

Requirements for the supervision of registered apprentices

The *Electrical Workers and Contractors Act* provides for the Registration of Apprentices in trades which require the performance of Electrical Work, and sets out the supervision requirements for apprentices who are performing such work. This sheet provides an extract of the *Act*, showing these requirements, and the applicable definitions.

Section 42B – Work undertaken by apprentices

- (1) A person who is registered may perform electrical work where:
- (a) he is under the direct supervision of a person who is authorised under this *Act* to do the electrical work;
 - (b) he has passed a prescribed examination (see following definition) and completed not less than 3,800 hours of practical electrical work and he is under the general supervision of a person who is authorised under this *Act* to do the electrical work; or
 - (c) he is engaged in electrical work on an electrical article, electrical installation or electric line which is physically isolated.
- (2) For the purposes of this section, "physically isolated", in relation to an electrical article, electrical installation or electric line, means that the article, installation or line, or the relevant part of the article, installation or line, is not and cannot be connected to a source of supply by:
- (a) the closure of a switch, fuse-switch, circuit-breaker, contactor, air-break or other device;
 - (b) the replacement or insertion of a fuse or link; or
 - (c) the connection or reconnection of a wire, cable or conductor to a part of the installation from which it has been, or is intended to be connected, and at which part supply is available.

Section 23 – Examination

For the purposes of section 42B(1)(b) of the *Act*, a prescribed examination is an examination which is conducted by a College at the completion of the second year of an apprentice's course and covers the theoretical and practical subjects which are part of the apprentice's course up to that date.

Definitions

What is Direct Supervision?

Direct supervision in relation to electrical work, means the constant personal oversight of the work by a person licensed to perform the work himself without supervision.

What is General Supervision?

General supervision means the oversight or superintendence of electrical work by a person licensed to perform the work himself, without supervision, and according to the nature of the work and the competence of the person undertaking it, sufficient to ensure safe and satisfactory workmanship.

What is Electrical Work?

Electrical Work means work done in connection with the installation or repair of an electric line or electrical article for the generation, transmission, supply or use of electrical energy, but does not include work done in:

- (a) manufacturing, or assembling at the place of manufacture, electrical articles; or
- (b) constructing for and on behalf of the Power and Water Authority and under its supervision a new overhead line on steel towers, not being towers supporting any other overhead line that is in service or has previously been in service.

What is an Electrical Article?

Electrical article includes a wire, cable, appliance, fitting, meter, insulator, apparatus, material or article intended or designed for use in connection with the transmission of electricity, or operated by electricity.

What is an Electrical Installation?

Electrical installation means an electric line or electrical article placed in, on or over land or a building and used or intended to be used for or for purposes incidental to the conveyance, control or use of electricity supplied or intended to be supplied by the Power and Water Corporation or the holder of a licence under the *Electricity Act* to supply electricity or an owner or occupier of a private plant, whether or not supplied by the person contracting or undertaking to install it, and includes additions and alterations to an electrical installation.

What is an Electrical Line?

Electrical line means a wire, conductor or other means used for the purposes of conveying, transmitting, transforming, or distributing electricity, together with a casing, coating, covering, tube, pipe, pillar, pole or tower, post, frame, bracket or insulator enclosing, surrounding or supporting it or part of it, or an apparatus connected therewith for the purpose of conveying, transmitting, transforming or distributing electricity.

Supervision guidelines for apprentices/trainees

Type of work	Apprentice/trainee year	Supervision required
New installations (not connected to electricity supply)	1st	Direct
	2nd	Direct / General
	3rd	General
	4th or final	General
Alterations and Additions (existing installations)	1st	Direct
	2nd	Direct
	3rd	Direct
	4th or final	General
Maintenance of Installations and Equipment	1st	Direct
	2nd	Direct
	3rd	General (under isolation permit system)
	4th or final	General
Workshop Tasks	1st	Direct
	2nd	General
	3rd	General
	4th or final	General
Live Work	1st	NOT permitted
	2nd	NOT permitted
	3rd	NOT permitted
	4th or final	Direct
Isolation of Installations and Equipment	1st	NOT permitted
	2nd	NOT permitted
	3rd	Direct
	4th or final	General