

Electrical Safety Office

Electrical safety performance report

Q1 2023 - 24

This report details Queensland's electrical safety performance for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 September 2023 as related to measures within the Electrical Safety Plan for Queensland 2018–22.



Electrical fatalities

- No electrical fatalities reported during Q1.

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



Serious electrical incidents (SEI)

- Four incidents were reported as SEIs under the Electrical Safety Act 2002 (ES Act) definition during Q1. The SEIs were:

Month of incident	Details
July	A resident received medical treatment for superficial chemical and thermal burns suffered when attempting to remove a burning lithium battery that had been on charge.
	Apparent wilful interference with extension cord.
August	Resident received a burn to the hand after plugging in a faulty extension cord at her residence.
	A student pulled out another student's laptop charger from the wall. The charger gave a minor zap and flicked sparks which contacted the student's left upper arm causing a minor burn.

Compliance activity



- 317 response assessments
- 507 audits completed

Statutory notices:

- 485 improvement notices
- 50 infringement notices
- 23 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:

- 41 contraventions involving immediate compliance.

Audit activity



- 117 electrical contractor audits (systems and site verification)
- 62 responsible supplier audits
- 53 on-site licence checks
- 56 construction site audits (wiring, exclusion zones and principal contractor processes)
- 70 ceiling space audits
- 149 other audits

Engagement activity



ESO undertook engagement activities with over:

- 66 organisations
- 557 people

Licensing committee activity



During Q1, there were 43 licensing referrals to the Electrical Licensing Committee for consideration of disciplinary action as a result of unsafe electrical work and non-compliant practices.

The 43 referrals were made up of 19 electrical contractors and 24 electrical workers, with referrals relating to:

- Persons receive an electric shock
- Matters involving young workers and electrical apprentices
- Disconnection was required because of serious defects or immediate electrical risk to persons or property
- Serious electrical incident
- Repeat offenders
- Significant property damage
- Other – relating to supervision

Investigation activity



- 10 active investigations

Prosecution activity



- Three prosecutions finalised

Licensing and registration activity



1,579 new electrical licences issued:

- 1,216 work licences
- 363 contractor licences

Check testing activity



- 10 new reports received for pool chlorinators

Equipment activity



- 12 electrical equipment examinations were conducted
- 11 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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