

Electrical vocational employment training

March 2004

This fact sheet explains the limit of electrical work that can be performed by secondary school students who undertake electrical vocational employment training. It also details the responsibilities that students, trainers and electricians must accept in order to comply with current electrical licensing regulations.

The Regulations

The *Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1991* specify the requirements for the licensing of electrical workers and contractors.

Regulation 19 prohibits electrical work being carried out by other than licensed persons.

Electrical work means work on electrical equipment or appliances that are, or are intended to be, connected to mains voltage. Electrical equipment ranges from switches, socket outlets (power points), lighting points, cables and wiring to large industrial apparatus, electrical machines and switchboards. Electrical appliances range from plug-in household appliances and white goods to commercial appliances.

In brief, a person who works on electrical equipment or appliances must hold an electrical licence.

However, the installation of underground electrical conduits and pipes is not a type of work that requires an electrical licence.

What sort of work is a VET student allowed to do?

VET students can carry out limited work experience tasks under the supervision of electrical contractors. These tasks may include:

- Reviewing electrical drawings, schedules or procedures
- Observing tasks being carried out by licensed electrical workers
- Undertaking preparatory tasks like trenching or chasing/cutting walls/floors
- Installing underground conduits and pipes.

VET students are **NOT** permitted to carry out electrical work, including:

- Installing cables, wiring or electrical equipment
- Connecting wiring or electrical equipment
- Assembling or disassembling electrical equipment or appliances
- Work in close proximity to, or accessing, live terminals of electrical equipment.

Electrical Apprenticeships

A 'C' Grade licence is issued to a person who has entered into an electrical apprenticeship, or an electrical pre-apprenticeship course, or a special tripartite VET arrangement where an electrical apprenticeship is offered to VET students who successfully complete a specific training program.

'C' Grade licences are not offered to VET students on work experience, due to the limited duration and transitional nature of the work experience activities.

