

# electrical focus

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## Industry forums planned to address amendments to the Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1991

Energy Safety has completed work on the review and updating of the *Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1991*. The proposed amendments have now been finalised and a submission has been made to Minister for Energy Eric Ripper.

After approval and gazettal, the amendments come into effect after six-months. During that time, compliance with either the existing regulations or the amended regulations will be accepted.

Energy Safety plans to conduct a series of electrical industry forums to communicate the *Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1991* amendments to industry. The forums will focus on the impact of the changes to the areas of licensing, compliance, Notices

and disciplinary proceedings, per the new State Administrative Tribunal. There will also be an opportunity to address general regulatory and licensing issues.

It will be in the interests of **all electrical contractors, electricians and electrical workers** to attend one of these presentations, to gain a clear understanding of the changes to the *Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1991* and how the changes may impact on their work.

Details of dates and venues of industry forums have not been finalised. It is planned that details will be announced in the next edition of the *Electrical Focus* and will also be listed on the Energy Safety website.

## Changes to procedures for connecting electricity customers

The Government has advised that, as part of the continuing reform of the electricity market in Western Australia, from 1 January 2005, over 12,000 additional [Western Australian] electricity customers will become 'contestable', that is, able to choose their electricity retailer.

The newly contestable customers are those on the south-west grid with an annual consumption of 50 megawatt-hours or more at a single point of connection. In general terms, this equates to an average load of about 5.7 kW.

Most small to medium enterprises with reasonably significant electricity loads (eg. fish and chip shops, bakers) will be contestable.

To meet this increase in the contestable customer base, Western Power has advised of some changes to procedures for connecting **new** energy customers in WA:

- Western Power (as network operator) will install the meter and energise all sites for contestable customers;
- the meter will be installed after the customer has selected a retailer and the retailer's Network Access request has been approved; and
- The ETIC [electronic ticketing] internet-based system for lodging Preliminary and Completion Notices to Western Power may not be used for connection of 'contestable' services. Instead, the paper system must be used.

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# Energy Safety



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**For non-contestable customers,** the only change is that there will be a new application form, clearly identified as being for use by non-contestable customers only.

The new form is available from Western Power's website <http://www.westernpower.com.au>.

Further information about retailers in the WA energy market is available from the Office of Energy website <http://www.energy.wa.gov.au>.

Western Power Networks will be sending information to electrical contractors shortly, providing further details of the changes.

## Energy Safety is NOT "Office of Energy"

Technical and Safety regulator "Energy Safety" was transferred from the Office of Energy to the Department of Consumer and Employment Protection on 1 July 2002.

However, some licence holders are still mistakenly telephoning the Office of Energy for answers to electrical or gas licensing/standards/inspection enquiries. Staff at the Office of Energy are unable to assist with these types of calls.

On a related issue, some gas fitters are still incorrectly mailing Notices of Completion to the Office of Energy (this could be due in part to the fact that their old stock of Notices still have Office of Energy printed on them).

Electrical and gas operatives are reminded that if they are required to submit Notices to Energy Safety, then they need to be sent to:

Energy Safety  
20 Southport Street  
West Leederville WA 6007

and NOT to the Office of Energy.

Enquiries to Energy Safety should be directed to:

For licensing matters:

Telephone: 9422 5282

Fax: 9422 5222

For general matters:

Telephone: 9422 5200

Fax: 9422 5244

For enquiries about electricity or gas supply matters:

Contact the relevant network operator

**Electricity Notices of Completion** should be directed to the relevant network operator (unless the network operator is not known, in which case the Notices should be delivered to Energy Safety)

**Gas Notices of Completion** should be directed to the relevant network operator (except for Notices related to mobile installations or where the network operator is not known, in which case the Notices should be delivered to Energy Safety)

**Email contact** with Energy Safety should be directed to:

For licensing matters:

[energylicensing@docep.wa.gov.au](mailto:energylicensing@docep.wa.gov.au)

For general matters:

[energysafety@docep.wa.gov.au](mailto:energysafety@docep.wa.gov.au)

All other contact details for Energy Safety are available from Energy Safety's website.

