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Submission by



To

The Electrical Workers Registration Board

On the

Consultation on the changes to limits of work, registration requirements, and endorsements for electrical workers

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Master Electricians answers are in *italics* under the posed question

Please contact the writer should you require clarification or need further information.

Answers to “General Questions”

Question 1: Do you have any general comments or feedback on the proposals that you would like to draw to the Board's attention?

Master Electricians in general acceptance of the proposed changes to licencing and the tiered framework. We have answered questions where we feel specific endorsement is required or we disagree with specific aspects of the change.

Any question that is not answered does not imply agreement or disagreement, we simply do not have a comment and are agnostic on the intention of the change.

Implementation Timeframe

Question 2: Do you think that these timeframes are reasonable? Why or why not?

NO. The limits of work changes as specified do have an impact on the workforce. There needs to be time for companies to get the labour force adjusted to suit. With such scarcity of skilled workers this need to be taken into consideration. And change to the work force, no matter how small, will have a significant impact.

Question 3: Do you agree with the proposed timeframes for implementation of the proposed changes? Why or why not?

18-months is the minimum timeframe we feel is suitable. 2-years would be preferable to get through two annual cycles of training. .

Otherwise timeframes are OK.

Fit and Proper Person Proposals

Question 4: Do you support the proposed condition on practicing licences? Why or why not?

.The link given does not work!

From the information I can find the process seems subjective and relies on the EW providing information to implicate themselves. On the surface it seems to not be worth the time spent to impliment.

Electrical Appliance Serviceperson

Question 5: Do you support the proposed merger of the Electrical Appliance Serviceperson and Electrical Appliance Serviceperson (Endorsed) classes? Why or why not?

Yes

Question 6: Do you support the proposed changes? Why or why not?

Agree, there seems to such little difference between the two licences that this is a logical simplification of the licence.

Question 7: What impacts do you think these changes will have on apprentices as they train to obtain their registration?

Slightly more time to qualify,

Question 8: Do you support the proposed changes to the registration requirements? Why or why not?

Yes, we do not feel this is a big issue and would actually provide good professional development.

The supervision endorsement should not be as outlined, but as per our recommendation in questions 39-42

Electrical Service Technician

Question 9: Do you support the proposed changes to the limits of work? Why or why not?

All but the supervision endorsement this should not be as outlined, but as per our recommendation in questions 39-42

Question 10: What impacts do you think these changes will have on apprentices as they train to obtain their registration?

Minimal

Question 11: Do you support the proposed changes to the registration requirements? Why or why not?

Yes, the outlining of what PEW is not covered is a good addition and removes doubt

Electrical Installer

Question 12: Do you support the proposed changes to the limits of work? Why or why not?

All but the supervision endorsement, this should not be as outlined, but as per our recommendation in questions 39-42

Question 13: What impacts do you think these changes will have on apprentices as they train to obtain their registration?

Minimal

Question 14: Do you support the proposed changes to the registration requirements? Why or why not?

Yes, aligns with the tierd approach

Electrical Engineer

Question 15: Do you support the proposed changes to the limits of work? Why or why not?

All but the supervision endorsement, this should not be as outlined, but as per our recommendation in questions 39-42

Question 16: Do you support the proposed changes to the registration criteria? Why or why not?

Yes, the lack of exposure to actual PEW is critical to consider. Theory and hands on experience are not the same.

Electrician

Question 17: Do you support the proposed changes to the limits of work? Why or why not?

All but the supervision endorsement, this should not be as outlined, but as per our recommendation in questions 39-42

Question 18: What impacts do you think these changes will have on apprentices as they train to obtain their registration?

Minimal

Question 19: Do you support the proposed changes to the registration criteria? Why or why not?

Yes, the inclusion of a tiered pathway is logical

Electrical Inspector

Question 20: Do you support the proposed changes to the limits of work? Why or why not?

All but the supervision endorsement this should not be as outlined, but as per our recommendation in questions 39-42

Question 21: Do you support the proposed changes to the registration criteria? Why or why not?

Yes,

Associated Tradesperson

Question 22: Do you support the proposed changes to the limits of work? Why or why not?

All but the supervision endorsement this should not be as outlined, but as per our recommendation in questions 39-42

Question 23: Do you support the proposed changes to the registration criteria? Why or why not?

Yes,

Distribution Line Mechanic

Question 24: Do you support the proposed merger of the Distribution Line Mechanic and Distribution Line Mechanic (Endorsed) classes? Why or why not?

All but the supervision endorsement this should not be as outlined, but as per our recommendation in questions 39-42

Question 25: Do you support the proposed changes? Why or why not?

Question 26: What impacts do you think these changes will have on apprentices as they train to obtain their registration?

Question 27: Do you support the proposed changes to the limits of work? Why or why not?

Transmission Line Mechanic

Question 28: Do you support the proposed changes to the limits of work? Why or why not?

All but the supervision endorsement this should not be as outlined, but as per our recommendation in questions 39-42

Traction Line Mechanic

Question 29: Do you support the proposed changes to the limits of work? Why or why not?

All but the supervision endorsement this should not be as outlined, but as per our recommendation in questions 39-42

Substation Maintainer

Question 30: Do you support the proposed changes to the limits of work? Why or why not?

All but the supervision endorsement this should not be as outlined, but as per our recommendation in questions 39-42

Cable Jointer

Question 31: Do you support the proposed changes to the limits of work? Why or why not?

