



Office of **Energy**

Office of *ENERGY* WA

Electrical **FOCUS**

Amendment No 1/97 to WA Electrical Requirements

Section 11.0 "SECWA Personnel" of the manual "WA Electrical Requirements" details contact arrangements with supply authority personnel.

With the structural changes that have evolved within the electricity supply industry over the past few years, there have been many changes to contact arrangements for electricity supply authorities. Section 11.0 therefore needs to be amended to reflect these changes in contact arrangements at the Office of Energy and electricity supply authorities.

The following amendments are required:

1. *Replace Section 11.0 "SECWA Personnel" with the enclosed Section 11.0 "Contact with Electricity Supply Authority and Office of Energy Personnel".*
2. *Replace the letter of March 1993 in the front of the manual with the enclosed single page "WA ELECTRICAL REQUIREMENTS".*

Holders of a WA Electrical Requirements manual should ensure that this amendment is incorporated into their manual.

Copies of the WA Electrical Requirements manual are available from the Office of Energy for \$60.00. Additional copies of this amendment are also available, free of charge. Please telephone (08 9422 5252) or fax (08 9422 5222) your orders to the Office of Energy.

Western Power Revenue Protection Group

Western Power has established a Revenue Protection Group. The group is responsible for investigating meter interference and meter bypasses to Western Power kWh meters. Defective Western Power metering equipment causing loss of revenue will also be examined.

In some instances of bypasses, the installation main switch has also been bypassed, presenting a danger to electrical workers working within buildings. Vigilance and care is therefore required when working within any installation.

Western Power regards any interference to meters and service equipment very seriously and will thoroughly investigate each case discovered.

Contact may be made with the revenue protection group as follows:

Location:	47-65 Belgravia Street Belmont WA 6104
Facsimile:	08 9479 2768
Telephone:	
Tony Mancini	08 9479 2769
(Group Leader) -	
Don Roffman -	08 9479 2764
Dave Brotherton -	08 9479 2768

Starting Currents - Electric Motors

The *Electricity Act Regulations 1947* require that the starting current of electric motors be limited to ensure that there will not be any interference to the electricity supply to other consumers.

Single phase air conditioners are becoming increasingly popular, particularly in domestic installations.

(continued from previous page)

Where these types of air conditioners are to be installed, the rating of individual motors must be checked to ensure that the units will not cause interference to other consumers. As a 'rule of thumb', if the motor exceeds 1.5kw, then the installer should advise the consumer to check the feasibility of the installation of the unit with the relevant electricity supply authority.

Section 1.3.1 of WA Electrical Requirements details the requirements of the regulations.

Exemption from the Submission of Notices for Electrical Contractors

Regulation 52(1) of the *Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1991* requires an electrical contractor, who carries out any electrical installing work, to submit a Notice of Completion to the relevant supply authority. This requirement does not apply to "Minor Work" [as defined in the *Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1991*] carried out at a mine site.

On the other hand, Regulation 52(2) permits the Director of Energy Safety to exempt an electrical contractor from the requirement to prepare and submit a Notice of Completion, subject to certain conditions.

The following criteria are taken into consideration when determining an application for an exemption:

- The volume of electrical installing work warrants an exemption being issued. If the volume is small (eg. only a few jobs per year) an exemption may not be issued.
- The exemption is applicable to a specific installation.
- The exemption only applies to the electrical contractor who applies for and is granted the exemption.
- A secure place, at the exempt installation, is provided to keep an Electrical Log Book.
- The Electrical Log Book will be accessible to an electrical inspector when required (eg. the log book is kept in the site office under the control of a supervisor).
- Whether the work is "Minor Work".
Generally an exemption is only provided

for Minor Work unless the installation has its own generating plant and is not supplied from a supply authority.

Electrical contractors who wish to apply for an exemption need to write to the Director of Energy Safety requesting an exemption and provide the following information:

- the electrical contractor's name, address, telephone contact number, licence number;
- the name and address of the installation where the exemption will apply;
- the estimated number of electrical installing jobs that they anticipate will be completed over a 12 month period; and
- details of where the Electrical Log Book will be kept.

