

New Registration and Licensing Regulations 2020

Summary of changes

Fact sheet

14 January 2021

Summary of changes in the Electricity Safety (Registration and Licensing) Regulations 2020

Background

On 1 January 2021 the Electricity Safety (Registration and Licensing) Regulations 2020 came into force, replacing the Electricity Safety (Registration and Licensing) Regulations 2010, which were revoked on 31 December 2020.

Among the changes, the 2020 regulations:

- Introduce licensing of lineworkers and cable jointers
- Add / revise and delete definitions
- Add the requirement to complete skills maintenance and/or skills development before renewal of a licence
- Limits the validity of the LEA and some other ESV assessments to five years, and
- Requires an email address for registrations and licence applications.

In relation to breaches of the regulations, be aware that most regulation numbers have changed and a breach can only occur if the regulation was in place at the time the breach took place.

The following table is a summary of changes in the 2020 regulations. It covers the main changes but is not a complete list. Refer to the [Electricity Safety \(Registration and Licensing\) Regulations 2020](#) to verify specific wording.

2010 Reg number	2020 Reg number	Change
4	4	<p>The following definitions have been added:</p> <p>a.c. electricity generation system means an electricity generation system (other than a battery energy storage system) that has a nominal operating voltage exceeding 50 volts alternating current;</p> <p>accessories has the same meaning as "accessory" has in the Australian/New Zealand Wiring Rules;</p> <p>ARBN has the same meaning it has in the Corporations Act;</p> <p>AS/NZS 5139 means AS/NZS 5139 Electrical installations—Safety of battery systems for use with power conversion equipment, as published or amended from time to time;</p> <p>battery energy storage system has the same meaning as "battery energy storage system BESS" has in AS/NZS 5139;</p> <p>Business Names Register has the same meaning as it has in the Business Names Registration Act 2011 of the Commonwealth;</p>

2010 Reg number	2020 Reg number	Change
		<p>communication equipment includes data transfer equipment, security system equipment, intercom and public address system equipment, nurse call system equipment and audio-visual equipment;</p> <p>d.c. electricity generation system means an electricity generation system (other than a battery energy storage system) that has—</p> <p>(a) a nominal operating voltage or open circuit voltage exceeding 50 volts direct current; and</p> <p>(b) an individual or combined rated generation capacity equal to or greater than 240 watts;</p> <p>electricity generation system means an a.c. electricity generation system or a d.c. electricity generation system;</p> <p>extra low voltage means a voltage not exceeding—</p> <p>(a) 50 volts alternating current; or</p> <p>(b) 120 volts ripple-free direct current;</p> <p>licensed lineworker means an electrical lineworker holding a licence issued under section 40 of the Act for a class of electrical linework in accordance with regulation 31 or 33;</p> <p>network infrastructure company means a contractor who is engaged by a major electricity company to carry out electrical linework on the supply network of the major electricity company;</p> <p>railway company means a person who owns or operates a railway supply network or tramway supply network;</p> <p>railway infrastructure company means a contractor who is engaged by a railway company to carry out electrical linework on a railway supply network or tramway supply network;</p> <p>railway supply network means the supply network of a railway that is used by electric trains;</p> <p>restricted electrical installation work means work of a type prescribed by regulation 18(d) or 18(e);</p> <p>tramway supply network means the supply network of a tramway</p>
4	4	Definition of "part 1 solution" changed to: alternative design solution has the same meaning as it has in the Electricity Safety (General) Regulations 2019 Added Supply networks to the definition of effective supervision in part (a) and other places as appropriate.
5	6 (wording and title modified and note added)	Restriction on the employment of persons to carry out electrical installation work For the purposes of Division 1 of Part 3 of the Act, work of a class prescribed by regulation 18 is prescribed. Note See also section 36(1) of the Act.
8(2)(a)	7(2)(a)	Added requirement for an email address (and in other relevant places).
8(2)(c)	7(2)(b)(ii)	Declaration provided by technical nominee must now include the nominee's name, telephone number, email address and residential address and the person's consent to be such a supervisor.
8(2)(e)	7(2)(c)(ii)	Declaration provided by business nominee must now include the nominee's name, telephone number, email address and residential address and the person's consent to be such a supervisor.
8(2)(f)	7(2)(d)	If applicant is using a business name the applicant must provide documentary evidence that the business name is registered and registered to the applicant.

