

Electrical Safety Office

Electrical safety performance report

Q3 2021–22

This report details Queensland's electrical safety performance for the period 1 January 2022 to 31 March 2022 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 Q3.

Month of incident	Details
February	Electrical worker found unresponsive in roof cavity of a domestic residence.



Serious electrical incidents (SEI)

- Five incidents were reported as SEIs under the Electrical Safety Act 2002 (ES Act) definition during Q3. This includes the reported electrical fatality listed above. The other SEI's are:

Month of incident	Details
February	A person was attempting to trim tree branches away from a tank stand and a private overhead electric line, which supplied electricity to a homestead on a rural property. The person was hospitalised after sustaining a significant electric shock then falling from a ladder. His injuries included burns from the electric shock.
	While a worker was cleaning the pool at an aquatic centre, the telescopic aluminium pole attached to the pool vacuum head he was using, contacted overhead powerlines (110kv) resulting in the worker receiving an electrical shock.
March	A fourth year electrical apprentice received burns to their arm and fingers caused by an arc flash. Another electrical worker was also in the area at the time but was uninjured. It appears a busbar link was being undone when a bolt shorted a busbar phase to earth, creating the arc flash.
	An electricity entity employee received a shock (HV induction) whilst relocating a hook ladder from the upper arm to the middle arm of transmission tower.

Compliance activity



- 292 Response assessments conducted
- 606 Audits completed

Statutory notices:

- 398 improvement notices
- 65 infringement notices
- 10 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:

- Four notices issued under Electrical Safety Regulation 2013 s.74 – Requirement for a person in control of electrical equipment to fix defects.
- 38 contraventions involving immediate compliance.

Audit activity includes:



- 192 responsible supplier desktop audits
- 95 electrical contractor audits (systems and site verification)
- 55 construction site audits (wiring, exclusion zones and principal contractor processes)
- 55 on-site licence checks
- 61 ceiling space audits
- 146 other various audits.

Investigation activity:



- Two investigations finalised.
- Five active investigations.

Prosecution activity:



- Three prosecutions finalised.
- One brief of evidence currently under review by the Office of Work Health and Safety Prosecutor (OWHSP).

Engagement activity:



ESO undertook engagement activities with over:

- 86 organisations
- 463 people.

Licensing committee activity:



During Q3, there were 24 licensing referrals to the Electrical Licensing Committee for consideration of disciplinary action as a result of unsafe electrical work and non-compliant practices.

The 24 referrals were made up of 12 electrical contractors and 12 electrical workers, with referrals relating to:

- a serious electrical incident
- matters involving young workers and electrical apprentices
- persons who received an electric shock
- the duty holder removed the escutcheon panel from an energised switchboard located at a school
- the duty holder left the immediate area to conduct electrical tests.

Licensing and registration activity:



1,349 new electrical licences issued:

- 1,000 work licences
- 349 contractor licences.

Check testing activity:



- 15 test reports received for coffee machines, with two failures reported on resistance to flammability and cord anchorage tests.

Equipment activity:



- 15 electrical equipment examinations were conducted.
- 10 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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