

E.C INSPECTION POLICY AND CHALLENGES WITH LACK OF REGISTERED CONTRACTOR

REGISTRATION

1. Any person with the minimum qualification of a valid overseas registration as an electrician or electrical engineer and sufficient experience in the electrical field to the satisfaction of the Board, may apply to the Manager for registration as an electrical contractor for a period of one year. The year shall commence on the first day of January and end on the 31st day of December.
2. The holder of an Electrical Trade Certificate from a recognised institution with a minimum of 10 years experience in the installation and repair of electrical equipment, machinery, appliances, house wiring and other related devices and gadgets satisfactory to the board, may upon passing an examination to laid down by the board, apply for registration as electrical contractor.

Application

Application for registration as an Electrical Contractor must be supported by documentary evidence of the applicant's qualifications, overseas registration and experiences. The Board may require further submission and additional information about the provisions regulating the applicant's overseas registration to determine the scope of electrical wiring work he is entitled to carry out on registration.

Certificate

If the Board approves the application, it shall, upon payment of the annual registration fee of \$10.00, issue a registration certificate as in Form 1 of the Schedule to the applicant. This registration certificate shall be displayed at a prominent place in the principal place of business and may be renewed upon written application.

APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR'S LICENSE

Name of Applicant

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Current Licence No.

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Give full details of any change in your postal address, tel. No., mobile no, fax no, or e-mail since your previous application. (Current details shown on 2005 register – attached)

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Do you hold a current business license enabling you to engage in business as an Electrical Contractor? (Attach photocopy).

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If a foreigner, do you have a current Tonga business visa? (Attach photocopy).

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Have you been convicted anywhere of any criminal offence since your previous application? If so, give full details of all convictions.

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1. TEC INSPECTION POLICIES

TEC Inspection Policies are Regulated by Electricity Act 2007, Contractor By Laws, AS/NZS 3000:2007(Wiring Rules) and other Regulatory requirements with brief listed requirements

- All Electrical Wiring / Installation to be done by Registered Electrical Contractor.
- All Electrical Wiring / Installation must apply and obtained Electrical Permit prior to commencing of work.
 - ❖ All Information on Electrical Permit to be Current and Accurate.
- All Electrical Wiring and Installation to Comply with Current Electrical Standard AS/NZS 3000: 2007 (Wiring Rules) and Contractor By Laws.

- All Electrical Installation to be Inspected according to Current Electrical Standard.
 - ❖ No wiring shall concealed in Wall and Ceiling unless it is inspected by Inspector
 - ❖ All underground cable to be buried at 500mm minimum with Marking Tape and Entry Point Marker.
 - ❖ Use of required appropriate RCD Protective devices in Wet Areas and for Temporary Power.
 - ❖ Use of proper / approved materials and devices (connectors, SWB, Wiring Supports, Boxes and Enclosures)

- Certificate of Completion (COC) is issued only after inspector is satisfied that the Electrical Installation Complies with Electrical Standard and is safe for Connection to grid.
- Any variation in number of items listed in Permit Application and number of items installed will require an additional permit for the differences in items installed.
- Electrical Contractor will be notified of any Defect after inspection. Contractor will remedied these defect and notified EC for re-inspection before COC is issued.

2. CHALLENGES WITH LACK OF REGISTERED CONTRACTORS

- REGISTERED CONTRACTORS

 - ❖ 29 Registered Electrical Contractor

- REGISTERED CONTRACTOR REQUIREMENTS

 - ❖ Level 4 Certificate in Electrical

 - 10 Year minimum Electrical Experience
 - Pass Theory and Practical Exam

 - ❖ Registered Electrician or Electrical Contractor Overseas.

 - Current or Valid Electrical License (on country approved by the Board).

- Challenges with Lack of Registered Contractors , below are brief related causes and issues.
 - ❖ Low number of candidate that satisfied passing requirements for Theory and Practical exam for Registered Contractor. Majority is due to being unprepared and lack of knowledge of current Electrical Standards.
 - ❖ Increased in number of unlicensed electrician doing illegal wiring and installation due to lack of penalties and awareness.
 - ❖ Increase in Non-compliance Electrical wiring and installation due to increase in number of unlicensed electricians. (Error in Sizing of Cables and Breakers)

- ❖ Use of sub-standard fixtures , electrical devices and improvised fittings and materials. (Use of Fixtures, electrical devices and fittings that does not comply with specifications.)
- ❖ Illegal relocation and connection of Temporary Meter Box to new Installation.
- ❖ Selling of Electrical Permits to unlicensed electrical workers.
- ❖ Lack in jobs for Registered Contractor, even for major project, due to Construction Contractor using of their own unlicensed electrical contractor.