2010 Reg number	2020 Reg number	Change
Added	7(2)(e)	All applicants must provide the ABN number they will use for their electrical contracting business.
8(2)(f)	7(2)(f)	Changes to increase information required on partnerships. Applicant for a partnership to become an REC must provide the name, telephone number, email address and residential address of each member of the partnership and a signed statement from each member of the partnership stating they consent to the applicant's application and agree to be bound by the conditions of registration set out in regulation 13 and the obligations set out in regulation 14.
Added	7(2)(g)(iv)	An application for a corporation to become an REC must include the ABN or ARBN the corporation will use.
8(2)(j)	7(2)(i) 7(3)(b).	Evidence of prescribed insurance no longer required. Instead a statement from the applicant is required stating they hold or will hold, at the time of carrying out electrical contracting, the insurance required by section 30 of the Act. This statement is also required for licence renewals.
8(5)	8	Application and renewal fees have a separate regulation (fee unit amount remains the same).
Added	10(4)	Adds the requirement of a 'relevant period' of 5 years since completing the LEA or equivalent for Technical Supervisors.
11	Deleted	Removed mutual recognition of contractors (Commonwealth Mutual Recognition Act applies).
12(b)	11(b)	5 year limit added to contravention of the Act or Regulations and the list of crimes, negligence and fraudulent contracting.
Added	11(e)	ESV may refuse registration if the applicant's ABN, ARBN or business name is not properly registered in the applicant's name.
15(1)(e)	14(1)(e)	Added requirement to advise ESV of changes to ABN or ABRN.
17	16	Requirements for content of the Register changed to include telephone number, email, ABN, ABRN and business name.
17(3)&(4)	16(3)	ESV must publish the register online. Deleted ability to request a copy of an extract, and the associated fee.
18(6)	17(5)	Deleted fee for replacement registration card.
7	18	Some classes of electrical installation work that require a licence modified and expanded to include some generator and battery systems. Work on extra-low voltage communication equipment in patient areas removed as being work that requires a licence as per current policy. Definition of communication equipment has been added (see above).
7(d)	19	Electrical inspection work placed in separate regulation.
Added	20	Electrical Linework added as a new class of licensed work.
19	21	Changes, format changed, email address requirements.
Added	21(3)(c)	Requirement added for written statements (related to supervised traction lineworker and restricted cable jointers licence).
20	22	Added requirement to have completed the LEA or equivalent within the last 5 years for new applicants and renewal of a licence that expired more than 5 years ago. (re-applying)
21	23	Added requirement to have completed the SWP component of the LEA within the last 5 years.
24	26	Added requirement to have completed the LSWA within the last 5 years for new applicants and renewal of a licence that expired more than 5 years ago. (re-applying)
25	27	Added requirement to have completed the ESV independent assessment within the last 5 years for new applicants and renewal of a licence that expired more than 5 years ago. (re-applying)
26	28	Added requirement to have completed the ESV independent assessment within the last 5 years for new applicants and renewal of a licence that expired more than 5 years ago. (re-applying)

2010 Reg number	2020 Reg number	Change
27	29	Added requirement to have completed the ESV independent assessments within the last 5 years for new applicants and renewal of a licence that expired more than 5 years ago. (re-applying). Added the ability for ESV to require completion of an LEI course.
29	Deleted	Mutual recognition of qualifications deleted. ESV can recognise the qualifications as equivalent or the Commonwealth Mutual Recognition Act applies.
30	Deleted	Automatic Mutual Recognition requirements deleted. (Moved to Gazette G51 orders in council page 2576 row 22) No change to requirements.
Added	31 to 33	Requirements for lineworkers and cable jointers added.
31	34	5 year limit added to contravention of the Act or Regulations and the list of crimes, negligence and fraudulent electrical work.
Added	34(2)&(3)	Grounds for refusal of supervised traction lineworker and restricted cable jointers licence added.
32	35	Added ability for ESV to refuse to renew or place conditions on renewal if CPD has not been completed as required.
Added	36	Allows ESV to specify CPD requirements and limits these to 8 hours each.
34	38	Apprentice supervision requirements expanded and includes lineworker apprentices and apprentices in trades using restricted electrical licences (e.g. plumbing).
36(6)	40(5)	Deleted fee for replacement card.
Added	44&45	ESV can waive the application fee for additional classes of work and for lineworkers who qualify for a free first licence.
40	46	Modified the regulations for which an infringement notice may be issued.
Schedule 2	Schedule 2	Changes to the definition of L and M class inspection work.
Added	Schedule 3	Added definitions of electricity network specific terms, linework classes, and required qualifications.

Who we are

ESV is Victoria's safety regulator for electricity, gas and pipelines.

Our role is to ensure Victorian gas and electricity industries are safe and meet community expectations.

We are also responsible for licensing and registering electricians, and educating the community about energy safety.

More information is available on the Energy Safe Victoria website: www.esv.vic.gov.au