

Electrical Safety Office

Electrical safety performance report

Q2 2022–23

This report details Queensland's electrical safety performance for the period 1 October 2022 to 31 December 2022 as related to measures within the Electrical Safety Plan for Queensland 2018–22.



Electrical fatalities

- Two electrical fatalities reported during Q2.

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

Month of incident	Details
November	During construction of a concrete wastewater tank, a worker (contractor) was in the basket of a boom lift EWP that contacted high voltage power lines. The worker sustained an electric shock, serious burns and has passed away.
December	Homeowner received a fatal electric shock while attempting to change a power point in the backyard.



Serious electrical incidents (SEI)

- Three incidents were reported as SEIs under the Electrical Safety Act 2002 (ES Act) definition during Q2. This includes the two reported electrical fatalities listed above. The other SEI is:

Month of incident	Details
October	An electrical worker received burns after an arc flash while working on an energised distribution board.

Compliance activity



- 342 response assessments conducted

- 748 audits completed.

Statutory notices:

- 386 improvement notices
- 43 infringement notices
- 23 electrical safety protection notices
- one non-disturbance notice.

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:

- 44 contraventions involving immediate compliance.

Audit activity includes:



- 119 electrical contractor audits (systems and site verification)
- 76 responsible supplier audits
- 76 new electrical equipment audits
- 72 ceiling space audits
- 60 construction site audits (wiring, exclusion zones and principal contractor processes)
- 54 on-site licence checks
- 291 other various audits.

Engagement activity



ESO undertook engagement activities with more than:

- 111 organisations
- 2,763 people.

Licensing committee activity



During Q2, there were nine licensing referrals to the Electrical Licensing Committee (ELC) for consideration of disciplinary action because of unsafe electrical work and non-compliant practices.

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

- electric shock (seven)
- young workers and electrical apprentices (one)
- repeat offenders (one).

Investigation activity



- Three investigations finalised
 - One matter referred to State-wide Investigations unit (SWI) for further comprehensive investigation
 - two matters with no further action required.
- six active investigations.

Check testing activity



Testing is in progress for the following electrical equipment

- 10 models of refrigerators
- 25 models of electrical portable outlet devices (EPODs)
- 10 models of nightlights

Prosecution activity



- No prosecutions finalised
- Currently six matters before the courts
- Two briefs of evidence currently under review by the Office of Work Health and Safety Prosecutor (OWHSP)

Licensing and registration activity



1,434 new electrical licences issued:

- 1,126 work licences
- 308 contractor licences.

Equipment activity



- 12 electrical equipment examinations were conducted
- four 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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