

# LAWS OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

## ELECTRIC INSTALLATIONS (BUILDINGS) ACT

### CHAPTER 54:71

#### Act

**17 of 1945**

Amended by

39 of 1945

1 of 1949

17 of 1953

21 of 1971

#### Current Authorised Pages

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**Note  
on  
Adaptation**

1. Certain fees in this Chapter were increased by the Commission under paragraph 4 of the Second Schedule to the Law Revision Act (Ch. 3:03). Where this occurs, a marginal reference in the form normally indicating an amendment is made to L.N. 51/1980 (the Legal Notice by which the President's approval was signified).

2. Under paragraph 6 of the Second Schedule to the Law Revision Act (Ch. 3:03) the Commission amended certain references to public officers in this Chapter. The Minister's approval of the amendments was signified by L.N. 120/1980, but no marginal reference is made to this Notice where any such amendment is made in the text.

## CHAPTER 54:71

## ELECTRIC INSTALLATIONS (BUILDINGS) ACT

## ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

## SECTION

1. Short title.
2. Interpretation.
3. Appointment of Licensing Authority.
4. Powers and duties of Licensing Authority.
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6. Qualifications for licences.
7. Licensing Authority may replace licences lost or destroyed.
8. Power of Licensing Authority to refuse or cancel licences.
9. Offences.
10. Duty to produce licence.
11. Power to make Rules.
12. Exceptions may be provided for.

**An Act to provide for the licensing of persons who carry out the electric wiring of buildings, the regulation of such operations, and generally the prevention or minimising of danger to persons or property which may arise from the electric wiring of buildings.**

1950 Ed.  
Ch. 30 No. 15.  
17 of 1945.

[5TH JULY 1945]

Commencement.

1. This Act may be cited as the Electric Installations (Buildings) Act. Short title.

2. (1) In this Act—

Interpretation.

“Board” means the Board of Industrial Training constituted under the Industrial Training Act;

Ch. 39:54.

“licensed wireman” means a person who is the holder of a valid licence as such issued to him under the provisions of this Act;

“licence” includes duplicate licence.

(2) For the purposes of this Act a person shall be deemed to act as a wireman who, on any occasion, installs, fixes, repairs, alters, replaces, connects, disconnects or removes the whole or any part of the electric wiring of any building, not being the wiring of

any telephone or radio-diffusion service or a lightning conductor or the wiring (including the earthing) of any wireless aerial; but a person shall not be deemed to act as a wireman by reason only of the fact that he manipulates a switch, or connects or disconnects a plug, or replaces or installs a lamp in a socket, or replaces a fuse so long as the replacement is in conformity with the relevant provisions of any Rules in force by virtue of section 11.

Appointment of  
Licensing  
Authority.

3. The Minister may by Notification appoint one or more persons to be Licensing Authorities for the purposes of this Act and the Chief Technical Officer (Works) shall be deemed to have been so appointed.

Powers and  
duties of  
Licensing  
Authority.

4. Any of the powers and duties conferred or imposed on "the Licensing Authority" by this Act may be exercised by any person appointed (so long as the appointment subsists) or deemed to have been appointed under section 3.

Licences.

5. (1) The Licensing Authority may grant a licence to act as a wireman to any person who—

- (a) makes an application in the prescribed manner to the Licensing Authority;
- (b) satisfies the Licensing Authority that he is qualified in accordance with this Act to receive the licence;
- (c) is not less than eighteen years of age; and
- (d) pays the prescribed fee.

(2) Every such licence to act as wireman shall be in the prescribed form and shall have attached to it one of two recent photographs of the holder which shall be supplied to the Licensing Authority by the applicant for a licence when making his application; and every such licence shall be valid for a period of five years from the date on which it is granted unless sooner cancelled as provided below.

(3) If, within fifteen days after the expiry of any such licence, the holder makes application in the prescribed manner for a new licence, he shall be deemed to be still a licensed wireman until he is served with a notice to the effect that a new licence has been refused by the Licensing Authority.

Qualifications  
for licences.  
[17 of 1953  
21 of 1971].

6. Any person shall be qualified to receive a licence to act as a wireman who—

- (a) has qualified for a certificate of efficiency as a wireman under the provisions of the Industrial Training

Act prior to 1st January 1950, and is in possession of the certificate; Ch. 39:54

- (b) has qualified for such a certificate of efficiency after 1st January 1950, and is in possession of such a certificate, and, in addition is in possession of a certificate issued by or on behalf of the Board (for which certificate the Board may in its discretion demand the prescribed fee), to the effect that he has been apprenticed as a wireman under the said Act with the approval of the Board and has served such apprenticeship to the satisfaction of the Board;
- (c) being the holder of such a certificate of efficiency issued after 1st January 1950, is over the age of twenty-three years and satisfies the Chief Electrical Inspector that he has had not less than three years practical experience in electrical installation work;
- (d) has satisfied the Chief Electrical Inspector that he has received training outside Trinidad and Tobago which qualifies him to act as a wireman;
- (e) was the holder of a licence issued or deemed to have been issued under either of the written laws referred to in the former section 3 of this Act before its publication in the 1950 Revised Edition; or
- (f) has previously held a licence to act as a wireman issued under this Act.

