

# Electrical Safety Office

## Electrical safety performance report

### Q1 2021–22

This report details Queensland's electrical safety performance for the period 1 July 2021 to 30 September 2021 as related to measures within the Queensland Electrical Safety Board's Electrical Safety Plan for Queensland 2018–22.



### Electrical fatalities

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

- One electrical fatality reported during Q1.

Month of incident	Details
July	A harvester contacted an overhead powerline on a rural property resulting in the death of a worker. Six other workers were also injured and taken to hospital.



### Serious electrical incidents (SEI)

- Six incidents were reported as SEIs under the *Electrical Safety Act 2002* (ES Act) definition during Q1. One is related to the reported electrical fatality listed above. The other SEI's are:

Month of incident	Details
July	A licensed electrical worker was connecting and commissioning a battery bank to an uninterruptable power supply (UPS) when an arc flash occurred causing extensive burns to both hands.
August	An electrical apprentice, while replacing fluorescent lights, contacted energised parts causing burns to his hand.
September	A licensed electrical worker, working within a switchboard, contacted live parts resulting in an arc flash. The worker received burns to his hand.
	A licensed electrical worker was accessing a main switchboard. When attempting to close the main switch, an arc flash occurred.
	A licensed electrical worker trimmed an energised twin cable resulting in arcing between the cores, causing an electric shock and burns.

### Compliance activity



- 327 Response assessments
- 800 Audits

Statutory notices:

- 518 improvement notices
- 65 infringement notices
- 36 electrical safety protection notices
- one unsafe equipment notice

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:

- Four notices issued under Electrical Safety Regulation s.74 – Requirement for a person in control of electrical equipment to fix defects
- 61 contraventions involving immediate compliance.

### Audit activity includes:



- 156 electrical contractor audits (systems and site verification)
- 132 construction site audits (wiring, exclusion zones and principal contractor processes)
- 118 on-site licence checks
- 116 ceiling space audits
- 278 other audits.

### Engagement activity



Engagement activities with more than:

- 60 organisations
- 490 people.

### Licensing committee activity



During Q1, there were 10 licensing referrals to the Electrical Licensing Committee for consideration of disciplinary action as a result of unsafe electrical work and non-compliant practices.

The 10 referrals were made up of five electrical contractors and five electrical workers, relating to:

- young workers and electrical apprentices
- disconnection required because of serious defects or immediate electrical risk to persons and property
- serious electrical incidents
- Wiring Rules non-compliance.

### Investigation activity



- Three investigations finalised.
- 11 active investigations.

### Prosecution activity



- No prosecutions finalised.

### Licensing and registration activity



1,363 new electrical licences issued:

- 1,010 work licences
- 353 contractor licences.

### Check testing activity



The electrical equipment Check Testing Program for 2020–21 continued through July to September due to delays caused in part by COVID lockdowns. The following results were received from testing:

- 41 reports received for luminaires
- 10 reports received for exhaust fans.

### Equipment activity



- 13 electrical equipment examinations were conducted
- The Electrical Safety Office (ESO) was notified of five electrical safety equipment recalls.

## 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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