

Summary of Responses & EMA's Decision

**PROPOSED REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
RENEWAL OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS' LICENCES**

4 Oct 2004

Energy Market Authority of Singapore

PROPOSED REQUIREMENTS FOR THE RENEWAL OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS' LICENCES

OBJECTIVE

1 To inform the industry and the public of EMA's changes to renewal requirements of electrical workers' licences after taking into consideration the comments received on its consultation paper issued on 22 Jul 2004.

BACKGROUND

2 EMA issued a consultation paper on 22 Jul 2004 to seek the industry's views and comments on the proposed requirements for renewal of electrical workers' licences with the aim to enable licensed electrical workers (LEWs), through attending a structured training programme, to keep up on a regular basis with advancements in technology, good industrial and international practices and changing business environment. A total of 27 responses were received when the consultation closed on 16 Sep 04. These responses were from licensed electricians, licensed electrical technicians, licensed electrical engineers and the Singapore Electrical Contractors Association.

3 EMA thanks all the respondents for taking time and effort to give their constructive views and feedback.

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

4 The industry generally supports EMA's initiatives in establishing a structured training program for licensed electrical workers and they are agreeable with the proposed contents of the course. However, they are of the view that the duration of the course could be shortened and the course fees be reduced. A summary of the responses received is shown in the Appendix.

COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED CHANGES

5 Requirement of attending a refresher course every 5 years

All respondents agreed with the implementation of a mandatory refresher course; some of them suggested that LEWs should attend the course every 2 to 4 years instead of 5 years.

6 Content of the refresher course

The majority of the respondents agreed with the content of the course and some of them suggested that some additional topics such as case studies, common practices, etc be included.

7 Training institutions

Most of the respondents agreed that the refresher course is to be conducted by training institutions approved by EMA.

8 Duration of refresher course

The opinion on the duration of the refresher course is diverse; some suggested a 1-day course, while some suggested that the course be run in the evenings only.

9 Course fee

Most respondents suggested a lower course fee, between \$100 to \$200. Some further suggested different fees be charged for different classes of LEWs.

10 Implementation of refresher course requirement by Sep 2005

The implementation date of Sep 2005 is generally acceptable by the industry. Some highlighted the need to give LEWs sufficient preparation time for attending the course.

EMA's Response

11 Requirement of attending a refresher course every 5 years

11.1 EMA note the support given by the industry on establishing a structured training program for LEWs. In general, there would be changes in legislation, regulatory measures and codes of practices over time. These changes would affect the professional work of LEWs. An electrical worker's licence is valid for a period of 3 years. It would be appropriate for LEWs to attend a refresher course every 5 years, i.e. on every alternate renewal of their licence to keep pace with such changes.

11.2 A licensed electrical engineer mentioned that LEWs who are practising in the market would have known the changes made and suggested that only those LEWs who did not practise in the last 5 years should be required to attend the refresher course. EMA is of the view that it would be useful to have all LEWs attend the course to share their views, give their feedback, clear their doubts and harmonise their thoughts with others during the refresher course. EMA would invite experienced licensed electrical workers to conduct some of the modules of the refresher course.

12 Content of the refresher course

EMA agrees with LEWs' suggestion to include some case studies based on past investigations in the relevant module of the course. EMA will monitor and update the content of the refresher course to ensure that it stays relevant at all times.

13 Training institutions

Some tertiary and professional institutions have expressed interest in conducting the refresher courses. EMA will be pleased to work with such institutions that are interested to conduct the courses to ensure proper delivery of the refresher courses.

14 Duration of refresher course and course fees

EMA has reviewed the course contents and duration of the course based on LEWs' feedback. To sufficiently cover all the modules set out in the consultation paper, it is estimated that a minimum of 14 hours will be required. EMA will work with the respective institutions to explore the possibilities of conducting some courses in the evenings to suit the need of LEWs and keeping the fees to a minimum.

15 Implementation of refresher course requirement by Sep 2005

EMA takes note of the comments on the lead time required for LEWs to attend the course. EMA will notify all affected LEWs well in advance on the need to attend the refresher course before their licence is due for renewal in Sep 2005.

CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED REQUIREMENT FOR THE RENEWAL OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS' LICENCES

- Q1 Do you think the requirement of attending a refresher course every 5 years is sufficient for LEW ?
 Q2 What is your view regarding the content of the refresher course? Is the content sufficient?
 Q3 What is your opinion if the refresher course is to be conducted only by training institution approved by EMA?
 Q4 It is proposed that the duration of the course would be at least 2 days. What is your view on the duration of this course?
 Q5 Is a course fee of \$300 affordable?
 Q6 What is your opinion of this change being effected by September 2005?

	Respondent and Date Received	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Remarks
1	Licensed electrical technician 27/07/2004	3 yrs	✓ (1)	✓	Half-day	(2)	-	(1) To include roles, duties & responsibilities of LEW; (2) Fees to tie with class of LEWs.
2	Licensed electrical technician 29/07/2004	✓	✓	✓	✓	Less than \$200	✓	Refresher course for those non-practising LEWs only.
3	Licensed electrical technician 29/07/2004	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
4	Licensed electrical technician 29/07/2004	✓	✓	✓	(1)	Lower Fee*	-	(1) As a service to the industry
5	Licensed electrical technician 03/08/2004	✓	✓	(1)	✓	\$100	✓	(1) EMA staff to conduct refresher course.
6	Licensed electrical engineer 03/08/2004	✓ (1)	✓ (2)	✓ (3)	Evening Course	\$100 to \$150	(4)	(1) Only those LEWs who did not practise in the last 5 years to attend the refresher course; (2) to include cases investigated by EMA; (3) also conduct by EMA staff, (4) If EMA gives LEW sufficient preparation time.
7	Licensed electrical technician 03/08/2004	✓ (1)	✓ (2)	(3)	1 - 2 days	\$30	✓	(1) Course should be conducted on an ongoing basis (2) to include common practices (3) any Institute or training ctr
8	Licensed electrical engineer 05/08/2004	✓	✓ (1)	✓	✓	-	-	(1) School of EEE of SP can offer to run refresher course on CP 5.
9	Licensed electrician 07/08/2004	3 yrs	✓	✓	1 day	Less than \$200	✓	LEWs' master of English should be taken into consideration.
10	SECA 11/08/2004	✓	✓ (1)	✓	1 day	\$150	✓	(1) To include common practices.
11	Licensed electrical engineer 12/08/2004	✓ (1)	✓ (2)	✓	✓	✓	✓	(1) To extend the course to non LEWs also; (2) to include case studies.
12	Licensed electrician (SECA) 13/08/2004	✓	✓ (1)	✓	1 day	\$150	-	(1) To include common practices.

	Name of Respondent	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Remarks
13	Licensed electrical technician (SECA) 13/08/2004	3 yrs	-	✓	1 day or 3 nights	(1)	✓	(1) \$100 for EL, \$200 for TE & \$300 for EN.
14	Licensed electrical technician 15/08/2004	✓	✓	✓	Evening course	Lower fee	✓	
15	Licensed electrical engineer 16/08/2004	✓	✓	-	No fixed duration	✓ or free	✓	
16	Licensed electrician 10/09/2004	10 yrs	-	✓	✓	No	✓	
17	Licensed electrical technician 10/09/2004	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
18	Licensed electrician 10/09/2004	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	No	
19	Licensed electrician 10/09/2004	2 yrs	✓	✓	Half day or 2 half day	\$100	✓	
20	Licensed electrical technician 11/09/2004	4 yrs	✓	✓	✓	\$200	✓	
21	Licensed electrician 11/09/2004	✓	✓	No	Evening course	(1)	No	(1) Fees for difference grades of LEW.
22	Licensed electrical engineer 13/09/2004	3 yrs	✓ (1)	✓	1 - 1.5 days	\$200	✓	(1) invite LEWs to highlight problems encounter and solution / proposal.
23	Licensed electrician 14/09/2004	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
24	Licensed electrician 14/09/2004	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
25	Licensed electrician 14/09/2004	✓	✓ (1)	(2)	✓	-	✓	(1) To include other content eg. lightning conductor, (2) Not Flexible.
26	Licensed electrical technician 14/09/2004	✓	✓	✓	✓	\$200 or lower	✓	
27	Licensed electrician 16/09/2004	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Score	74%	92%	81%	37%	29%	74%	