## Product safety alert – retaining brackets on stoves

Electrolux Home Products Pty Ltd is conducting a safety awareness campaign in relation to a range of Simpson gas and electric upright stoves manufactured between 1992 and 2000 and Westinghouse gas and electric stoves manufactured between 1983 and 2000. The purpose of the safety campaign is to make owners aware that restraining brackets must be fitted and the stove pushed back so that

they are engaged. Additionally, Electrolux has advised that, on request, a warning label will be provided to remind users that excessive loads should not be placed on the open oven door or that children should not be allowed to climb onto the stove.

Excessive movement of the stove or climbing onto an open oven door may create a potentially dangerous situation.

Upright stoves must be installed in accordance with manufacturers' instructions including the fitting of retaining brackets or other devices or methods as supplied or specified.

If as an installer you are aware of stoves incorrectly installed, you should encourage users to have the installation rectified. If you are in a dwelling for other reasons, take a few moments to discuss the issue with the owner. If the brackets are lost, new ones can be obtained at no charge by telephoning Electrolux at 1800 063 009.

Other brands or models of stoves use a variety of anti-tipping methods, but the same principles apply as above.



The product safety alert that has been appearing in recent press

## Chris Marshall – Australia's Apprentice of the Year

Showcasing the best in Australia's electrical and communication industry, the National Electrical and Communications Association (NECA) has announced Chris Marshall as the NECA Apprentice of the Year 2004.

When Chris began his electrical mechanic apprenticeship with Electrical Group Training (EGT) in WA in 2001, he may not have imagined the successes ahead. Working for 16 contractors during his apprenticeship, Chris developed skills in a variety of electrical business areas, excelling in World Skills competitions as a WA State winner in 2003 and a national competitor in 2004.

As winner of the State Clipsal/Electrical and Communications Association (ECA) Award and the national 2004 NECA/Clipsal Electrical Industry Awards, Chris will be travelling to South East Asia on a study tour hosted by Clipsal.

Chris was also named the 2004 NECA/Siemens award winner for a group training company apprentice. He will be Siemens' guest at the Hanover Trade Fair in Germany and undertake a range of site inspections and factory visits.

With these three achievements to his credit, Chris then went head-to-head with the winners of the NHP Apprentice Award, and the two Communications Apprentice of the Year award winners, resulting in him becoming the worthy recipient of Australia's highest award, the 2004 NECA National Apprentice of the Year.

Chris has now completed his apprenticeship and is focusing his career in the industrial and commercial areas of the industry.

Chris has experienced many employment opportunities open up



Chris Marshall  
NECA Apprentice of the Year 2004

through his participation in the awards process.

At the age of just 21, Chris is a great ambassador not only for Electrical Group Training, but for the electrical contracting industry in general.

## Electrical installations on construction sites

AS/NZS 3012 *Electrical installations-Construction and demolition sites* is one of the companion Standards to the Wiring Rules. Although it holds the status of a guidance document for electrical installation requirements on construction and demolition sites, it is mandated (called up) in regulations in most States and Territories and is supplemented, in some states, by additional requirements. In Western Australia, the *Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996* calls up parts of AS/NZS 3012.

The new edition, AS/NZS 3012:2003, has been in use for a little over 12 months. During this time, Subcommittee EL-001-17 (the committee responsible for the Standard) has been monitoring its uptake around the country and its overall effectiveness.

Subcommittee EL-001-17 met in June and July 2004 to resolve a number of issues with this edition of the Standard. These issues included:

- protection of permanent wiring within construction and demolition sites;
- the type of inverter suitable for use on construction and demolition sites and tests required;
- two-way switching of lighting in construction lift shafts; and
- a review of Section 3 Testing.

As a result of the Subcommittee's discussions, an amendment will be issued to AS/NZS 3012:2003 to cover these issues. This Amendment was available for public review during November 2004.

It should be particularly noted that, until a suitable Standard is developed for portable inverters, the amendment proposes that only inverters with equipotential bonding between frame, earth and neutral, with RCD protection of the low-voltage a.c. output and marking to indicate suitability for use on construction and demolition sites, will be allowed.

## Disciplinary action taken by the Electrical Licensing Board

**1 October 2004 to 31 December 2004**

The Electrical Licensing Board dealt with five operatives during this period.

