

Electrical Safety Office

Electrical safety performance report

Q3 2023 - 24

This report details Queensland's electrical safety performance for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024 as related to measures within the Electrical Safety Plan for Queensland 2023–27.

Electrical fatalities

- One electrical fatality reported during Q3.

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

Month of incident	Details
February	A worker received a fatal electric shock while working on an air-conditioning unit.



Serious electrical incidents (SEI)

Four 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 three SEIs were:

Month of incident	Details
January	A property owner in a cherry picker clearing vegetation has contacted a high voltage line.
March	A worker sustained significant burns as a result of the arc flash when opening a panel door.
	An arc flash occurred while a worker was attempting to remove panel from a main switchboard.

Compliance activity



- 287 response assessments
- 738 audits completed.

Statutory notices:

- 423 improvement notices
- 81 infringement notices
- 34 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
- requirement for electrical contractor licence
- electrical equipment compliance to AS/NZS 3012
- 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
- 41 contraventions involving immediate compliance.

Audit activity



- 141 electrical contractor audits (systems and site verification)
- 85 on-site licence checks
- 72 construction site audits (wiring, exclusion zones and principal contractor processes)
- 70 responsible supplier audits
- 77 ceiling space audits
- 25 new electrical equipment audits
- 268 other audits.

Engagement activity



ESO undertook engagement activities with over:

- 99 organisations
- 397 people.

Licensing committee activity



During Q3, there were 19 licensing referrals to the Electrical Licensing Committee for consideration of disciplinary action as a result of unsafe electrical work and non-compliant practices.

The 19 referrals were made up of 11 electrical contractors and eight electrical workers, with referrals relating to:

- person receives an electric shock
- disconnection was required because of serious defects or immediate electrical risk to persons or property
- matters involving young workers and electrical apprentices
- intentionally deceive an inspector.

Investigation activity



- five investigation finalised
- seven active investigations.

Prosecution activity



- three state-wide investigation prosecution finalised
- seven matters before the courts.

Licensing and registration activity



- 1,561 new electrical licences issued:
- 1,246 work licences
- 315 contractor licences.

Check testing activity



- seven new reports received from test laboratories for room heaters.

Equipment activity



- six electrical equipment examinations were conducted
- 15 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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