" Accreditation Scheme. To assist with the understanding of these schemes, Western Power has prepared a statement detailing the application of the two schemes, for inclusion with this edition of the Energy Bulletin.

Electrical contractors and electricians should study this information so that they are familiar with the schemes and the differing applications of them.

Electrical contractors are requested to make this information available to their electricians who would not normally receive copies of the Energy Bulletin (this request applies to all information provided in Energy Bulletins and Electrical Focuses).

A copy of the Western Power statement is enclosed with this edition of the Energy Bulletin.

Electrical Work Being Carried Out by Unlicensed Persons

It's still happening ...!

Recently, there have been several instances where electrical work has been carried out by persons who have completed a component of electrical training but who do not hold a licence. Typically, these are electrical apprentices.

Apprentice electricians must hold a "C" grade licence whilst they are in training. But this does not permit the apprentice to work independently as an electrician. "C" grade licence holders may only carry out electrical installing work under the supervision of their licensed supervisor.

Electrical contractors need to ensure ALL their electricians who supervise apprentices have a current "A" grade electrical worker's licence. A reminder is also extended to Registered Training Organisations to ensure that they carry out a licence check of apprentices at least annually and maintain a record of the results.

Carrying out electrical installing work without the appropriate electrical worker's licence is a breach of the *Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1991*.

It is also an offence to employ an unlicensed person to carry out electrical installing work.

Public Liability Insurance

One of the eligibility criteria for the issue of an electrical contractor's licence is the requirement to hold a current policy of insurance with a reputable insurer. The policy needs to provide public liability indemnity, in respect of the work of an electrical contractor, for cover of at least \$1 000 000. The cover is to apply to all legal entities associated with the contacting business and cover all work, whether completed (and certified), or not.

Electrical contractors no longer need to provide proof of their insurance policy at the time of renewal. Instead, electrical contractors will receive a reminder of this requirement with their licence renewal notice.

To ensure that the requirement to hold an appropriate policy of public liability insurance is being met, the Board has written to a sample of electrical contractors (about 300) requiring them to produce details of their current policy. Appropriate action will be taken if a contractor cannot produce this information.

Electrical contractors who do not hold the appropriate public liability insurance policy are in breach of the *Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1991* and may therefore be subject to prosecution and/or disciplinary action by the Electrical Licensing Board.

Electrical Licensing Board Aims for Full Compliance

The WA Electrical Licensing Board recently notified industry that it has introduced a policy requiring all persons who carry out substandard work to undertake a competency assessment to demonstrate their suitability to continue to be licensed.

The following article appeared in the Electrician's Newsletter No. 02 – October 2001:

The Electrical Licensing Board is responsible for licensing only those persons who are competent and who perform compliant electrical work to mandatory industry standards. The Board considers that all licence holders have a responsibility to maintain their own competence and knowledge of regulations and standards.

Persons who do not maintain their competence will have their licence status reviewed by the Board with the possible outcome of licence cancellation or suspension. To implement this, the Board recently embarked on a 'no tolerance' policy in regards to persons who are incompetent or negligent.

When the Board is made aware that a licence holder has carried out substandard work, it will require that person to demonstrate that they are competent for licensing purposes. This means they will have to complete a competency assessment. As of 1 August 2001, persons have been requested by the Board to demonstrate their competence by undertaking a formal assessment. Failure to satisfactorily complete the assessment will result in the licence being suspended. The person may also have to attend a formal disciplinary hearing before the Board.

All persons who have had their licence suspended will need to demonstrate their competence to the Board before a licence will be re-issued. This may include working for some time under supervision to gain further practical competence, in accordance with regulation 50 of the *Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1991*. In such cases the supervisor will also be required to provide a report to the Board attesting to the person's level of competence.

The Board considers that this policy is necessary to maintain appropriate standards within the industry.

The Board seeks the cooperation of all persons in the industry to achieve its aim of full compliance.

Disciplinary Action Taken by the Electrical Licensing Board – 1 July 2001 to 31 October 2001.

The Electrical Licensing Board dealt with 43 operatives from 1 July 2001 to 31 October 2001. A summary of the actions taken is:

- Twenty nine operatives were required to do competency assessments
- Twenty one operatives were interviewed by sub committees of the Board
- Six operatives had their electrical worker's licences suspended as follows:
 - Three operatives had their licences suspended for failing the competency assessment:

Paul Rodrigues ¹	EW 120708
Barry Vause ¹	EW 132510
Sohrab Alizadeh	EW 107225 / EC 004307

¹ These operatives have since complied with the Board's

order and have satisfactorily completed the competency assessment to regain their licences.

