

# Applicant Guide for Unrestricted 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 an unrestricted electrical licence in the Northern Territory. 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.

## Unrestricted Electrical Licence

The Unrestricted Electrical Worker's Licence entitles you to carry out electrical work without restrictions to specific electrical works. There are two classes of unrestricted electrical work licences:

- Unrestricted mechanic
- Unrestricted mechanic and fitter

These licences are issued for a 5-year term.

Further information on these endorsements can be found in "Licence Types" subsection.

## 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

## Licence Types

There are two classes of electrical work licence a person can apply for: Unrestricted mechanic, and unrestricted mechanic and fitter. The details of the fitter endorsement or restricted licence holders has been included below for clarification.

### The work of a restricted electrical fitter:

- 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 busways, trunking, etc

### The work of an unrestricted electrical mechanic

All that work of an electrical fitter as well as the actual physical work of installing wiring systems including associated equipment and the testing of such installations.

## The work of an unrestricted electrical mechanic and fitter

An unrestricted electrical mechanic and fitter licence entitles the licensee to do or supervise all electrical work.

## Obtaining an Unrestricted Electrical Licence

In order to obtain an unrestricted electrical licence, applicants must demonstrate that they have completed their apprenticeship and have achieved a Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician through a registered training provider within the Northern Territory.

### Apprenticeship

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 unrestricted 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.

Please note, if you are also applying to be a nominee on an electrical contractor's licence, you will need to apply for Mutual Recognition. To be eligible for being a nominee, you need to hold a current unrestricted electrical worker's licence in the Northern Territory. Automatic Mutual Recognition does **not** grant a licence.

## Overseas Trained Applicants

Unrestricted electrical worker licences can be issued on recognition of overseas training, provided that Australian Context Gap Training has also been completed.

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 the following supporting documents to NTWorkSafe to commence gap training:

- A copy of their colour identification test
- A copy of their OTSR certificate from Trades Recognition Australia
- Evidence of support from their employer in the form of a statutory declaration or letter of support

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 an unrestricted 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: <a href="mailto:territorybusinesscentre@nt.gov.au">territorybusinesscentre@nt.gov.au</a>	
Postal Address: GPO Box 9800, Darwin, NT 0800			

## Supporting Documents

The supporting documents required for an unrestricted electrical worker's licence varies dependant on whether a new licence is being issued or if one is being renewed.

### Application for a new licence

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

- Evidence of 12 months experience in the trade work of an electrical mechanic (through an SD-01 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
- A statement of attainment from a registered training organisation for a Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician

If the application is also seeking the fitter endorsement, the following additional information is to be provided:

- Evidence of 12 months experience in the trade work of an electrical fitter (through an SD-02 statutory declaration by a licensed supervisor)

## 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 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](mailto: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

All electrical worker licence holders need 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 unrestricted electrical worker licences, this is to resit their capstone assessment.

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	<a href="#">Building Commission NSW   NSW Government</a>
Victoria	Energy Safe Victoria	1800 815 721	<a href="#">Energy Safe Victoria   Energy Safe Victoria</a>
Queensland	Electrical Safety Office	1300 362 128	<a href="#">Home   Electrical Safety Office</a>
South Australia	Consumer and Business Services	131 882	<a href="#">SA.GOV.AU - Plumbing, gas fitting and electrical registration and contractors' licences</a>
Western Australia	Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety	6251 2000	<a href="#">Electrical licensing</a>
Australian Capital Territory	Construction and Work Place Licensing	6207 8096	<a href="#">Construction licences - City and Environment Directorate - Planning</a>
Tasmania	Consumer, Building and Occupational Services	1300 654 499	<a href="#">Electrical licences</a>

## 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](mailto:electrical.licensing@nt.gov.au) or go to the NTWorkSafe website at [www.worksafe.nt.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.nt.gov.au)