Notices of Completion - Ensuring they are Duly Completed

We are aware that some electrical contractors are submitting Notices of Completion to supply authorities with section 10 of the Notice completed by a person other than the individual electrical contractor or the authorised nominated electrical worker for the company or firm.

Such notices are deemed not duly completed and an electrical contractor who submits such notices to a supply authority is in breach of Regulation 52 of the *Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1991*.

Also, if the person who completes section 10 of the Notice is not an individual electrical contractor or an authorised nominated electrical worker for the company, the person is in breach of Regulation 54 of the *Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1991*.

Therefore, electrical contractors need to ensure that their Notices are duly completed and are in full compliance with Regulations 52 and 54 of the *Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1991* before submitting them to the relevant supply authority. Failure to do so may result in a prosecution.

**PROSECUTIONS FOR BREACHES OF
THE ELECTRICITY (LICENSING) REGULATIONS 1991
1 July 1997 to 31 October 1997**

<i>Breach</i>	<i>Name (and suburb of residence at time of offence)</i>	<i>Licence No.</i>	<i>Fine & Court Costs (\$)</i>
<i>Unlicensed electrical work Regulation 19(1)</i>	<i>B Calder (Myaree)</i>	<i>NLH</i>	<i>1 761.00</i>
	<i>A Cremer (Bateman)</i>	<i>NLH</i>	<i>445.00</i>
	<i>A Marton (Wembley)</i>	<i>EW 133258</i>	<i>1 912.25</i>
	<i>G Mickle (Kewdale)</i>	<i>NLH</i>	<i>721.00</i>
	<i>M Raayen (Myaree)</i>	<i>NLH</i>	<i>500.00</i>
	<i>M Raayen (Myaree)</i>	<i>NLH</i>	<i>767.00</i>
	<i>J Scholl (Heathridge)</i>	<i>EW 102473</i>	<i>300.00</i>
	<i>J Scholl (Heathridge)</i>	<i>EW 102473</i>	<i>300.00</i>
	<i>A Wilson (Bassendean)</i>	<i>NLH</i>	<i>529.00</i>
<i>Carried on business as an electrical contractor without a licence Regulation 33(1)</i>	<i>W Martinovich (Yokine)</i>	<i>EW 116895</i>	<i>500.00</i>
	<i>J Scholl (Heathridge)</i>	<i>EW 102473</i>	<i>636.00</i>
<i>Advertising without displaying the electrical contractor licence number Regulation 45(1)</i>	<i>Etchdale Holdings P/L T/A Austec Electrical Services (Wembley)</i>	<i>EC 002795</i>	<i>100.00</i>
	<i>Etchdale Holdings P/L T/A Austec Electrical Services (Wembley)</i>	<i>EC 002795</i>	<i>353.00</i>
	<i>G A Perry P/L T/A G A Perry Plumbing, Gas & Electricity (Willetton)</i>	<i>EC 005526</i>	<i>537.00</i>
	<i>G A Perry P/L T/A G A Perry Plumbing, Gas & Electricity (Willetton)</i>	<i>EC 005526</i>	<i>200.00</i>
<i>Substandard electrical work Regulation 49(1)</i>	<i>S Barrett (Fitzroy Crossing)</i>	<i>EW 105009</i>	<i>1 065.00</i>
	<i>E Bianchini (Queens Park)</i>	<i>EW 100748</i>	<i>699.00</i>
	<i>J Clifford (Wembley)</i>	<i>EW 107756</i>	<i>807.00</i>
	<i>T Dodd (Scarborough)</i>	<i>EW 111066</i>	<i>1 144.00</i>
	<i>T Dodd (Scarborough)</i>	<i>EW 111066</i>	<i>500.00</i>
	<i>B Donnelly (Wangara)</i>	<i>EW 108732</i>	<i>928.00</i>
	<i>P Donnelly (Yokine)</i>	<i>EW 125844</i>	<i>994.00</i>
	<i>J Duffy (Lesmurdie)</i>	<i>EW 109730</i>	<i>765.00</i>
	<i>D Franklin (Cuballing)</i>	<i>EW 100808</i>	<i>600.00</i>
	<i>F Giles (Joondanna)</i>	<i>EW 114408</i>	<i>445.00</i>
	<i>L Gittos (Wattle Grove)</i>	<i>EW 104924</i>	<i>1 006.00</i>

