

# **Electricity (Network Safety) Regulations 2015**

**Protecting the integrity and safety of construction  
through qualified licensed electrical contractors.**

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Master Electricians Australia (MEA) is the trade association representing electrical contractors recognised by industry, government and the community as the electrical industry's leading business partner, knowledge source and advocate. You can visit our website at [www.masterelectricians.com.au](http://www.masterelectricians.com.au)

As a leading representative body in the electrical industry, it is our duty to help ensure the integrity and competency of skilled electrical work is performed by skilled licenced electrical contractors (and their workers) with a minimum Cert III qualifications. We recently responded to Energy Policy WA's consultation on the 'proposed licence exemption for construction of electricity and gas distribution systems by third party developers. Whilst MEA does not hold an opinion whether property developers and other third parties developing electricity distribution networks should obtain a licence or exemption, we strongly believe that the supervision and testing of electrical work conducted, must be performed by licenced electrical contractors and their workers.

The electrical industry has very high entry barriers including:

- Four year apprenticeship for an electrical license;
- Post-trade qualifications for electrical contractors;
- Relevant licencing & insurance requirements; and
- Inspection auditing and reporting regimes.

This is required to ensure the safety of the industry is maintained. Work completed incorrectly can and will result in electrical deaths of not only those undertaking the work but possibly other contractors, consumers and the public for the life of the electrical installation.

It is for these reasons MEA strongly urges the explicit formal recognition in the *Electricity (Network Safety) Regulations 2015* of the mandatory requirement for qualified licenced electrical contractors to be utilised in the electrical construction, testing and supervision functions throughout construction. While it is already a requirement under the Electricity (Licencing) Regulations 1991, we expect to see it unequivocally declared with consequences being applied if failed to be achieved.

We look forward to seeing the outcome of the proposed amendment and are available for further discussion regarding the inclusion of licenced electrical contractors in the creation of mandatory requirements.