

Electrical Safety Office

Electrical safety performance report

Q4 2022–23

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



Electrical fatalities

- Two electrical fatalities reported during Q4.

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

Month of incident	Details
June	Worker made contact with overhead powerlines while operating a scissor lift.
May	Person electrocuted after cutting through a submain cable that was installed in a black poly tube water pipe buried in the ground.



Serious electrical incidents (SEI)

- Eight incidents were reported as SEIs under the *Electrical Safety Act 2002* (ES Act) definition during Q4. This includes the reported electrical fatality listed above. The other six SEIs were:

Month of incident	Details
June	Person received shock after contact with damaged HV SWER transformer earths.
May	Electrical worker received superficial dermal burn to forearm after arc flash event that occurred when cable tray dislodged and pierced conductor insulation. Was not undertaking electrical work at time of incident but was visually scoping area.
	Crane came into contact or arcing distance of overhead power line while unloading concrete culvert from truck. Dogger sustained electric shock and serious burns to head, hands and feet.
April	Electrician and trade assistant conducting IV curve testing in the field at solar farm; trade assistant received electrical burn to hand.
	Worker received burns from arc flash while disconnecting PV cables at solar farm.
	Homeowner received electric shock when plugging in an extension lead to pool pump in the rain. The lead was plugged in at a socket outlet located under outhouse.

Compliance activity



- 318 response assessments
- 579 audits completed.

Statutory notices:

- 375 improvement notices
- 63 infringement notices
- 21 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
- risk management
- other various breaches.

Other notices or requirements:

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

Audit activity



- 97 electrical contractor audits (systems and site verification)
- 57 on-site licence checks
- 75 construction site audits (wiring, exclusion zones and principal contractor processes)
- 52 ceiling space audits
- 75 responsible supplier audits
- 34 new electrical equipment audits
- 189 other audits

Engagement activity



ESO undertook engagement activities with over:

- 92 organisations
- 627 people

Licensing committee activity



During Q4, there were 15 licensing referrals to the Electrical Licensing Committee for consideration of disciplinary action as a result of unsafe electrical work and non-compliant practices.

The 15 referrals were made up of four electrical contractors and eleven electrical workers, with referrals relating to:

- Person receives an electric shock (10)
- Matters involving young workers and electrical apprentices (one)
- Repeat offenders (three)
- Worker performing electrical contracting work and performing electrical work while licence was suspended (one).

Investigation activity



- Six investigations finalised with no further action required
- Eight active investigations.

Prosecution activity



- One prosecution finalised.

Licensing and registration activity



1,356 new electrical licences issued:

- 1,011 work licences
- 345 contractor licences.

Check testing activity



- 16 new reports received for refrigerated appliances, portable fans and recessed luminaires.

Equipment activity



- Seven electrical equipment examinations were conducted
- Nine 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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