

## Legislative Requirements

The Electrical Safety Regulation 2013 (“the Regulation”) prescribes exclusion zones<sup>1</sup> and specific requirements for the performance of work in contact with, or near to, electric lines<sup>2</sup>.

The exclusion zones for working near or operating plant or vehicles near exposed, low voltage or high voltage electric lines vary depending on whether a person is classed as an “Untrained Person”, “Authorised Person” or “Instructed Person”.

“Authorised Persons” are permitted to carry out work closer to the electric lines of Ergon Energy, than an “Untrained Person”, prescribed by the Regulation. An Authorised Person who holds a current Queensland Electrical Mechanic Licence is permitted to remove and replace LV service fuse/s when work is required on consumers’ mains and/or switchboard.

**Note:** It is not permissible to replace a blown LV service fuse/s after loss of supply to consumer’s installation or to alter Ergon Energy LV aerial services. The low voltage pole top service fuse shall only be removed at ground level by use of an approved, in test, telescopic pole device. At no time is it permissible to climb or work aloft on Ergon Energy’s poles or assets.

## Authorised Person Approval Process

To become an Authorised Person, the employer / self-employed person must first satisfy the “person in control” of the electric line, in this case Ergon Energy, that their Applicants possess the required competencies. They must then apply in writing to Ergon Energy for approval.

### Step 1

Ensure that all persons nominated to be approved as Authorised Persons possess an appropriate level of technical knowledge and experience to do the work, including the operation of plant or vehicle near to the electric lines, and have demonstrated competencies as set out in sample Request for Authorisation Letter BS001405M101.

Recognised training courses are available through relevant Registered Training Organisations to assist Applicants meet the above requirements.

### Step 2

The employer / self-employed person must submit an Application letter which includes:

- Employer / self-employed person’s name, company / trading name and ABN (where applicable).
- Applicant Name/s.
- Nature of work being performed around overhead electric lines (e.g. operate crane or excavator, drive a garbage truck, erect scaffolding, etc).

- Statement that requirements in Step 1 have been met for all persons for which approval is sought.
- Statement indicating a system of competency maintenance and identification of persons authorised to work near electric lines is in place.

Ergon Energy must provide approval in writing to the employer or self-employed person before nominated Applicants can perform the role of Authorised Person.

If the Application letter does not meet the requirements, advice is provided to the customer and additional information requested.

Application letters for approval as “Authorised Person” should be sent to Technical Regulatory Officer:

Email: [safetyadvice@ergon.com.au](mailto:safetyadvice@ergon.com.au)

Phone: 13 74 66

**Note:** The Regulation does not place any requirement on the person in control (Ergon Energy for assets under its control) to be satisfied with the technical knowledge and experience of the person being approved. The responsibility for this and for compliance with statutory requirements resides with an employer or self-employed person. (Refer to the Electrical Safety Regulation 2013 and Electrical Safety Code of Practice 2010 Working Near Overhead And Underground Electric Lines for further detail).

Authorised Person approval is only valid for a person while that person remains with the employer for which the Authorised Person application was approved by Ergon Energy.

## Requirement for Safety Advice for Working near Electric Lines

In addition to being approved as an Authorised Person, situations may arise when working near electrical parts - under the control of Ergon Energy - where written Safety Advice may be required involving additional control measures (e.g. lines de-energised during work; lines relocated; lines installed underground; or insulating or physical barriers or visual indicators installed).

Refer Code of Practice; Working Near Overhead And Underground Electric Lines requirements.

- To obtain written Safety Advice, contact Ergon Energy on 13 74 66 and request a Safety Advice Request form.
- Costs may apply for provision of any services other than the initial Safety Advice. Details will be provided, subsequent to a site inspection carried out by Ergon Energy.

Further detail is available on the [Electrical Safety Office website](#) that includes links to [Electrical Safety Regulation](#) and [Code of Practice Working near overhead and underground electric lines](#).

<sup>1</sup> Refer Schedule 2 of the *Electrical Safety Regulation 2013*

<sup>2</sup> Refer Part 5 of the *Electrical Safety Regulation 2013*