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<i>Substandard electrical work Regulation 49(1)</i>	<i>W Martinovich (Yokine)</i>	<i>EW 116895</i>	<i>1 805.00</i>
	<i>A Marton (Wembley)</i>	<i>EW 133258</i>	<i>750.00</i>
	<i>R Moore (Forrestfield)</i>	<i>EW 102341</i>	<i>606.00</i>
	<i>R Moore (Forrestfield)</i>	<i>EW 102341</i>	<i>2 507.00</i>
	<i>I Nowlan (Willetton)</i>	<i>EW 114268</i>	<i>652.00</i>
	<i>S Parr (East Cannington)</i>	<i>EW 105492</i>	<i>1 365.00</i>
	<i>J Ratyna (Mullaloo)</i>	<i>EW 128148</i>	<i>1 034.00</i>
	<i>M Vasta (Hamilton Hill)</i>	<i>EW 117065</i>	<i>2 118.00</i>
	<i>B West (Wickham)</i>	<i>EW 100769</i>	<i>493.00</i>
	<i>R Williams (Dunsborough)</i>	<i>EW 115922</i>	<i>3 636.00</i>
<i>Failed to effectively supervise an electrical worker Regulation 50(1)</i>	<i>A.P.E. P/L T/A Duncraig Electrical Services (Mullaloo)</i>	<i>EC 000400</i>	<i>1 000.00</i>
<i>Failed to submit a Notice of Completion Regulation 52(1)</i>	<i>J Clifford T/A Adlex Electrical Services (Wembley)</i>	<i>EC 003012</i>	<i>250.00</i>
	<i>Brian John West (Wickham)</i>	<i>EC 000825</i>	<i>250.00</i>
	<i>D Franklin T/A Dazz Electrics (Cuballing)</i>	<i>EC 000904</i>	<i>300.00</i>
	<i>E Bianchini T/A Flanagan's Electrical (1980) (Queens Park)</i>	<i>EC 000864</i>	<i>449.00</i>
	<i>James Duffy (Lesmurdie)</i>	<i>EC 002375</i>	<i>500.00</i>
	<i>L D'Adam T/A L & A Electrical (Gnangara)</i>	<i>EC 003836</i>	<i>445.00</i>
	<i>Avon Hill P/L T/A Prestige Electrical Services (Duncraig)</i>	<i>EC 003497</i>	<i>899.00</i>
<i>Instructed an unlicensed person to carry out electrical work Regulation 53(2)</i>	<i>Brownes Dairy (Balcatta)</i>	<i>NLH</i>	<i>865.00</i>
	<i>Targaze P/L (West Perth)</i>	<i>NLH</i>	<i>1 597.00 *</i>
	<i>Targaze P/L (West Perth)</i>	<i>NLH</i>	<i>0.00 *</i>
<i>Failed to report an electrical accident Regulation 63</i>	<i>R Moore (Forrestfield)</i>	<i>EW 102341</i>	<i>750.00</i>

NLH No Licence Held

* Global conviction; fine and costs cover multiple charges.

Note: There were three other prosecutions, however spent conviction orders apply.

Electrical Licensing Board Activities

Board Membership

The Minister for Energy has appointed a new Board which will serve industry for the next three years.

There are only three changes to the membership so the transition from the previous Board to this Board should not affect its customers unduly.

The members of the Board are:

- Jeff Tranter (Chairman)
- Jim Jarvis (Deputy Chairman)
- Ross Campbell
- Bob Briggs
- Jim Murie (replaced Graeme Haynes)
- Craig Dundas (replaced Robert Penno)
- Ian Linn (replaced Geoff Hender)

The Past Three Years

The previous Board focused on issues which have a long term impact on the safety of persons in the community and persons who work in the electrical industry. In particular, it was firm on the need for competent and safe electrical workers and contractors. A number of new initiatives were consequently introduced to achieve this objective. The help and assistance of retiring Board members is particularly acknowledged.

