

Electrical Safety Performance Report

Q3 2022–23

This report details Queensland's electrical safety performance for the period 1 January 2023 to 31 March 2023 as related to measures within the Queensland Electrical Safety Board's Electrical Safety Plan for Queensland 2018–22.



Electrical fatalities

- One electrical fatality reported during Q3.

Note: electrical fatalities reported remain suspected and under investigation until verified.

Month of incident	Details
January	Child electrocuted while climbing infrastructure at railway crossing bridge.



Serious electrical incidents (SEI)

Seven incidents were reported as SEIs under the Electrical Safety Act 2002 (ES Act) definition during Q3. This includes the reported electrical fatality listed above. The other six SEIs were:

Month of incident	Details
January	An electrical worker contacted energised live parts while performing fault finding on sugar packing machine.
February	Three workers received shocks while mounting light poles after one pole spun around and contacted a 33KV overhead conductor.
March	An air-conditioning technician sustained burns while working on an air-conditioning unit on the roof of a shopping centre.
	Workers were performing routine maintenance at a substation when a 132kV flashover occurred. One worker received minor flash burn.
	An electrical worker sustained burns to their arms and face as result of an arc flash while a short circuit occurred in a low voltage switchboard.
	A 19-year-old electrical apprentice sustained burns to face and arm after an arc-flash was created when a short circuit occurred within electrical equipment being worked on at a solar farm.

Compliance activity



- 342 response assessments
- 669 audits completed.

Statutory notices:

- 335 improvement notices
- 72 infringement notices
- 29 electrical safety protection notices.

Notices related to:

- electrical installation compliance to the Wiring Rules
- requirements for advertisement of electrical work
- general duty for electrical safety
- requirement for electrical work licence
- requirement for electrical contractor licence
- electrical equipment compliance to AS/NZS 3012

- risk management
- other various breaches.

Other notices or requirements:

- 17 notices issued under Electrical Safety Regulation s.74 – Requirement for a person in control of electrical equipment to fix defects.
- 54 contraventions involving immediate compliance.

Audit activity



- 117 electrical contractor audits (systems and site verification)
- 72 responsible supplier audits
- 72 on-site licence checks
- 71 construction site audits (wiring, exclusion zones and principal contractor processes)
- 55 ceiling space audits
- 52 new electrical equipment audits
- 230 other audits.

Engagement activity



ESO undertook engagement activities with more than:

- 110 organisations
- 460 people.

Licensing committee activity



During Q3, there were four licensing referrals to the Electrical Licensing Committee for consideration of disciplinary action because of unsafe electrical work and non-compliant practices.

The four referrals were made up of two electrical contractors and two electrical workers, with referrals relating to:

- A serious electrical incident
- Electric shock.

Investigation activity



- One investigation finalised with no further action required
- six active investigations.

Prosecution activity



- Two prosecutions finalised.

Licensing and registration activity



- 1,362 new electrical licences issued:
- 1,050 work licences
 - 312 contractor licences.

Check testing activity



- 25 test reports received for refrigerators and electrical portable outlet devices.

Equipment activity



- 19 electrical equipment examinations were conducted
- eight electrical safety equipment recalls were notified to the ESO.

Definitions (notices and other notices or requirements)

Improvement notice – a requirement, for the person to whom it is issued, to remedy a contravention of the Act or Regulations.

Infringement notice – on the spot fine issued where an infringeable offence has been committed.

Electrical safety protection notice – a direction for a person to stop an activity, or use of electrical equipment causing, or likely to cause, an immediate electrical risk to a person or property.

Unsafe equipment notice – issued if an inspector reasonably believes that electrical equipment is so defective or hazardous that it is likely to cause a serious electrical incident. This notice requires the owner to make the electrical equipment harmless or incapable of operation.

Immediate compliance – a record of contraventions immediately rectified while inspectors are on site.

Notice (s.74 Electrical Safety Regulation) – written notice given to the person in control of electrical equipment of any defect affecting the electrical safety of the electrical equipment.



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