

Licence for high risk work

WHS Regulations Chapter 4 Part 4.5

High risk work is any work that is in the scope of a high risk licence (based on the national standard) and includes:

- Scaffolding work
- Dogging and rigging
- Crane and hoist operation (concrete placing booms have been added to meet cross border requirements)
- Reach stackers (a new class)
- Forklifts
- Pressure operating equipment

Plant work no longer licensed includes:

- Front end loaders;
- Front end loader backhoes; and
- Excavators.

Licensing of High Risk Work

A PCBU must not direct or allow a worker to carry out or supervise **high risk work** that requires a licence (unless undergoing training) without sighting **written evidence** of the relevant licence.

An application will take into consideration if a licence has been **cancelled** or **suspended** in another state.

A worker can apply for a high risk licence as required by WorkCover.

The PCBU must keep **written evidence** of the licence of the worker and the supervisor for 1 year after the work is completed

Accreditation of assessors for licensing applies only to high risk work licences (WHS Regulations Schedule 4).

Licences remain current for **5 years** after the date of issue and must be available for inspection.

Supervision

A PCBU is required to ensure **direct supervision of high risk work** i.e. oversight of the work for the purposes of:

- directing, demonstrating, monitoring and checking the person's work in a way that is appropriate to the person's level of competency;
- ensuring a capacity to respond in an emergency situation.

The **national licensing scheme**, allows licences to be recognised across borders.

Licences can be **cancelled or suspended** including when the licence holder has failed to take reasonable care to carry out the high risk work safely and competently.

The licence document for high risk work must include:

- the name of the licence holder; and
- a photograph of the licence holder; and
- the date of birth of the licence holder; and
- a copy of the signature of the licence holder or provision for the inclusion of a copy signature; and
- the class of high risk work licence and a description of the work within the scope of the licence; and
- any conditions imposed on the licence by the regulator
- the date on which the licence was granted; and
- the expiry date of the licence.

Demolition

WHS Regulations Chapter 4 Part 4.6

Written notice must be given by a PCBU to WorkCover at least 5 days before the following work commences:

- **demolition of a structure, or a part of a structure that is load bearing** or otherwise related to the physical integrity of the structure, that is at least **6 metres** in height;
- **demolition work involving load shifting machinery on a suspended floor;**
- **demolition work involving explosives.**

Additional requirements for demolition are covered under Chapter 6: Construction and Chapter 8: Asbestos – demolition work of the WHS Regulations.

Electrical Safety

WHS Regulations Chapter 4 Part 4.7

New definitions in the WHS Regulations include those for:

- Electrical equipment;
- Electrical installations; and
- Electrical work

There are a variety of low risk activities that are **not included** in electrical work e.g. replacing electrical equipment or a component of electrical equipment if that task can be safely performed by a person who does not have expertise in carrying out electrical work such as replacing a fuse or a light bulb.

Electrical equipment: any apparatus, appliance, cable, conductor, fitting, insulator, material, meter or wire that:

- is used for controlling, generating, supplying, transforming or transmitting electricity at a voltage greater than extra-low voltage; or
- is operated by electricity at a voltage greater than extra-low voltage; or
- is part of an electrical installation located in an area in which the atmosphere presents a risk to health and safety from fire or explosion; or
- is, or is part of, an active impressed current cathodic protection system within the meaning of AS 2832.1:2004 (Cathodic protection of metals—pipes and cables)

An electrical installation is a **group of items** of electrical equipment that:

- are permanently electrically connected together; and
- can be supplied with electricity from the works of an electricity supply authority or from a generating source.

Electrical work means:

- connecting electricity supply wiring to electrical equipment or disconnecting electricity supply wiring from electrical equipment; or
- installing, removing, adding, testing, replacing, repairing, altering or maintaining electrical equipment or an electrical installation.

Electrical work does not include:

- work that involves connecting electrical equipment to an electricity supply by means of a flexible cord plug and socket outlet;
- work on a non-electrical component of electrical equipment, if the person carrying out the work is not exposed to an electrical risk; e.g. painting electrical equipment covers,
- replacing electrical equipment or a component of electrical equipment if that task can be safely performed by a person who does not have expertise in carrying out electrical work;
- assembling, making, modifying or repairing electrical equipment as part of a manufacturing process;
- building or repairing ducts, conduits or troughs, where electrical wiring is/to be installed if the ducts, conduits or troughs are not intended to be earthed; and the wiring is not energised; and the work is supervised by a [licensed or registered] electrical worker;
- locating or mounting electrical equipment, or fixing electrical equipment in place, if this task is not performed in relation to the connection of electrical equipment to an electricity supply;
- assisting a [licensed or registered] electrical worker to carry out electrical work if directly supervised the assistance does not involve physical contact with any energised electrical equipment;
- carrying out electrical work, other than work on energised electrical equipment, in order to meet eligibility requirements in relation to becoming a [licensed or registered] electrical worker.