

energy

Bulletin

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National Occupational Licensing System

A Special Message from the Director of Energy Safety

I write to draw the attention of licensed electrical contractors, electrical licensees and gas fitters to the Decision Regulation Impact Statements (D-RISs) released recently by the Council of Australian Government's National Occupational Licensing Steering Committee. They concern the proposed National Occupational Licensing System (NOLS).

Consultation RISs (C-RISs) were issued during 2012 which set out the proposals for uniform national occupational licensing schemes for electrical contractors, electricians, electrical fitters, restricted electrical licences and gas fitter licences. EnergySafety held consultation meetings with licensees in Perth and major regional centres during September 2012 to explain the proposed new scheme and to encourage those affected to respond with their comments. Over 300 written comments were received by the WA Government and more than 3,000 nationally.

After considering these comments, the Steering Committee has prepared the final D-RIS versions for the electrical and gasfitting occupations, which can be viewed at the National Occupational Licensing Authority (NOLA) web site [www.nola.gov.au].

EnergySafety has prepared the following summaries of the major changes made in the D-RISs. These are not the only changes and I encourage licence holders to read the appropriate D-RIS for themselves, both as a refresher about NOLS generally and to gain a complete picture of the changes made.

Anyone wishing to make comments is invited to do so by 13 September 2013, you can contact EnergySafety and the Department of Commerce at:

Email to: nols@commerce.wa.gov.au; or

Otherwise, the Minister for Commerce, the Hon Michael Mischin, MLC
10th Floor, Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005
e-Mail: Minister.Mischin@dpc.wa.gov.au



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EnergySafety



D-RIS for Electrical Occupations

Summary of Major Changes

D-RIS Chapter	D-RIS Page	Issue	Extract from D-RIS	Comments
3	16	<i>Nominees can be sub-contractors in some jurisdiction.</i>	<i>Following discussion between jurisdictions, it is also proposed that individual jurisdictions can choose to allow sub-contractors to fulfil the role of a nominee however, this arrangement may not be recognised outside the originating jurisdiction. A contractor who has a sub-contractor nominee and who enters into a contract for work outside the originating jurisdiction will be required to meet the nominee requirements in the jurisdiction in which the work is occurring.</i>	<i>Changed from C-RIS.</i>
3	29	<i>Electricians may need another licence to do fitting work</i>	<i>It is proposed that an electrician must also hold an electrical fitter's licence, in jurisdictions that regulate electrical fitting work. However, as many of the skills required for an electrician are similar to those of an electrical fitter, and a skill set should be developed by NOLA in consultation with industry and regulators, for a licensed electrician wishing to apply for electrical fitter licence. This would reduce the training impact by not requiring a person to complete an additional Certificate III or undergoing recognition of prior learning process.</i>	<i>This is a change from the C-RIS. Under this new proposal, electricians will not be allowed to do fitting work unless they hold both licences. This is a significant change since existing holders of electrician's licence are allowed to do fitting work.</i>
3	39	<i>Builders allowed to contract directly to electricians</i>	<i>The revised wording in the Amendment Bill makes clear that the holder of a non-electrical contractor licence, while exempted from holding an electrical contractor licence, must still contract with an electrical contractor, rather than the holder of an electrician or other electrical licence.</i>	<i>Builders will be required to go through electrical contractors. Changed from C-RIS.</i>

D-RIS Chapter	D-RIS Page	Issue	Extract from D-RIS	Comments
3	46	No qualification requirements needed for an electrical contractor's licence	It is not proposed to include a qualification requirement in national licensing.	The removal of training requirements for an electrical contractor's licence will have implications in WA. Completing apprentices may apply for both their electrician's licence and their contractor's licence at the same time, without any additional business or safety training nor experience. New electrical contractors will not have received any prior training on the additional safety and legislative requirements prior to being issued with a licence. No change from C-RIS.
3	46	On-the-job training requirements	Under national licensing, all experience requirements would be removed for all occupations. An apprentice electrician will not be required to undergo further on the job time, <i>beyond that required as part of an apprenticeship</i> , in order to be eligible for a licence	The highlighted words have been added. The question is how the apprenticeship will be managed i.e. will apprentices still be required to demonstrate they have completed enough on-the-job experience before they are allowed to sit the Capstone test and complete the apprenticeship. If not, this could open the door to purely classroom training.
Attachment A	128	No Training Licences	"Apprentice licensing – Not requiring these licences reduces regulation in four jurisdiction"	No change from C-RIS.

D-RIS for Refrigeration & Airconditioning Occupations

Summary of Major Changes

D-RIS Chapter	D-RIS Page	Issue	Extract from D-RIS	Comments
Attachment A	132	Nominees can be sub-contractors in some jurisdiction.	In Western Australia a refrigeration and air-conditioning tradesperson gains the underlying qualifications for a restricted electrical licence as an integral part of their Certificate III in Electrotechnology, Refrigeration and Air-conditioning training. The restricted electrical licence is granted automatically upon completion of their apprenticeship	Certificate III in Engineering-Mechanical Trade (Refrigeration and Airconditioning) is the only qualification that will gain a restricted electrical worker's licence in Western Australia, not the Certificate III in Electrotechnology, Refrigeration.

D-RIS for Plumbing & Gasfitting Occupations

Summary of Major Changes

D-RIS Chapter	D-RIS Page	Issue	Extract from D-RIS	Comments
3	18	Nominees can be sub-contractors in some jurisdictions	Following discussion between jurisdictions, it has been proposed that sub-contractors will also be able to be a nominee of a jurisdiction if so chooses. In jurisdictions where this occurs, a contractor that has only a sub-contractor nominee, and not a nominee who is a Director or employee, will be unable to contract for work outside of the jurisdiction in which their principal place of business is located. It is proposed that a contractor can only contract for the regulated work that is applicable to the licence held by the licensed nominee.	Changed from C-RIS.
3	12,13 5 & 6	National Licensing Preferred Option	<p>Each full licence level may be held by the following types of licence holder:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contractor licence: the licence holder is authorised to contract to do the regulated work. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full licence: the licence holder is able to perform work unsupervised and is able to sign off on the technical compliance, but cannot contract with the public. • Trades person registration: the registration holder must be supervised to undertake work, cannot sign off on the technical compliance & cannot contract with the public. 	Preferred option from C-RIS selected as three tier, sub-option 2.
3	41	No licences for apprentices & trainee	A provisional licence is not proposed for apprentices and trainees, because the work undertaken is under the supervision of an employer who is accountable for the work.	No change from C-RIS.
3	28	Experience Requirements	It is not proposed to include experience as an eligibility requirement in national licensing.	No change from C-RIS. No on-the-job training required. Straight to National Licence from the class room.
3	29	Additional Testing	It is proposed that no additional testing by regulators will apply to applicants who have obtained the appropriate qualification for a licence.	