

Electrical Safety Office

Electrical Safety Performance Report

Q1 2022–23

This report details Queensland's electrical safety performance for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 September 2022 as related to measures within the Electrical Safety Plan for Queensland 2018–22.



Electrical fatalities

- One electrical fatality reported during Q1.

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

Month of incident	Details
September	A worker received a fatal electric shock after a metal shed frame being moved by a crane contacted an overhead electric line.



Serious electrical incidents (SEI)

- Five incidents were reported as SEIs under the Electrical Safety Act 2002 (ES Act) definition during Q1. This includes the reported electrical fatality listed above. The other four SEI's are:

Month of incident	Details
July	An electrician was injured by arc flash while wiring up a new test bay which included a battery bank.
	A member of the public crossed tracks at a train station and climbed an electrical supporting structure. It's believed the person has contacted an insulator, causing an electric shock.
	An apprentice sustained electrical burn and laceration to finger while disconnecting a printed circuit board (PCB) in an air conditioning unit.
September	High voltage electric shock received by member of the public when they contacted a railway signal cantilever.

Compliance activity



- 333 response assessments conducted
- 680 audits completed.

Statutory notices:

- 397 improvement notices
- 54 infringement notices
- 18 electrical safety protection notices.

Notices related to:

- electrical installation compliance to the Wiring Rules

- general duty for electrical safety
- requirements for advertisement of electrical work
- 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:

- Eight notices issued under Electrical Safety Regulation 2013 s74 – Requirement for a person in control of electrical equipment to fix defects
- 85 contraventions involving immediate compliance.

Audit activity includes:



- 130 electrical contractor audits (systems and site verification)
- 84 ceiling space audits
- 73 responsible supplier audits
- 72 construction site audits (wiring, exclusion zones and principal contractor processes)
- 49 on-site licence checks
- 272 other various audits.

Engagement activity



ESO undertook engagement activities with over:

- 58 organisations
- 553 people.

Licensing committee activity



During Q1, there were 40 licensing referrals to the Electrical Licensing Committee (ELC) for consideration of disciplinary action because of unsafe electrical work and non-compliant practices.

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

- serious electrical incidents
- electric shock
- disconnection required because of serious defects or immediate electrical risk to people or property
- significant property damage
- young workers and electrical apprentices
- repeat offenders
- other (matters involved a missing MEN and a failure to prove parts were de-energised prior to work commencing resulting in an arc flash).

Investigation activity



- Three investigations finalised:
 - One matter referred to Statewide Investigations unit for further comprehensive investigation
 - One brief of evidence submitted to the Office of Work Health and Safety Prosecutor (OWHSP)
 - One matter finalised by way of issuing infringement notices.
 - five active investigations.

Prosecution activity



- No prosecutions finalised
- Five offenders before the courts
- Two briefs of evidence currently under review by the OWHSP.

Licensing and registration activity



1,581 new electrical licences issued:

- 1,211 work licences
- 370 contractor licences.

Check testing activity



- Test reports received for five models of DC isolators, 10 models of submersible pumps and 18 models of industrial/commercial cable.

Equipment activity



- 32 electrical equipment examinations were conducted
- Five electrical safety equipment recalls were notified to 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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