- Three operatives had their licences suspended for non-compliance with the Board's requirement to attend the competency assessment:

Peter Hilton	EW 120523 / EC 005228
Darryl D'Sena	EW 131338
Roger Stanton	EW 109636

Notifications of suspensions as a result of formal proceedings are forwarded to supply authorities in WA and licensing authorities throughout Australia at the time of occurrence.

"Rush Jobs"

Many electricians and electrical contractors who come before the Electrical Licensing Board for disciplinary action after carrying out substandard electrical work, offer the excuse that they were rushed to complete the job by their supervisor, employer or builder.

The Board understands the pressure put on licensed operatives to complete jobs, but "being rushed" is not as an excuse for substandard work and will not be accepted by the Board as such.

Licensed operatives know and understand electrical compliance standards. The Board will continue to hold them responsible for any non-compliance issues.

If you are placed in a position where you are rushed to complete a job, please keep in mind what the outcome may be. The Board impresses on all licensed operatives that failing to check and test in such situations often results in mistakes not being detected.

**PROSECUTIONS FOR BREACHES OF THE
ELECTRICITY (LICENSING) REGULATIONS 1991
1 July 2001 to 31 October 2001**

<i>Breach</i>	<i>Name (and suburb of residence at time of offence)</i>	<i>Licence No.</i>	<i>Fine & Court Cost (\$)</i>
<i>Unlicensed electrical work Regulation 19 E(L)R</i>	<i>Michael Beck (Jarrahdale)</i>	<i>NLH</i>	<i>1 302.70</i>
	<i>Allan Bradshaw (Rockingham)</i>	<i>EW 103029</i>	<i>* 1 400.00</i>
	<i>Leslie Crispin (Broome)</i>	<i>EW 119473</i>	<i>550.00</i>
	<i>Cleto Guerini (Spearwood)</i>	<i>NLH</i>	<i>650.00</i>
	<i>Robert Harry (Geraldton)</i>	<i>EW 109478</i>	<i>727.70</i>
	<i>Dragoslav Milosavljevic (Malaga)</i>	<i>NLH</i>	<i>1 936.50</i>
	<i>Alan Slessar (Innaloo) 2 offences</i>	<i>NLH</i>	<i>*</i>
<i>Carried on business as an electrical contractor without a licence Regulation 33 E(L)R</i>	<i>Allan Bradshaw (Rockingham)</i>	<i>EW 103029</i>	<i>*</i>
	<i>Alan Slessar (Innaloo) 2 offences</i>	<i>NLH</i>	<i>* 1 802.70</i>
<i>Carried out substandard electrical work Regulation 49 E(L)R</i>	<i>Colin Campbell (Upper Swan)</i>	<i>EW 111389</i>	<i>897.70</i>
	<i>Hugo Kampf (Booragoon)</i>	<i>EW 101440</i>	<i>1 250.00</i>
	<i>Paul Leffeber (Parkerville)</i>	<i>EW 115207</i>	<i>1 397.70</i>
	<i>David McAndrew (Bateman)</i>	<i>EW 115872</i>	<i>650.20</i>
	<i>Steven Mitchell (Sorrento)</i>	<i>EW 138318</i>	<i>757.70</i>
	<i>Vahid Salekian (Mt Hawthorn)</i>	<i>EW 131820</i>	<i>1 300.40</i>
	<i>Barry Stone (Doubleview)</i>	<i>EW 118072</i>	<i>802.70</i>
	<i>Brett Travers (Derby)</i>	<i>EW 117053</i>	<i>1 400.00</i>
<i>Submitted a Notice of Completion when the work was not complete Regulation 52 E(L)R</i>	<i>Alan Rohrlach (Mirrabooka)</i>	<i>EW 110437</i>	<i>2 257.70</i>

Legend:

NLH No Licence Held

E(L)R Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1991

* Global fine (more than one offence)

Note: There were three other prosecutions finalised in this period. The details of these prosecutions are not included above as two resulted in a spent conviction order and the other resulted in a conditional release order being issued.

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