All but the supervision endorsement this should not be as outlined, but as per our recommendation in questions 39-42

Mains Parallel Generation Systems Endorsement

Question 32: Do you agree with the creation of the proposed Mains Parallel Generation Endorsement? Why or why not?

Yes, this will ensure only those with the requisite knowledge attempt to undertake this work. The methodology on how this endorsement is attained needs industry consultation.. The methodology on how this endorsement is attained needs industry consultation.

Question 33: Do you agree with the proposed limits of work for this endorsement? Why or why not?

Yes, clearly identifies which classes of licence can undertake the work

Question 34: What impacts do you think these changes will have on EWs as they progress in their career?

Minimal, in fact it will provide a better professional development pathway

Question 35: Do you support the proposed registration criteria? Why or why not?

NO. Item 1 requiring 2-years of registration is unnecessarily restrictive. It is highly possible/likely that a person may have had experience of this type of work throughout the training licence. If a person can prove competence via a board approved course, then this should be enough. This is likely to contribute to a lack of skilled workforce as opposed to increase it.

Mining Endorsement

Question 36: Do you support the proposed changes to the limits of work? Why or why not?

Yes, this will ensure only those with the requisite knowledge attempt to undertake this work. The methodology on how this endorsement is attained needs industry consultation. Currently it is ambiguous in its nature.

Question 37: What impacts do you think these changes will have on EWs as they progress in their career?

Minimal

Question 38: Do you support the proposed changes to the registration criteria? Why or why not?

Yes

Supervision Endorsement

Question 39: Do you agree with the creation of the proposed Supervision Endorsement? Why or why not?

Yes, this is a good professional development opportunity. The methodology on how this endorsement is attained needs industry consultation.

Question 40: Do you agree with the proposed limits of work for this endorsement? Why or why not?

Yes

Question 41: What impacts do you think this endorsement will have on your business?

Negative if implemented as per the registration requirements

Positive if amended as per answer to question 42

Question 42: Do you support the proposed registration criteria? Why or why not?

NO!

This is a particularly old fashioned and out moded opinion on how requisite skills are acquired.

The outlined supervision endorsement will only contribute to the skilled labour shortage. A significant proportion of our membership have advised that they will simply will not train, or will stop training, should this 2-year requirement post qualification be brought in. They will not have the staffing number to train apprentices. In a time when training is the ONLY methodology to reduce the skilled labour shortage, this is a very dangerous step and one that will negatively impact the industries future labour force.

The outlined supervision endorsement does not align with the attainment of the requisite skills to supervise. Supervision skills are not attained by simply being qualified for 2-years, supervision skills are attained by undertaking a supervision course, or, actively undertaking supervision during the 2-years post qualification.

The registration requirements should read:

Those seeking an endorsement registration class for Supervision must have:

- a. held a particular class of registration for a period of not less than 2 years, whilst simultaneously undergoing supervision mentoring, or

b. upon attaining a particular class of registration also undertaken a board approved supervision course

There are many supervision courses available, this achieves professional development either way as well as ensuring the supervision of trainees is standardised and effective.

Medical Cardiac Protected Electrical Area Endorsement

Question 43: Do you agree with the creation of the proposed Medical Cardiac Protected Electrical Area Endorsement? Why or why not?

Yes, this is a good professional development opportunity. The methodology on how this endorsement is attained needs industry consultation.

Question 44: Do you agree with the proposed limits of work for this endorsement? Why or why not?

Yes

Question 45: What impacts do you think this endorsement will have on your business?

Positive

Question 46: Do you support the proposed registration criteria for this endorsement? Why or why not?

NO!

The proposed registration requirement should exclude the 2-year post registration condition. The requirement for 1-year practical experience should be enough to prove competence, simply holding a class of licence for 2-year is not enough to prove competence. The practical component is more relevant.

Hazardous Area Endorsement

Question 47: Do you agree with the creation of the proposed Hazardous Area Endorsement? Why or why not?

Yes, this is a good professional development opportunity. The methodology on how this endorsement is attained needs industry consultation.

Question 48: Do you agree with the proposed limits of work for this endorsement? Why or why not?

NO!

The proposed registration requirement should exclude the 2-year post registration condition. The requirement for 1-year practical experience should be enough to prove competence, simply holding a class of licence for 2-year is not enough to prove competence. The practical component is more relevant.

Question 49: What impacts do you think this endorsement will have on your business?

Positive

Background on Master Electricians

Master Electricians is the professional trade organisation for electrical contracting businesses in New Zealand. The origins of the Master Electricians date back to 1925 and have today grown to have over 1200 members, whose total annual combined turnover are in excess of \$1 billion.

Master Electricians consists of a Board, a National Office and ten branches nationwide. Our members employ in excess of 7,000 electrical workers, including a large proportion of the apprentices trained nationally.

Electrical Training Company (etco)

Electrical Training Company (etco) was formed in 1991 by Master Electricians and the Electrical Workers Union, in response a lack of business confidence causing a reduction in training following the share market crash. The primary purpose was to grow apprenticeship levels in the industry. The company is now wholly owned by Master Electricians. etco has New Zealand Qualification Authority (NZQA) accreditation as a training provider. Since its inception, etco has employed and trained in excess of 3,500 apprentices and currently directly employs 900 apprentices who are seconded to industry.

Throughout New Zealand, etco has four regional offices and four training centres. It has access to night class venues in another twenty or so towns and cities. etco also runs in-depth induction courses for up to 20 apprentice trainees at a time at its residential training facility, Martynsfield, in Ramarama