



e n e r g y

Bulletin

ISSN 1323-8957

Inside...

Energy Bulletin

- Regulatory Requirements for Electrician Licences
- Gas Industry Seminars
- Approval of Western Power's Inspection System Plan and Policy Statement
- New Gas Industry Publications
- The Electrical Licensing Board
- New Regulation of the Plumbing Industry
- Electrician's Newsletter

Electrical Focus

- Regulatory Requirements for Electrician Licences
- Safety of Underground Pits
- Standards Australian Seminar – Hazardous Areas
- New Arrangements for Appliance "Approvals" in Western Australia
- Electrical Equipment in Hazardous Areas
- Prosecutions for Breaches of the Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1991

Gas Focus

- Gas Licensing Committee
- Amendments to the Gas Standards (Gasfitting and Consumer Gas Installations) Regulations 1999
- Interpretation of Regulations 35, 35A and 35B
- Defects to be Reported
- A Hot Spot
- Recording of Service Information
- Fire Follows Gas Fitter Replacing Water Heater
- Prosecutions for Breaches of the Gas Standards Act 1972 and Gas Standards (Gasfitting and Consumer Gas Installations) Regulations 1999

Office of **Energy**

Regulatory Requirements for Electrician Licences

Recently an important review was conducted at national level by regulators and industry associations, to update the present policy on competency requirements for the issue of electricians' licences.

The 1996 policy needed to be reviewed as a result of further changes in the training industry, which now allow industry groups to develop their own training packages. The concern was to make sure that irrespective of the particular training package being used, State Licensing Authorities (such as the Electrical Licensing Board in WA) can be confident that an apprentice satisfies the basic competency requirements for an electrician licence (ie. "A" Grade electrical mechanic licence).

Electrical regulators worked with other industry representatives on the National Uniform Electrical Licensing Advisory Council (NUELAC) to develop a list of

66 essential capabilities which will need to be covered by the training. Furthermore, as part of the training, an apprentice will also need to satisfactorily complete a "Capstone Assessment" to confirm the most critical of these capabilities have been attained.

These requirements have been documented and are being issued to the training industry, so they can be integrated into the training packages. The Office of Energy WA was extensively involved in all this work and more details about it can be found in the Electrical Focus contained in this edition of the Energy Bulletin.

ALBERT KOENIG

DIRECTOR OF ENERGY SAFETY

Gas Industry Seminars

The Office of Energy is planning a series of industry presentations for gas authorisation holders and industrial gas users. The seminars will focus on the responsibilities of authorisation holders, employers and owner/operators of industrial gas plant.

If you are interested in any of these topics and would like to attend one of these free seminars, please contact the Office of Energy's Gas Regulatory Officer, David Hartley by telephoning (08) 9422 5292 for further information.

**Office of
Energy WA**

Approval of Western Power's Inspection System Plan and Policy Statement

After more than two years of discussion, Western Power's new Inspection System Plan and Policy Statement was approved by the Director of Energy Safety on 16 January 2001.

The *Electricity Regulations 1947* specify that electricity supply authorities in Western Australia must have an Inspection System Plan and Policy Statement. Western Power's Plan details its System of Inspection to ensure that its consumers' installations and associated apparatus are safe. It also provides for the monitoring of work of electrical contractors and other licensed persons.

Western Power's Contractor Connect Scheme

Part of Western Power's new Inspection System Plan has a provision for certain "approved" electrical contractors and their workers to connect electrical installations to electricity supply prior to any inspection and submission of a Notice of Completion. This system is called the Contractor Connect Scheme.

Entry requirements to participate in this scheme are stringent. Each eligible participant must attend an accredited training course. The course content includes testing and checking, MEN connections, administration requirements, pillar and meter connections and regulatory requirements.

Training courses are conducted by "The College of Electrical Training" and Western Power's "Power Training Services".

The Contractor Connect Scheme recognises the ability of some contractors to work to consistently high standards of compliance and permits them to provide a more efficient service to clients in the competitive housing industry.

Both Western Power and to Director of this Office believe this scheme will not only provide benefits to consumers but will also lift compliance standards.

A scheme of a similar nature has been operating successfully in parts of the gas industry.

For further enquiries about Western Power's Contractor Connect Scheme, and for information on how to participate, please contact Western Power's Principal Electrical Inspector Tony Mancini by telephoning 08 9477 7444.

New Gas Industry Publications

The Office of Energy has published and distributed two new documents to support work in the Western Australian gas industry.

- **Code of Practice for Inspectors (Gas) in Western Australia**

The purpose of this Code is to assist people designated or planning to be designated as an Inspector (Gas) by providing information on the powers of an inspector and the principles and practices Inspectors are expected to follow when carrying out their duties.

- **Guidelines for Approval of Industrial Gas Appliances (Type B Appliances) in Western Australia**

The purpose of these Guidelines is to assist members of the gas industry by providing information on how to obtain approval for installing and operating Type B gas appliances. It also describes the roles of the various industry participants and how the regulatory regime deals with the approval of Type B gas appliances.

These documents are available free of charge from the Office of Energy website under "Publications" or at a cost of \$5.00 from the Office of Energy.

A new "guideline" is being developed to assist members of the gas industry by recommending principles and practices for installing, operating, maintaining and testing Type B gas appliances. The publication will be in two parts:

- **Part 1** – addresses general installation and maintenance of industrial gas fired appliances.
- **Part 2** – focuses on the application of Safety Instrumented Systems.

This guideline is expected to be available in April 2001.



