

Supervised class “R” electrical linework

Licensing

Policy

Purpose of policy

The purpose of this policy is to provide transparent rationale for the issue and renewal of the supervised class “R” electrical lineworker licence, known as an R(S) licence.

Background

There have been overhead trade assistants (OTAs) working in the railway and tramway operations for many years under the supervision of fully qualified traction lineworkers. The work undertaken by the OTAs includes some tasks (licensed tasks as of 1 January 2021) that will require a lineworker licence after 1 January 2021. However, OTAs do not currently hold the qualifications and experience required to obtain an unrestricted class “R” licence.

In order for current OTAs to continue doing the full range of licensed tasks (as of 1 January 2021) that they do, a supervised class R licence (an R(S) licence) will be issued to these workers which will permit them to carry out prescribed electrical linework under the supervision of a fully licensed class R traction line worker.

Principle

Current eligible OTAs, including the Lineworker II (LW2) employees, will receive an R(S) licence.

Licensing requirements

Initial licensing requirements (prior to 31 December 2020)

To be eligible for a supervised class “R” electrical lineworker licence (an R(S) licence) the applicant must:

- (a) be employed by a railway or tramway company or a railway infrastructure company; and
- (b) provide evidence of holding the skills, knowledge and experience necessary to carry out class “R” linework correctly and safely under effective supervision. Evidence that will be accepted by Energy Safe Victoria includes statements of attainment and/or a letter from their employer verifying applicant’s training records.

Successful completion of LW2 competencies described in the table below;

LW2 training	National unit of competence
Entry	UEENEEE101A - apply occupational health and safety regulations, codes and practices in the workplace UEENEEE102A - fabricate, assemble and dismantle utilities industry components UETTDREL11- apply sustainable energy and environmental procedures
	Electrical Safety Manual (HV Rules) Aerial rescue
Progressive	UEENEEE107A – use drawings, diagrams, schedules, standards, codes and specifications

	UETTDREL16 – working safety near live electrical apparatus
Full LW2	UETTDRT30A – perform to a given schedule rail traction switching operations TLILIC0005 – licence to operate boom-type elevating work platform (boom length >11 metres)
Other	
TVO/EWP	UETTDRT29A – prepare to, and operate, road and road rail height access equipment
FA level 2	HLTAID003 – provide FA HLTAID001 – provide CPR

From 1 January 2021 – transition arrangements

New supervised class R(S) licences will typically not be issued from 1 January 2021.

1. New or newly employed OTAs will not be issued with an R(S) licence. They will be able to undertake works that are not in the scope of class “R” licence and will be prohibited from doing tasks that supervised class R(S) licence holders are permitted to undertake under supervision.
2. Newly employed OTAs (not licensed by 31 December 2020) may undertake a Certificate III in traction to be able to become licensed as a class “R” electrical lineworker. Whilst completing this training as an apprentice they are deemed to be licensed provided that they are being supervised by a fully licensed R Class electrical lineworker.
3. Alternatively, a currently licensed class “D” electrical lineworker or licensed electrician (A grade) or qualified electrical fitter may be employed to carry out certain class “R” electrical linework while receiving training to achieve a Certificate III in ESI-Power Systems-Rail Traction over a period of three years. During this time the lineworker will be issued a one-off supervised R(S) licence. Following successful completion of the certificate the individual will have a dual trade licence (including the full class “R” licence).

In the event the certificate is not achieved within three years extensions will be considered on a case-by-case basis recognising there may be acceptable reasons why the training was not completed in the required timeframe (e.g. health reasons, course availability or a requirement to repeat exams or assessments).

Licence renewal

Workers that are initially issued a R(S) licence on 1 January 2021, will be able to continue to renew the licence, providing they renew the licence before expiry and are still employed by a railway company or a railway infrastructure company at the time of renewal.

This will allow current OTAs that become holders of the R(S) licence to remain licensed for the duration of their supervised class “R” electrical lineworker career.

Other workers licensed after 1 January 2021 (transition arrangements) will become licensed to hold the “R” class licence on the completion of their training, which may be renewed, in same way that other electrical licences are.

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 last 5 years from date of 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 supervised class “R” electrical lineworker’s licence

ESV may refuse to issue or renew a licence to an applicant for a supervised class “R” licence lineworker licence (an R(S) licence) for the purposes of:

(a) limiting or reducing the number of supervised class R(S) licences issued, or

(b) phasing out or discontinuing the supervised class R(S) 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 review

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