

Restricted class “C” electrical linework

Licensing

Policy

Purpose of policy

The purpose of this policy is to provide transparent rationale for the issue and renewal of the restricted class “C” electrical lineworker licence to a person who is already licensed as a class “D” electrical lineworker.

Background

There are a limited number of class “D” lineworkers who also have the experience and training to undertake limited cable jointing work but are not fully qualified cable jointers.

These workers typically work in the Powercor electricity distribution network in regional and rural areas. See Appendix 1: Permitted/not-permitted restricted cable jointing areas.

Energy Safe Victoria (ESV) intends to licence these pre-existing class “D” electrical lineworkers who also undertake limited cable jointing as restricted class “C” electrical lineworkers before 31 December 2020.

As of 1 January 2021 all persons carrying out linework (and cable jointing) will be required to be licensed.

Principle

Workers that have been undertaking limited cable jointing in addition to linework on a distribution supply network (D class) will not suddenly be disadvantaged by the introduction of a new licensing regime without opportunity to prepare for future change.

This licence will be available to a pre-existing workforce to enable transition to the licensing regime. It will not be issued to new licence applicants after 1 January 2021.

Licensing requirements

Initial licensing competencies (prior to 31 December 2020)

To receive an initial restricted class “C” lineworker licence a person:

- 1) must have a “D” class licence and must provide documented evidence of successful completion of one or more of the following units of national competency standards or equivalents:
 - UETDRDU015 - Joint, terminate and maintain low voltage underground polymeric cable
 - UETDRDU013 - Joint, terminate and maintain high voltage underground polymeric cable
 - UETDRDU011 - Joint, terminate and maintain energised low voltage underground polymeric cable.
- 2) will be able to undertake restricted class “C” linework on a specified supply network or on supply networks within specified geographical areas.

The physical licence will include the specific competencies of the lineworker (that is C26, C27 and/or C28). The licence will reflect and limit the types of cable jointing the worker may perform based on their

competencies and will be first issued for a period of five years, with the option to renew thereafter for a further five years where required.

Licence renewal

The current holders of the restricted class “C” licence will be able to retain this licence for a maximum period of ten years, consistent with the duration of the Electricity Safety (Registration and Licensing) Regulations 2020.

This permits one renewal of the licence and allows for confirmation by ESV that the licence holder is still working in the geographical area identified on the licence.

ESV intends to discontinue this licence class after the ten years with the recognition that the lineworkers hold another licence class, and will have time to qualify for a full cable jointing licence over the life of these Regulations if they wish to do so.

Refusal of licence - general

ESV may refuse a licence if:

- (a) The applicant has not complied with these Regulations in relation to the class of licence applied for, or
- (b) the applicant has, within the past 5 years from the date of submitting the application to Energy Safe Victoria, contravened a provision of—
 - i. the Act; or
 - ii. these Regulations; or
 - iii. the Electricity Safety (Installations) Regulations 2009; or
 - iv. the Electricity Safety (Registration and Licensing) Regulations 2010; or
 - v. the Electricity Safety (General) Regulations 2019; or
 - vi. a law of another State or a Territory or of New Zealand which substantially corresponds to the Act or these Regulations or the regulations specified in subparagraph (iii), (iv) or (v); or
- (c) the applicant has attempted to obtain a licence as an electrical worker by fraud, misrepresentation or concealment of facts; or
- (d) the applicant has, within the past 5 years from the date of submitting the application to Energy Safe Victoria, has—
 - i. been convicted of any offence involving fraud, dishonesty, drug trafficking or violence that was punishable by a term of imprisonment of 6 months or more; or
 - ii. been negligent or incompetent, or was a party to any negligence or incompetence, in connection with the carrying out of electrical installation work; or
 - iii. engaged in fraudulent conduct in the carrying out of electrical installation work.

Refusal of licence – specific to restricted class “C” linework

ESV may refuse to issue or renew a licence to an applicant for a restricted class “C” lineworker licence for the purposes of:

- (a) Limiting or reducing the number of restricted class “C” lineworker licences issued, or
- (b) phasing out or discontinuing the restricted class “C” lineworker licence.

Who we are

We are Victoria's safety regulator for electricity, gas and pipelines.

Our role is to ensure that 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

Document control

This document will be reviewed no later than three years after publishing.

Appendix 1 Permitted/Not Permitted Restricted Cable-Jointing Areas

