

## Department of Justice

ELECTRICITY STANDARDS AND SAFETY

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Dear Restricted Electrical Licence Holder

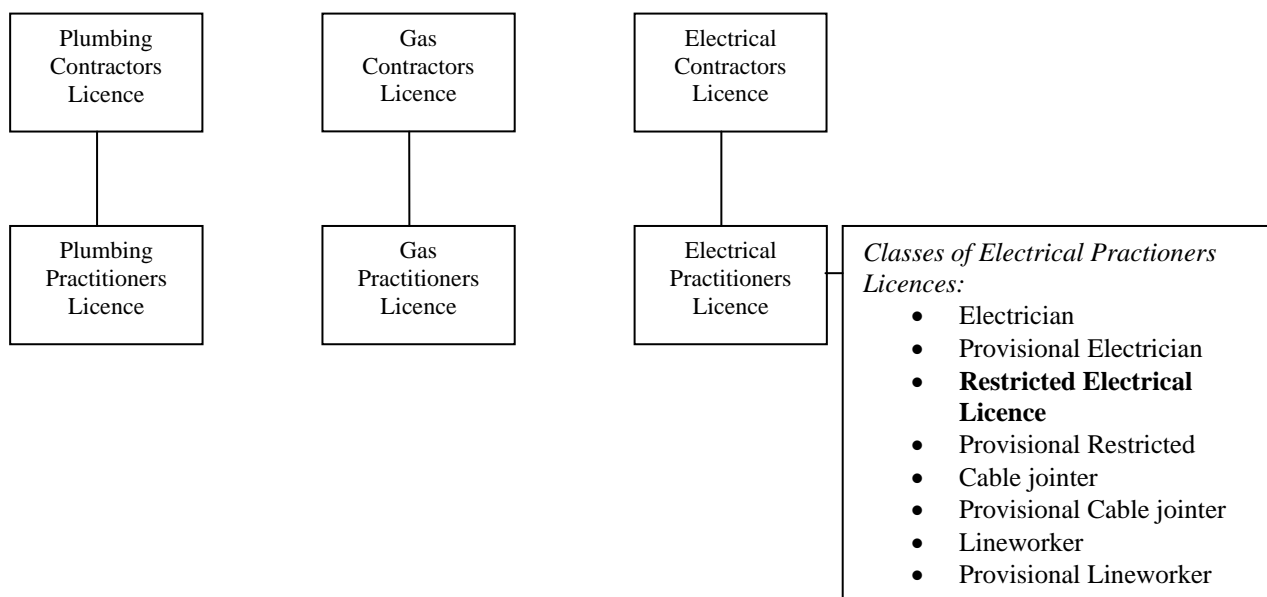
### ***OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING ACT 2005 (THE ACT)***

This letter is to advise you of the legislation concerning occupational licensing that will be introduced in the later half of this year.

The new Act and Regulations have been developed to bring the three key trade areas of, Plumbing, Gas and Electrical under the same licensing legislation. The Plumbing stream will incorporate plumbing associated with refrigeration and airconditioning and the Gas stream will include both LP and natural gas. The licensing structure will be laid out in three streams and in many cases persons or businesses, in these trade areas, will require multiple licences and/or endorsements. Below is a diagrammatic representation of where the restricted electrical licences (REL) fit within this structure.

In general terms:

- a contractor's licence is required for businesses who enter into contracts to perform prescribed work within each stream (not required for those who only hold an REL).
- a practitioner's licence is required for each worker who undertakes prescribed work within each stream. The REL is in essence an electrical practitioners licence of a particular class.



Listed below are some of the changes under the *Occupational Licensing Act 2005* that will affect REL holders.

#### 1. Obligation to record work

- You will need to record all the electrical work you perform for your customers. As in, “for whom”, “where”, “when” and “what specifically was done”.
- You will need to give a copy of this record to your customer. This copy will also have to state the name of your insurer, if the licence requires it.
- The above two requirements will not apply when working on the assets owned by you or your employer.
- You will need to keep a record of all the electrical work undertaken, for a period of not less than 10 years.

## 2. Notification

Under the OLA, electrical contractors and electricians will be required to certify work and lodge notices with Aurora Energy Compliance Inspectors for electrical work that is not considered “minor”.

However, in general there will be no requirement to lodge “notification papers” for the type of work performed by restricted electrical licence holders. This is because the work undertaken by restricted electrical licence holders will only be “disconnection and reconnection” of existing equipment, or the replacement of “like with like”.

## 3. Restricted Electrical Licensing Categories

For the purpose of harmonisation across Australian jurisdictions, there will be new names given to the endorsed sub-classes of restricted electrical licences, as determined by COAG (Council of Australian Governments) Working Group.

The new sub-classes will be in two groups:

### **Class 1**

Refrigeration and Air Conditioning  
Instrumentation  
Electronics

### **Class 2**

Water heaters  
Pre-assembled neon signs  
Composite equipment  
Control devices  
Gas appliances  
Motors  
Explosion protection equipment

## 4. Transitional provisions for Restricted Electrical Licence holders

The Administrator of the Act will set aside transitional provisions so that the majority of current REL holders can continue to undertake the same work currently permitted under an REL.

Licences may, on the production of appropriate evidence, be endorsed in more than one category. EG. The current category of ‘Plumbing and Gas Fitting’ will now be split into ‘Water heaters’ and ‘Gas Appliances’. If sufficient evidence is provided then both sub-classes may be endorsed on the licence. If a plumber only requires the REL for water heaters then that will be their only endorsement.


**Please be reminded that Restricted Electrical Licence holders cannot perform electrical work beyond the scope of the licence sub-class granted. Electrical work involving new circuits or the installation of new equipment must not be undertaken by an REL holder.**

The information in this letter relates to electrical licensing only. For those of you in the Plumbing and Gas Fitting industries, you will be further advised, by the appropriate regulators of your industry, about the new and additional licensing requirements for your specific trade.

The *Occupational Act 2005* will soon be in force and will replace the licensing component of the *Electricity Industry Safety and Administration Act 1997*. If you have not already familiarised yourself with the Act, we would encourage you to do so. Legislation may be obtained from Print Applied Technology, 123 Collins Street, Hobart, or on the internet (<http://www.thelaw.tas.gov.au>). A draft version of the Occupational Licensing (Electrical Work) Regulations may be viewed on our website at [http://www.wst.tas.gov.au/industries/licensing/occupational\\_licensing](http://www.wst.tas.gov.au/industries/licensing/occupational_licensing)

If after you have read the above legislation you still have questions then please contact Charles Woodhouse on 6233 7722

YOURS SINCERELY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Hammersley', written over a horizontal line.

JOHN HAMMERSLEY  
**CHIEF ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR**