

Applicant Guide for Restricted Electrical Licences

Electrical Licensing | NTWorkSafe

Disclaimer

This publication contains information regarding electrical licensing in the Northern Territory. It includes some of your obligations under the *Electrical Safety Act 2022* that NT WorkSafe administers. The information provided is a guide only and must be read in conjunction with the appropriate legislation to ensure you understand and comply with your legal obligations. NT WorkSafe does not warrant the information in this publication is complete or up-to-date and does not accept any liability for the information in this report or as to its use.

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These guidelines are provided to assist applicants seeking to apply for approval to undertake training for a restricted electrical licence. Please read them to ensure the form is completed correctly. Use the Supporting Documents Checklist on the application form to ensure you have supplied the required evidence in support of your application. Please ensure you have supplied all of the information requested, an incomplete application will result in a delayed processing of your licence application.

Do not commence a course of study for a Restricted Electrical Licence before gaining a training permit or registration from the Electrical Safety Regulator and identifying the units you are required to study.

Restricted Electrical Licence

The Restricted Electrical Worker's Licence entitles you to carry out electrical work relating to equipment that is associated with your primary trade, vocation or calling (occupation) and would otherwise require the services of a licensed electrical contractor or unrestricted electrical worker. These licences are issued for a 5-year term.

Information on the various endorsements, their scopes and training pathways can be found at the base of this guide.

When you need an electrical worker's licence

An electrical work licence is required to perform or supervise any kind of electrical work.

Electrical work includes:

- Connecting or disconnecting electricity supply wiring to electrical equipment
- Manufacturing, constructing, installing, removing, adding, testing, replacing, repairing, altering or maintaining electrical equipment or an electrical installation

Obtaining a Restricted Electrical Licence

An applicant must be able to provide answers to the following questions in their application. Each question is important in respect of the competency requirements and the need for the licence. Use the below questions as a guide for the letter of support/statutory declaration to be provided from an employer.

- a) **What trade or other training has the applicant completed that is relevant to the primary work function in which the licence is required?**

The applicant must have completed a minimum of 6-12 months (dependant on the endorsement) training in their primary work function and provide evidence of their training. For example, trade qualifications.

- b) **What type of electrical work will be performed?**

The applicant must clearly identify the type of electrical work to be carried out and the work environment. For example, if a person states that they are a pump technician and need to disconnect/reconnect bore pumps, they must also indicate if the pumps are connected by plug & cord or are fixed wired, are single or three phase and whether they will need to carry out fault finding beyond checking if supply is available.

c) Why is the licence needed and how often is it needed?

An applicant must demonstrate the need for a restricted licence to allow the carrying out of their trade or calling. It must also be demonstrated that the need is on a regular basis to ensure skills and safe work practices are maintained. This should be done by the inclusion of a statement from the employer (or self-employed person) setting out the applicant's duty statement and frequency the electrical work is to be performed.

d) How will “on-the-job” supervision of training be carried out?

The applicant needs to include advice from the employer (or self-employed person) setting out how the training and “on-the-job” supervision will be achieved. Supervision must be carried out by a licence holder of same or greater scope, in the same work area category or alternatively is to be supervised by an unrestricted electrical worker.

Traineeships v Apprenticeships

Restricted Electrical Worker Licence training pathways can vary between an apprenticeship and a traineeship. The path of study is determined by the endorsement type. Further detail can be found in the section outlining licence endorsements.

For those completing a traineeship, [an application for a training permit](#) will be required prior to enrolment with your chosen registered training organisation. Please note, Charles Darwin University will not enrol an applicant until they have provided a copy of their training permit.

Apprentices will be required to [apply for an apprenticeship registration](#) (sometimes known as a “red card”) once they have received their certificate of registration from the Australian Apprenticeship Support Network (AASNT). An apprenticeship registration is different to the certificate of registration with AASNT.

The apprenticeship registration allows an apprentice to perform electrical works under supervision whilst completing their training. A certificate of registration refers to the registration of the training contract.

Apprentices from Interstate

If you have completed your training in another state or territory, you cannot apply for a licence in the Northern Territory without first obtaining a licence in the state where the trade certificate was issued. Once the interstate licence has been obtained, use the [application for mutual recognition of an interstate licence](#).

For those who move to the Northern Territory while in the middle of your apprenticeship, you will need to speak to a registered training organisation to see if they will recognise the training you have completed interstate and [apply for an apprenticeship registration](#).

Supervision

Supervisors are responsible for providing adequate and timely training. The following points need to be considered:

- The supervisor accepts overall responsibility for the applicant's supervision, although other supervisors may be used;
- The applicant shall not carry out any electrical work unless adequately supervised.

Please note, supervision can only be provided by the holder of an equivalent licence or higher. For example, an unrestricted electrical worker can supervise any trainee or apprentice but a restricted electrical licence holder with a gas equipment endorsement would only be able to supervise a trainee undertaking study for the gas equipment endorsement.

Further information on supervision can be found on the NTWorkSafe website:

- [Supervision requirements for apprentices](#)
- [Guide for supervising electrical apprentices](#)

Interstate Licence Holders

Applicants who hold a current restricted electrical worker's licence have the following options under the *Mutual Recognition Act 1992* to be licensed to complete electrical works within the Northern Territory:

- Automatic Mutual Recognition
- Mutual Recognition

Automatic Mutual Recognition (also known as AMR) grants a letter of recognition rather than a Northern Territory electrical worker's licence. The letter allows an applicant to work off their interstate licence while they are working in the Northern Territory. This application does not have a fee.

Mutual Recognition (also known as MR) grants a Northern Territory electrical worker's licence equivalent to the one you hold interstate. This application has a fee equivalent to the licence you are receiving from the application. I.e. an application for mutual recognition of an interstate electrical worker's licence will have the same fee as an electrical worker's licence application.

Overseas Trained Applicants

Some restricted electrical worker licence endorsements can be issued on recognition of overseas training, provided that Australian Context Gap Training has also been completed. The following restricted licence endorsements are eligible:

- Air-conditioning and refrigeration equipment work
- Electronics and communication equipment work
- Instrumentation and process control work

Applicants will need to contact Trades Recognition Australia to obtain an Offshore Technical Skills Record (OTSR certificate). Once received, the applicant will need to lodge an application for a training permit with NTWorkSafe to commence gap training.

Once the gap training has been completed and the applicant has gained 12 months of on-the-job supervised experience, the applicant can lodge an application for a restricted electrical worker's licence.

How to Apply for a Licence

Application forms are available on the [NT WorkSafe website](#). Completed applications can be lodged in person, via email or post at the Territory Business Centre:

Darwin	Katherine	Tennant Creek	Alice Springs
Ground Floor, Building 3 Darwin Corporate Park 631 Stuart Highway, Berrimah	Shop 1, Randazzo Building 18 Katherine Terrace, Katherine	Shop 2, Barkly House Cnr Davidson and Patterson Street, Tennant Creek	Ground Floor, The Green Well Building 50 Bath Street, Alice Springs
Phone: 1800 193 111		Email: territorybusinesscentre@nt.gov.au	
Postal Address: GPO Box 9800, Darwin, NT 0800			

Supporting Documents

The supporting documents required for a restricted electrical worker's licence varies dependant on whether a new licence is being issued or if one is being renewed. It can also vary dependant on whether the licence was obtained via an apprenticeship or a traineeship.

Application for a new licence – Completion of an apprenticeship

A successful application for a new restricted electrical mechanic licence requires the following:

- Evidence of 12 months experience in the trade work of their selected restricted endorsement (through an SD-02 statutory declaration by a licensed supervisor who is the holder of an equivalent licence or higher)
- A Notice of Completion from the Australian Apprenticeship Support Network
- A colour copy of the applicant's exemplar profiling report (if applicable)
- A statement of attainment from a registered training organisation for the relevant course of instruction

Application for a new licence – Completion of a traineeship

Applications with the following supporting documentation successfully demonstrate eligibility to hold a restricted electrical licence:

- A copy of their training permit from NTWorkSafe
- Evidence of experience in their trade work of their selected restricted endorsement (through an SD-02 statutory declaration by a licensed supervisor who is the holder of an equivalent licence or higher)
- A statement of attainment from a registered training organisation for the relevant course of instruction

Some endorsements required additional evidence in the form of other licences. Please check the application form or licence category section at the base of this document for further information.

Application for renewal

The Electrical Safety Regulator has a duty to ensure that electrical workers have sufficiently maintained their competency to safely carry out electrical works in accordance with AS/NZS3000 Wiring Rules. The Regulator requires applicants to provide evidence of continued industry involvement at the time of renewal.

This can be demonstrated through one of the following:

- An SD-02 statutory declaration completed by a supervisor or employer who holds an electrical worker's licence that is of equal standard or higher within Australia
Please note, this declaration cannot be self-declared by the applicant
- Six electrical certificates of compliance issued within the past 18 months
- A certificate from a skills maintenance course that has been approved by the Electrical Safety Regulator and completed within the past 3 years

At the time of publication, the only training organisation providing the skills maintenance course is Charles Darwin University. For enrolment in the course, please contact electrotechnology@cdu.edu.au. In addition, those that hold an electrical worker's licence in Queensland can provide their skills maintenance assessment they complete for the Queensland Electrical Safety Officer.

Application for apprenticeship registration

A successful application for an apprenticeship registration requires the following:

- A copy of their colour identification test
- A copy of their certificate of registration from the Australian Apprenticeship Support Network

Colour Identification Test

The applicant needs to undergo an Ishihara Colour Identification Test (generally conducted by an optometrist) and attach the results to the application form. If the applicant fails the colour identification test, contact the Electrotechnology division at Charles Darwin University and ask to take a colour identification test or the "Pullen" test.

Once an applicant has provided a copy of their colour identification test, this will be kept on file and the test will not need to be provided again.

Fees

Please refer to the [NT WorkSafe website](#) for a Schedule of Fees.

Renewal Reminders

Although as a courtesy, renewal reminders are sent prior to expiry, it is your responsibility to ensure your address details are correct and that a renewal form is lodged before your licence expires.

Licence Replacements

If an electrical worker licence is lost, defaced or destroyed, the licence holder may apply for a replacement licence. Applicants must complete the application form, pay the prescribed fee and any supporting documentation required by the application form.

Expired Licences

Applicants can apply to obtain their NT electrical worker licence after the licence has expired. The Regulator has a duty to ensure that electrical workers have sufficiently maintained their competency to safely carry out electrical works in accordance with AS/NZS3000 Wiring Rules. The more time that has lapsed since the expiry, the higher requirement for ensuring that a worker's technical knowledge has been maintained.

If an applicant has allowed their NT electrical licence to expire and they hold a current interstate electrical worker's licence, the recommended pathway is to apply for mutual recognition of an interstate licence.

Licences expired less than 1 year

Pursuant to Section 56(2) of the Act, a licence may be renewed within 1 year after its expiry date. Therefore, applicants are to lodge a renewal application and provide the standard supporting documents for one.

Expired for over a year but less than 3 years

Any applications for an electrical licence that has been expired for over a year are required to fill out the application form as if applying for a new electrical worker's licence.

Applicants that intend to re-obtain an NT electrical worker's licence where their licence has been expired for more than a year but less than 3 years needs to provide a statement of attainment from an approved skills maintenance course. This is the only evidence of competency that will be accepted.

Unlike a renewal application, applicants will not be able to receive a conditional approval if they provide a receipt for a skills maintenance course.

Expired for over 3 years

Applications whose electrical licence has been expired for over a 3-year period will need to undergo an assessment of competency to ensure they have retained the knowledge and technical skills to carry out electrical work. For restricted electrical worker licences, this is to sit a challenge test.

Prior to enrolment, all applicants will need to apply for a training permit from NTWorkSafe allowing them to work under the supervision of a licensed persons until they have achieved a successful outcome of their assessment. At the time of writing, the competency assessments for both unrestricted and restricted licence holders are only available at Charles Darwin University.

Complaints and Disciplinary Action

Anyone can make a complaint to the Electrical Safety Regulator (the Regulator) about an electrical worker, contractor or apprentice. From there, the Regulator will review the complaints received and either:

- Investigate the complaint; or
- Dismiss the complaint on the grounds that it is trivial, frivolous, vexatious or baseless.

After enquiries are made, substantiated complaints may be referred to the Disciplinary Committee (Committee) for disciplinary action. The Committee may conduct a discipline hearing and provide a decision after completing such a hearing.

Disciplinary action can take one or more of the following forms:

- Cancellation or an amendment to the licence
- Suspension of the licence
- Disqualification from holding and/or being eligible to hold a licence
- Reprimand/caution notice
- Require the holder to correct a fault or defect in the electrical work
- Require the holder to undertake further training
- Impose a monetary penalty

Further information on the Committee and the complaint process can be found on the [NT WorkSafe website](#).

Appeals

Under section 251 of the Act, a person who is dissatisfied with a decision made by the Electrical Safety Regulator and the Discipline Committee may be reviewable by the Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NTCAT).

This includes decisions relating to the issuing of licences or a disciplinary action. Information on how to apply for a review of a decision can be found on [NTCAT's website](#).

Legislation

The *Electrical Safety Act 2022* and *Electrical Safety Regulations 2024* are available on [NT WorkSafe's website](#) or on the [Northern Territory Legislation Database](#).

List of Jurisdiction Contacts

Jurisdiction	Name of Regulator	Telephone	Website
New South Wales	Building Commission NSW	13 27 00	Building Commission NSW NSW Government
Victoria	Energy Safe Victoria	1800 815 721	Energy Safe Victoria Energy Safe Victoria
Queensland	Electrical Safety Office	1300 362 128	Home Electrical Safety Office
South Australia	Consumer and Business Services	131 882	SA.GOV.AU - Plumbing, gas fitting and electrical registration and contractors' licences
Western Australia	Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety	6251 2000	Electrical licensing
Australian Capital Territory	Construction and Work Place Licensing	6207 8096	Construction licences - City and Environment Directorate - Planning
Tasmania	Consumer, Building and Occupational Services	1300 654 499	Electrical licences

Contact Us

For further information, please contact the Licensing and Advisory Services team on 1800 019 115, via email at electrical.licensing@nt.gov.au or go to the NTWorkSafe website at www.worksafe.nt.gov.au

Licence Endorsements

A restricted electrical licence can be obtained through either an apprenticeship or traineeship. The path of study is determined by the endorsement type. The scope of work and eligibility criteria are set out in the *Electrical Safety Regulations 2024* (ESR).

Endorsement	Scope	Primary Work Function	Pathway
Air-conditioning and Refrigeration Equipment Work (ESR 20)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disconnect and reconnect fixed wired electrical equipment Attach plugs and cords to 250 volts Attach plugs and cords to 1000 volts AC or 1500 volts DC Fault finding to determine component failure in equipment to 1000 volts AC or 1500 volts DC. 	Air-conditioning and Refrigeration Mechanics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apprenticeship in Cert III in Air Conditioning and Refrigeration <i>(Overseas Trained Applicants)</i> Course in Refrigeration and Air Conditioning – Minimum Australian Context Gap Training
Disconnect and Reconnect Work – Basic Electrical Equipment (ESR 21)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disconnect and reconnect composite equipment, control devices and motors 	Industry in general where equipment needs to be disconnected for servicing/replacement. For example, mechanical fitters, armature winders, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traineeship with minimum 12 months of “on-the-job” experience
Disconnect and Reconnect Work – Water Heaters (ESR 22)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disconnect and reconnect electric water cylinders, water reticulation systems, irrigation systems including pumps, oil fired heating and water reticulated air-conditioning systems to 1000 volts AC or 1500 volts DC 	Plumbing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traineeship with minimum of 12 months of “on-the-job” experience <p>Additional eligibility requirement: A current licence or registration issued under the <i>Plumbers and Drainers Licensing Act 1983</i></p>

Endorsement	Scope	Primary Work Function	Pathway
<p>Disconnect and Reconnect Work – Explosion Protected Equipment (ESR 23)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disconnect and reconnect appliances and control devices connected to low voltage installation wiring 	<p>Persons suitably trained to work in explosion protected areas and have a need to disconnect and reconnect electrical equipment. For example, petrol pump service persons</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traineeship with minimum of 12 months of “on-the-job” experience
<p>Disconnect and Reconnect Work – Self-propelled, High-voltage Earthmoving Equipment (ESR 24)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disconnect and reconnect electric propulsion components of engine driven, self-propelled earthmoving equipment vehicles operating up to 3300 volts 	<p>Mining industry and centres that service high-voltage mining equipment vehicles. For example, mechanical fitters or motor mechanics with a background in industrial petrol, gas or diesel powered earthmoving equipment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traineeship with minimum of 12 months of “on-the-job” experience
<p>Domestic Appliances and Equipment Work (ESR 25)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disconnect and reconnect fixed wired cooking appliances to 250 volts Fault finding to determine component failure in appliances connected by both plug and cord and fixed wiring up to 250 volts 	<p>Domestic appliance repair/servicing industry. For example, white goods and appliance repairers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traineeship with minimum 6 months of “on-the-job” experience
<p>Electrical Cable Jointer Work (ESR 26)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installing, jointing and terminating covered cables 	<p>Cable Jointers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apprenticeship in Cert III ESI – Distribution Underground

Endorsement	Scope	Primary Work Function	Pathway
Electrical Fitter Work (ESR 27)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manufacture, repair, rewind or assemble electric motors, motor starters and control gear, coils, transformers, etc., meters, instruments and control equipment • Construction, assembly, erection and wiring of switchboards and control panels • Construction, assembly, erection or repair of sub-stations, switching centres, etc. • Turning or machining of electrical components; forming or dressing of busbars • Welding or forming of busways, trunking, etc. 	Electrical fitters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apprenticeship in Cert III Electrical Fitting
Electrical Line Work – Distribution (ESR 28)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installing, testing or repairing electric lines that are restricted to distribution only 	Electrical line workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apprenticeship in Cert III ESI – Distribution Overhead
Electrical Line Work - Transmission (ESR 29)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installing, testing or repairing electric lines that are restricted to transmission only 	Electrical line workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apprenticeship in Cert III ESI – Transmission Overhead
Electronics and Communications Equipment Work (ESR 30) (formerly termed plug and cord equipment)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attaching flexible cords and plugs to electrical equipment to 250 volts • Attaching flexible cords and plugs to electrical equipment to 1000 volts AC or 1500 volts DC • Attaching flexible cords and plugs to electrical equipment connected to high voltage 	Portable tool repair, appliance repair and electronic equipment repair or similar. Suitably trained persons in the tool repair industry including electronics technicians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traineeship with a minimum of 12 months “on-the-job” experience • <i>(Overseas Trained Applicants)</i> Course in Electronics and Communication – Minimum Australian Context Gap Training

Endorsement	Scope	Primary Work Function	Pathway
Fire Protection Equipment Work (ESR 31)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installing, testing and inspecting electrical equipment for fire protection 	Applicants working in the fire security field, fire protection equipment technicians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traineeship with a minimum of 12 months “on-the-job” experience
Gas Equipment Work (ESR 32)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disconnect and reconnect type A or B gas equipment or components, including fault finding to 1000 volts AC or 1500 volts DC Attaching plugs and cords to 250 volts Fault finding to determine component failure in type A or B gas equipment to 1000 volts AC or 1500 volts DC 	Gas equipment. Suitable for licensed plumbers who have completed the Gas Fitting modules, Mechanical fitters (generally with a trade qualification that includes gas or the completion of a type A or B gas course)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traineeship with a minimum of 12 months “on-the-job” experience <p>Additional eligibility requirement: A gas fitter certificate issued under the Dangerous Goods Regulations 1985</p>
Instrumentation and Process Control Equipment (ESR 33)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disconnect and reconnect process control devices (PCDs) Repairing and replacing plugs and cords to 250 volts AC on PCDs Repairing and replacing plugs and cords to 1000 volts AC or 1500 volts DC on PCDs Locating and repairing faults in PCDs to 1000 volts AC or 1500 volts DC If trained in a recognised associated trade – modifying PCDs 	Instrumentation and Control Equipment. Trades persons who have completed their apprenticeship and those suitably trained in an associated electrical profession (for example, electrical engineers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apprenticeship in Cert III Instrumentation and Control (Overseas Trained Applicants) Course in Instrumentation and Process Control – Minimum Australian Context Gap Training
Maritime Operations Work (ESR 34)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintaining and repairing electrical equipment on maritime vessels 	Maritime industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traineeship with a minimum of 12 months “on-the-job” experience

Endorsement	Scope	Primary Work Function	Pathway
<p>Specialised Commercial and Industrial Equipment Work (ESR 35)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disconnect and reconnect commercial and industrial equipment to 1000 volts AC or 1500 volts DC • Attaching plugs and cords to 250 volts • Attaching plugs and cords to 1000 volts AC or 1500 volts DC • Fault finding to determine component failure in commercial and industrial equipment to 1000 volts AC or 1500 volts DC 	<p>Applicants who can demonstrate that the work is specialised on equipment not normally performed by an electrician. For example, laboratory technicians, scientific research workers, commercial appliance repair person, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traineeship with a minimum of 12 months “on-the-job” experience
<p>Water Plumbing Equipment Work (ESR 36)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disconnect and reconnect electric water cylinders, water reticulation system, irrigation systems including pumps and oil-fired heating and water reticulated air-conditioning systems to 1000 volts AC or 1500 volts DC 	<p>Water plumbing, heating and ventilation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traineeship with a minimum of 12 months “on-the-job” experience <p>Additional eligibility requirement: A current licence or registration issued under the Plumbers and Drainers Licensing Act 1983</p>