Tony Mancini, Principal Electrical Inspector Western Power (pictured left) and Mike Bunko, Chief Electrical Inspector Office of Energy discussing Western Power's Inspection System Plan and Policy Statement

The Electrical Licensing Board

The Electrical Licensing Board is constituted under the provisions of the *Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1991* and is provided with a secretariat by the Technical & Safety Division of the Office of Energy. The Board's functions include the consideration of applications for licences, examination of applicants, granting of licences, investigating breaches of legislation and safety standards and advising the Minister for Energy and the Director of Energy Safety on matters affecting electrical workers and electrical contractors.

Members of the Board are appointed for a term of three years. The new Board was inducted late in January 2001.

Membership of the Board is as follows:

Mr R Pritchard –
Chairman (Consulting Engineer)

Mr R Graham –
appointed as having a sound knowledge of work carried out by

restricted licence holders

Mr J Murie –
nominated by the CEPU

Mr I Linn –
nominated by the WA Department of Training

Mr J Sweeting –
nominated by the Electrical Contractors Association of WA

Mr G Wrigley –
nominated by the Chamber of Minerals & Energy of WA and the Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Mr K McGill –
nominated by the Office of Energy

The previous Board completed various items outstanding for the year 2000. These included disciplinary cases consisting of six interviews with one summary proceeding. The outcomes were as follows:

- Two operatives failed the competency assessment and had their licences suspended for 3 months and until each operative could prove his competence.

- One operative was required to submit to the Office of Energy a checking and testing check sheet with the results from the next six jobs he completed.
- Three operatives were advised that no further action would be taken against them, however any future performance problems would be dealt with more severely.

With the changeover of Boards, all new disciplinary interviews were held over until 2001. The influx of interviews during early February had new Board members introduced to the disciplinary process in record time.

New Regulation of the Plumbing Industry

New plumber licensing regulations now make it an offence to undertake plumbing work in Western Australia without an appropriate licence. The maximum penalty for a breach of these requirements is \$5 000. The same penalty applies to a person who knowingly employs or otherwise engages an unlicensed person to perform plumbing work.

The recently formed Plumbers' Licensing Board has taken over responsibility for the licensing of plumbers operating in Western Australia. This role was previously performed by the Water Corporation and other water services providers.

The establishment of the Board completes the restructure of the water industry which required the separation of regulatory, service provision and resource management functions.

Continued over page



Members of the Electrical Licensing Board are, front row, left to right, Kevan McGill, Bob Pritchard (Chairman), Peter Tuck (Executive Officer, Electrical Licensing) and, back row, left to right, Ross Graham, Geoff Wrigley, John Sweeting, Ian Linn and Jim Murie

Under the new licensing regime, there are two classes of licence. In order to legally carry out plumbing work, a person must hold either a:

- Plumber's Licence – authorises the holder to carry out water supply, sanitary and/or drainage plumbing, as well as exercise general direction and control over the carrying out of plumbing work by the holder of a tradesperson's licence and supervise the carrying out of plumbing work by an apprentice.
- Tradesperson's Licence – authorises the holder to carry out plumbing work and supervise the carrying out of plumbing work by an apprentice, under the general direction and control of the holder of a plumber's licence.

The Regulations define plumbing work as the installation, alteration, extension, disconnection, repair or maintenance of pipes, fixtures and fittings used or intended to be used for:

- the supply of potable water from a meter assembly to points of use within any property;
- the carrying of wastewater to a sewer or wastewater or other waste to an apparatus for the treatment of sewage.

This includes the installation and removal of hot water systems.

Currently, there are no exemptions from the requirement to hold a licence and restricted licences do

not exist. The availability of restricted licences is one of a number of issues that have been identified for future consideration by the Board.

The Plumbers' Board operates from the Office of Water Regulation, 6th Floor Governor Stirling Tower, 197 St Georges Terrace, Perth. Telephone enquiries may be directed to (08) 9213 0100 or free call on 1800 658 611.

Electrician's Newsletter

The Office of Energy is introducing a new industry publication, the "Electrician's Newsletter".

The Electrician's Newsletter is an initiative of the Office of Energy and the Electrical Licensing Board. The publication will be of particular interest to "A" grade electrical workers (electricians), as it will keep them informed about important safety and technical issues.

The first edition of the newsletter (No. 01, April 2001) is being direct mailed to electricians. The newsletter is also available on the Office of Energy's website.

Future editions of the newsletter will only be available by email and on the Office of Energy's website. The first edition of the newsletter includes an invitation to readers to advise their email address to the Office of Energy. An electronic copy of future editions of the newsletter will then be emailed to those who respond to the invitation. Those who do

not register their email address will still be able to obtain the information from the Office of Energy's website.

In the first edition of the Electrician's Newsletter, we are offering that the electronic version of the newsletter can also be emailed to the electrician's employer, to assist in wider distribution. The information can then be shared with other electrician employees. This is subject to employers giving permission for their email address to be used.

The Office of Energy encourages employers to allow their email address to be used to receive and distribute future copies of the Electrician's Newsletter.

For further information, please refer to the Office of Energy's website at:

www.energy.wa.gov.au/html/operatives/information.html



For enquiries on articles in the Energy Bulletin, please contact Harry Hills – Office of Energy

20 Southport Street West Leederville WA 6007
 Telephone: (08) 9422 5208 • Fax: (08) 9422 5244
 Email: safety@energy.wa.gov.au

Alternative formats of the Energy Bulletin may be available to meet the needs of people with disabilities.