### Formal proceedings

One operative attended formal proceedings:

- Barry Treak (EW 124956) [and BFT Electrical (EC 003820)]

### Summary proceedings

One operative was required to attend summary proceedings:

- Glenn Downing (EW 104891) [and Downing Electrical (EC 000723)]

### Competency assessments

Five operatives were required to complete a competency assessment

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to demonstrate their knowledge and ability to carry out electrical work in a safe and satisfactory manner as they had carried out substandard electrical work:

- George Riding EW 105370
- Glenn Downing EW 104891
- Barry Treak EW 124956
- Mark Last EW 139324
- Robert Campbell EW 116211

All failed an initial assessment and had their licences suspended

### **George Riding (EW 105370) (EC 001167)**

Due to his failure to successfully complete a competency assessment, Mr Riding's electrical worker's licence and electrical contractor's licence in the name of Phase Five Electrical have been suspended. Mr Riding was the only nominee for the company. The licences will remain suspended until Mr Riding can prove his competence.

### **Glenn Downing (EW104891) (EC 000723)**

Mr Downing has twice failed to successfully complete a competency assessment. His electrical workers licence and electrical contractor's licence will remain suspended until he can prove his competence. Mr Downing was also the subject of Summary Proceedings held before the Electrical Licensing Board on 12 October 2004. Mr Downing was censured for his actions. Mr Downing's application to work under

supervision has been approved by the Board and a new nominee has been enlisted to undertake the running of Downing Electrical.

### **Barry Treak (EW 124956) (EC 003820)**

Mr Treak failed the competency assessment three times. He was required to attend formal proceedings on 12 October 2004. The Electrical Licensing Board cancelled both his electrical worker's licence and his electrical contractor's licence in the name of BFT Electrical. Mr Treak was the only nominee for the company. Mr Treak must undertake and successfully complete the Electrical Trades Licensing Course and the Electrical Contractor Training Programme before the Board will consider reinstating his licences.

### **Mark Last (EW 139324) (EC 007135)**

Mr Last has twice failed to successfully complete a competency assessment. His electrical worker's licence and his electrical contractor's licence in the name of Bexelex will remain suspended until Mr Last can prove his competence. Mr Last was the only nominee for Bexelex. Mr Last's application to work under supervision is currently being processed.

### **Robert Campbell (EW 116211) (EC 006022)**

Mr Campbell failed to successfully complete a competency assessment. His electrical worker's licence and his

electrical contractor's licence in the name of Quinninup Electrics will remain suspended until Mr Campbell can prove his competence. Mr Campbell was the only nominee for Quinninup Electrics.

## **Commencement of the State Administrative Tribunal**

The newly formed State Administrative Tribunal (SAT) commenced on 1 January 2005.

The SAT is a one-stop tribunal system that either replaces, or assumes some of the functions of, nearly 50 industry and public sector boards and tribunals.

The SAT will assume some of the disciplinary functions of the Electrical Licensing Board regarding electrical workers and contractors, and the Director of Energy Safety in relation to gas fitters.

Matters that may result in loss or suspension of licences of electrical contractors, electricians, restricted electrical workers, gas fitters and holders of an authorisation will in future be dealt with by the SAT.

The Electrical Licensing Board and Director of Energy Safety (per the Gas Licensing Committee) will continue to deal with lesser disciplinary matters that will not result in a loss of licence. These are referred to as "summary discipline" matters.

## **Prosecutions for breaches of Legislation 1 October 2004 to 31 December 2004**

| <b>Breach</b>   | <b>Name (and suburb of residence at time of offence)</b> | <b>Licence No.</b> | <b>Fine (\$)</b> | <b>Court Costs (\$)</b> |
|---|--|--------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Carried out electrical work without holding an electrical workers licence<br/>Regulation 19(1) E(L)R</i> | <i>Neil Frederick<br/>Gascoyne<br/>(Karrinyup)</i>       | NA                 | 2,000.00         | 233.45                  |
| <i>Failed to report an electrical accident<br/>Regulation 63 E(L)R</i>                                      | <i>Reece Bryant<br/>Craddock<br/>(Bullsbrook)</i>        | NA                 | 100.00           | 277.70                  |

Legend: E(L)R *Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1991* NA Not applicable (no licence held)

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