Some of the important initiatives were:

- Implementation of an "A" Grade licensing policy that provides industry with an outline of the generic competencies (and their elements) that are essential for licensing purposes (see Energy Bulletin No. 5, September 1996, for details).
Note: A change has been made to this policy to ensure compliance with the *Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1991*. The current policy states that "Trainees/apprentices commencing their training for electrical fitting work after January 1997 will not be eligible for an 'A' Grade licence at the completion of

their training". This date has been extended as the policy cannot be enforced until the regulations are amended in the future.

- Introduction of the nationally developed Electrical Contractor Training Programme in WA. This has contributed to improving the knowledge and skill levels of new electrical contractors and nominees.
- Introduction of plastic cards to replace paper electrical worker licence certificates of registration.
- Outsourcing of some competency assessments for persons applying for recognition of prior learning (the assessments were previously conducted by Office of Energy electrical inspectors).
- Holding meetings in various locations around the State to make itself more aware of industry issues.
- Adoption of a more proactive stance to improve industry work standards by dealing with electrical workers and electrical contractors who had breached the licensing regulations.

This latter issue is one which has taken a great deal of the Board's time and warrants special mention.

Disciplinary Actions

During the past twelve months, the Board adopted a stronger proactive stance to support the Office of Energy's objective of raising the standards of electrical installing work. A high standard is not only vital to the safety of the community but is also very much in the interests of the electrical industry in general.

The Board was able to easily identify errant operatives due partly to the success of the sample installation inspection system. This system allows electricity supply authorities to closely monitor the minority of electrical contractors and workers who continually carry out substandard work. This is reported to the Office of Energy and the Board for appropriate action.

During its inquiries, the Board found that the main reason for substandard work was failure of the electrician to properly check and test. A

number of electric shocks and fatalities have occurred due to failure to find faults. Elementary mistakes included not making MEN connections or not realising that active and neutral conductors had been transposed and were not corrected due to the failure to test.

The Board initiated over 100 disciplinary actions during its term of office. Outcomes of the actions depended upon the severity of the individual cases and many cases resulted in:

- issuing an official censure;
- requiring the electrical worker to undertake additional training; or, in more serious cases
- suspension or cancellation of the electrical contractor or electrical worker licences.

There were 27 licences suspended or cancelled during the last three years.

The Board acknowledges that the majority of electrical contractors and their employees maintain the high standards that are expected.

In carrying out its work, the Board relies upon, and appreciates, the close cooperation of the electrical contracting industry, Office of Energy inspectors and the electrical installation inspectors employed by the electricity supply utilities such as Western Power Corporation.

The Next Three Years

The new Board will not only have to pick up where the last Board left off but it will also have to deal with changing training systems and the impact this will have on electrical licensing systems and competency standards. Below are some changes that have or may take place:

- the removal of declared trades ie readily identifiable apprenticeships such as “electrical mechanic” may no longer exist and will result in less defined pathways for electrical apprentices;
- the introduction of the New Apprenticeship Scheme scheduled for January 1998;
- the implementation of new national Electrotechnology Industry Standards;
- the introduction of autonomous TAFE colleges and other private training providers plus the implementation of user choice;

- the outsourcing of on-the-job apprentice training administration to self-managed companies and Training Administration Branches (TABs). These TABs will, amongst other things, give approval for employers to train; and
- the introduction of traineeships which contain electrical work and require an electrical worker’s licence.

These are just some of the changes that the new Board will need to cope with in order to carry out its function of licensing or allowing only competent persons to work in the electrical industry.

The previous Board was concerned that some of these changes may adversely affect the level of competence of persons completing training. It therefore introduced an audit process to verify that persons who complete WA training programmes, and apply for electrical licences, meet licensing competency requirements.

Finally, the Office of Energy looks forward to working with the new Board during the next three years and to facing the challenges which will no doubt arise.

**PETER TUCK
EXECUTIVE OFFICER,
ELECTRICAL LICENSING BOARD**