

# Electrical Safety Office

## Electrical safety performance report

Q4 2023 - 24

This report details Queensland's electrical safety performance for the period 1 April 2024 to 30 June 2024 as related to measures within the Electrical Safety Plan for Queensland 2023–27.

### Electrical fatalities

- No electrical fatalities were reported during Q4.

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



### Serious electrical incidents (SEI)

- Four incidents were reported as SEIs under the *Electrical Safety Act 2002* (ES Act) definition during Q4. The SEIs were:

Month of incident	Details
January	A construction worker was injured after a concrete boom contacted power lines. The worker received an electric shock and also struck their head when falling to the ground.
March	An electrical worker received significant burns to their face and arms following an arc flash incident while working on an air-conditioning system.
	A seven-year-old child received electrical burns to fingers of both hands as result of contact with exposed energised conductors at a disused bollard light at a hotel.
	A worker received significant burns to right hand from arc flash while removing escutcheon panel in main switchboard. The worker was inspecting the switchboard capacity in preparation for new timber sawmill equipment.

### Compliance activity



- 280 response assessments
- 738 audits completed.

#### Statutory notices:

- 439 improvement notices
- 47 infringement notices
- 28 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:

- two notices under ES Regulation s74 – requirement for a person in control of electrical equipment to fix defects
- 60 contraventions involving immediate compliance.

## Audit activity



- 140 electrical contractor audits (systems and site verification)
- 99 on-site licence checks
- 78 ceiling space audits
- 122 construction site audits (wiring, exclusion zones and principal contractor processes)
- 98 responsible supplier audits
- 39 new electrical equipment audits
- 424 other audits.

## Engagement activity



ESO undertook engagement activities with over:

- 210 organisations
- 1,006 people.

## Licensing committee activity



During Q4, there were 17 licensing referrals to the Electrical Licensing Committee for consideration of disciplinary action as a result of unsafe electrical work and non-compliant practices.

The 17 referrals were made up of seven electrical contractors and 10 electrical workers, with referrals relating to:

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

## Investigation activity



- four investigations finalised
- seven active investigations.

## Prosecution activity



- one state-wide investigation prosecution finalised
- eight matters before the courts.

## Licensing and registration activity

1,393 new electrical licences issued:



- 1,080 work licences
- 313 contractor licences.

## Check testing activity



During Q4, 67 models of electrical equipment were sent to laboratories for testing.

## Equipment activity



- 14 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.



Unless otherwise noted, this document is available under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd/4.0/>). You are free to copy and redistribute the work, so long as you attribute The State of Queensland. The material presented in this publication is distributed by the Queensland Government for information only and is subject to change without notice. The Queensland Government disclaims all responsibility and liability (including liability in negligence) for all expenses, losses, damages and costs incurred as a result of the information being inaccurate or incomplete in any way and for any reason. PN 13148