



Electrical Licensing – Plumbers and hot-water system electrical work

The Electrical Safety Office (ESO) reminds all plumbers of their electrical safety obligations when their task involves the performance of electrical work, and provides the following advice to assist you in meeting those obligations.

Electrical work can only be performed if you are the holder of an electrical work licence that is current and is recognised in Queensland.

An electrical work licence may restrict the scope of electrical work that you are entitled to perform.

There is no external equivalent allowed for restricted electrical work licences from other states.

If you hold an interstate restricted electrical work licence and wish to perform electrical work as part of your trade you will need to apply for a Queensland restricted electrical work licence.

Electrical work under a restricted electrical work licence

The type of electrical work you may perform will be determined by the work area category and the units of competency as stated on your licence.

A restricted electrical licence does not permit the performance of “installation work”. Installation work includes, but is not limited to:

- running cable or conduits from switchboards to electrical equipment
- running cable or conduits from an isolator to electrical equipment
- extending cables and or conduits to relocate electrical equipment
- replacing/installing protective devices in a switchboard.

Licence requirements for persons replacing existing electric hot water systems with electric solar boosted or heat pump systems

Example 1

Where the existing circuit wiring can be reconnected to the termination point of a new solar boosted tank’s electrical system which has been placed in the same position as the replaced unit and whose full load current rating does not exceed that of the replaced electric hot water system

This work may be performed by a person with a restricted electrical work licence permitting disconnection and reconnection of hot water systems.

Additional licensing requirements include:

- Queensland Building Services Authority (QBSA) trade contractor licence, or
- restricted electrical contractor licence (silver card), or
- electrical contractor licence (gold card).

Example 2

Where the installation of the replacement system requires other associated electrical installation work such as the installation or replacement of circuits, extension of circuit wiring e.g. installation of socket outlets for recirculating pumps

This electrical work must be performed by the holder of an electrical mechanic licence.

Additional licensing requirements include:

- electrical contractor licence (gold card).

Example 3

Where the existing circuit wiring is to be reconnected to the electrical termination point of any new heat pump type system replacing any existing electric hot water system of the resistive heating type

This work will need to be undertaken by the holder of an electrical mechanic licence as it is not deemed to be a “like for like replacement”.

Additional licensing requirements include:

- electrical contractor licence.

NOTE: The person who actually performs the electrical work must be the holder of the electrical work licence. This person must then either be employed by the holder of the appropriate electrical contractor licence or be the holder of that licence themselves.

Electrical safety obligation

Regardless of the type of electrical work licence held, the employer or self employed person has the following obligations:

- all electrical work must be performed in a manner that is electrically safe
- all electrical work performed must be tested to ensure that it is electrically safe

- while performing electrical work all other persons must be electrically safe.

To achieve this:

- you need to ensure that you only perform electrical work within the scope of your electrical work licence
- you need to ensure that you have testing processes in place that adequately test to ensure the electrical work complies with all relevant standards.

If you are performing electrical work under your restricted electrical work licence and this work is conducted as part of your business, you need to hold either a QBSA trade contractor licence or a restricted electrical contractor licence.

Certificate of test

The electrical safety legislation requires that an electrical contractor (including restricted electrical contractors and QBSA licence holders) must issue a certificate of test to the person for whom the electrical work was performed once completed. The certificate must comply with the requirements of section 15 of the *Electrical Safety Regulation 2002*. A sample certificate is available from the ESO website.

For more information

Visit www.electricalsafety.qld.gov.au or call the Electrical Safety Infoline on 1300 650 662.

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