

Electrical Safety Office

Electrical safety performance report

Annual report 2021-22 (including Quarter 4 – 1 April 2022 to 30 June 2022)

Executive summary

This report details Queensland's electrical safety performance for the period 1 April 2022 to 30 June 2022 (Q4) as well as a summary for the year 2021-22. Electrical safety performance is reported against the performance measures of the Electrical Safety Board's Electrical Safety Plan for Queensland 2018–2022.



Electrical fatalities

- There were no electrical fatalities reported during Q4.
- Over the year 2021-22, four electrical fatalities were reported.



Serious electrical incidents (SEI)

- Two incidents were confirmed as SEIs under the Electrical Safety Act 2002 (ES Act) definition during Q4.
- Over the 2021-22 year, 19 incidents have been confirmed as SEIs.

Figure 1 – Details of serious electrical incidents for Q4 (1 April to 30 June 2022)

Month of incident	Details
April	An electrical worker was testing for phase rotation on exposed section of 3-phase bus bar within a switchboard at a sewerage pump station. Following the test, while removing one clamp probe, a second dislodged and made contact across two phases of the bus bars causing a short circuit and arc-flash event. The worker received flash burn to their left hand.
May	A fencing contractor was using a power-driven, tractor mounted auger to bore holes for fence posts around the perimeter of the site. While boring a hole the auger tip contacted an underground electric line. An 11kV feeder tripped due to this underground contact. The feeder contains both overhead and underground portions.



Compliance activity

- 292 Response assessments conducted.
- 606 Audits completed.
- Electrical safety inspectors conducted 293 response assessments and completed 659 audits and issued 420 notices during Q4.
- For the 2021-22-year, electrical safety inspectors conducted 1,204 response assessments, completed 2,695 audits and issued 2,020 notices.
- The breakdown of proactive and reactive work for Q4 was 30 percent proactive and 70 percent reactive.
- For the 2021-22 year the breakdown was 32 percent proactive and 68 percent reactive.
- There were eight electrical equipment examinations conducted during Q4.
- For the 2021-22 year, a total of 77 examinations were conducted.
- In Q4, the Electrical Safety Office (ESO) was notified of five electrical safety equipment recalls, with none of those coordinated nationally by the ESO as the lead regulator.

Response assessment completion measures for Q4

Completed within 28 days	Completed within 90 days
39% (Q4)	72% (Q4)
39% (2021/22)	77% (2021/22)
Target 40%	Target 90%

Engagement activity



Electrical safety inspectors undertook engagement activities with

- 304 organisations
- 1,567 people.

Licensing committee activity



During Q4, 19 matters were referred to the Electrical Licensing Committee (ELC) for consideration of disciplinary action.

The 19 referrals were made up of 11 electrical contractors and eight electrical workers, with referrals relating to:

- A failure to test and isolate
- Inadequate supervision and failure to implement safe systems of work
- A failure to implement and enforce procedures to verify the competency of workers
- A failure to implement a safe work method and risk assessment
- A failure to install MEN links in distribution board at unit complex
- A failure to comply with the requirements of the Wiring Rules
- Reports of unsupervised young workers.

Prosecution activity



No prosecutions were finalised under electrical safety legislation during Q4.

Prosecution activity for the 2021-2022 financial year:

- Two complaint and summons issued.
- Three finalised prosecutions.

Licensing and registration activity



The ESO issued 1,400 new electrical licences during Q4.

There were 12,258 electrical contractor licences current as of 30 June 2022.

Registered training organisation (RTO) activity



During Q4, Ashmore TAFE, Major Training, Electrogroupp and Skills Tech Acacia Ridge were reviewed by the ESO, the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training (DESBT), and the Training Ombudsman.

Investigation activity



The compliance unit finalised four investigations during Q4. As at 1 July 2022, the team was managing seven active investigations.

For the 2021-2022 financial year the compliance unit has:

- Accepted 14 new comprehensive investigations
- Completed 14 investigations:
 - Five finalised by way of issuing notices
 - Five no further investigations
 - One ELC referral
 - Three brief of evidence for the Office of the Work Health and Safety Prosecutor.
- Notices issued:
 - One ESPN
 - 158 Improvement notices
 - 22 Infringement notices.

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 2013) – 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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