

## Unlicensed Electrical Installation Work

This information bulletin has been developed to assist the air conditioning and refrigeration industry in ascertaining the need to engage an electrical contractor to carry out electrical installation work on their behalf.

### Misconception of restricted electrical licences

A frequently held misconception of holders of Restricted Electrical Licences endorsed for work on refrigeration/air conditioning equipment is that they can carry out electrical installation work associated with their trade.

### Scope of Work

The scope of work covered by these licences issued in the Northern Territory are detailed below and are applied nationally in all Australian States and Territories:

- Disconnect and reconnect fixed wired equipment
- Attach plugs and cords to 250 volts
- Attach plugs and cords to 1,000 volts ac or 1,500 volts dc
- Fault finding to determine component failure in equipment to 1,000 volts ac or 1,500 volts dc

This scope of work clearly restricts the work that may be carried out and basically only allows for the disconnection and reconnection of equipment and the identification and safe replacement of faulty electrical articles, including wiring, within existing equipment. It **DOES NOT** include the wiring or rewiring of plant or equipment.

Consequently the holder of a restricted electrical licence endorsed to work on refrigeration/airconditioning equipment **CANNOT** carry out **ANY** electrical installation work.

Electrical installation work such as the installation of cables between the compressor and fan coil units and/or the supply outlet of split system air conditioners can only be carried out by a licensed electrical contractor.

### Certificate of compliance

This is supported by the requirement for a Certificate of Compliance to be issued for all electrical installation work and a Certificate of Compliance can only be issued by a licensed electrical contractor.

### Licensing requirements

There are two methods by which an air conditioning and refrigeration firm may satisfy licensing requirements.

1. The air conditioning and refrigeration firm may itself be licensed as an electrical contractor and carry out electrical installation work 'in house'. The firm must employ a licensed electrical mechanic and have that person endorsed as 'nominee' on the contractor's licence to act on the firm's behalf. All electrical installation work associated with air conditioning and refrigeration equipment must only be carried out by that person. General electrical contracting may also be undertaken. A Certificate of Compliance must be issued for any electrical installation work carried out.
2. The air conditioning and refrigeration firm may engage a licensed electrical contractor and have the electrical installation work carried out 'externally' on its behalf. The electrical contractor must carry out all electrical installation work associated with the air conditioning and/or refrigeration equipment and issue a Certificate of Compliance.