7. The Licensing Authority may, on payment of the prescribed fee, issue a duplicate of any licence as a wireman which is proved to his satisfaction to have been lost or destroyed and which has not been cancelled. Licensing Authority may replace licences lost or destroyed.

8. (1) The Licensing Authority may refuse to issue a licence under this Act, or cancel a licence held by a licensed wireman, if it is established to his satisfaction, after giving the applicant or licensee an opportunity of being heard, that the applicant or licensee— Power of Licensing Authority to refuse or cancel licences.

- (a) is prevented from acting efficiently as a wireman by infirmity of mind or body;
- (b) has been convicted of an offence involving dishonesty which he committed in the course of acting as a wireman;
- (c) has been convicted of any offence against this Act or the Rules thereunder;

(d) has been guilty of gross negligence or inefficiency in the course of acting as a wireman; or

(e) has previously been refused a licence under this Act, or has previously had his licence cancelled, on any grounds specified in this subsection.

(2) Whenever the Licensing Authority refuses to issue a licence or cancels a licence he shall cause notice of the refusal or cancellation to be served on the applicant or licensee, as the case may be, either personally or by letter addressed to him at his usual or last known place of abode.

(3) Whenever notice of cancellation of a licence has been served in accordance with subsection (2) the licensee shall forthwith surrender his licence to the Licensing Authority and, if any licensee fails in this obligation, he is liable on summary conviction to a fine of one hundred and fifty dollars.

(4) The refusal of a Licensing Authority to issue a licence and the cancellation of a licence by the Licensing Authority shall be subject to appeal to the Minister whose decision shall be final.

Offences.

9. Any person who—

(a) in any application for a licence under this Act, makes any statement which is materially false, or tenders in support of any such application any certificate or licence which does not relate to him or which is false in any material particular;

(b) not being a licensed wireman or a person working under the direct and continuous supervision of a licensed wireman, acts as a wireman or offers directly or indirectly so to act;

(c) employs to act as a wireman any person who is not a licensed wireman and who does not work under the direct and continuous supervision of a licensed wireman and whom he either knows not to be a licensed wireman or has no reason to believe to be a licensed wireman;

(d) being a licensed wireman, lends his licence, or makes the use of his licence available, to any other person; or

(e) borrows, or uses as his own, a licence not granted to him under this Act,

is liable on summary conviction for a first offence to a fine of three hundred dollars and on summary conviction for a subsequent offence to a fine of seven hundred and fifty dollars and to imprisonment for three months.

**10.** Any person who refuses to produce his licence as a wireman for inspection on demand by the Licensing Authority or by a constable, or by a person to whom he has offered or is giving his services as a wireman, or by a person by whom he is employed or is about to be employed as a wireman is liable on summary conviction to a fine of one hundred and fifty dollars. However, if within forty-eight hours after the production of his licence was demanded the holder himself produces the licence to the person demanding it, or at the office of the Licensing Authority, where the demand was made by the Licensing Authority, or at such Police Station as may be specified by him at the time the production of the licence was demanded, where the demand was made by a constable, he shall not be convicted under this section.

Duty to  
produce licence.

**11. (1)** The Minister may, subject to affirmative resolution of Parliament, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act and, in particular and without prejudice to the generality of this power, such rules may make provision for—

Power to make  
Rules.

- (a) prescribing any matters authorised by this Act to be prescribed;
- (b) regulating the performance of their duties by persons acting as wiremen;
- (c) prescribing the measures to be taken to prevent or minimise danger to persons or property which may arise from the electric wiring of buildings or the manner of installing, fixing, wiring, repairing, altering, replacing, connecting, disconnecting or removing the same; and
- (d) prescribing a penalty not exceeding a fine of seven hundred and fifty dollars and imprisonment for three months for breaches or contraventions of any such rule.

**(2)** The Electric Installations (Wiremen's Licences and Fees) Rules (formerly contained in the Schedule to this Act) shall be deemed to be made under this section and may be amended or revoked under subsection (1).

**(3)** Rules under subsection (1) (b), (c) and (d) may be made to apply throughout Trinidad and Tobago or to specified areas of Trinidad and Tobago and shall have effect notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any law.

**12.** This Act shall have effect subject to such exceptions, whether conditional or otherwise, as may be provided for by Order of the Minister.

Exceptions may  
be provided for.

## SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION

6/1949.

### ELECTRIC INSTALLATIONS (BUILDINGS) (DUTIES OF WIREMEN) RULES

*made under section 11*

Citation.

1. These Rules may be cited as the Electric Installations (Building) (Duties of Wiremen) Rules.

Interpretation.  
Ch.54:72.

2. In these Rules "Chief Inspector" and "installation" have the same meanings as in the Electricity (Inspection) Act.

Addition or  
alteration to  
installation.  
Ch. 54:72.  
Sub. Leg.

3. Every wireman shall, before commencing any work by way of addition or alteration to an installation which has been completed and for which a certificate of approval under the Electricity (Inspection) Rules, has been issued, or which was connected prior to the coming into force of these Rules, notify the Chief Inspector in the form set out in the Schedule of the nature of the proposed addition or alteration, and on completion thereof make an application to the Chief Inspector for an inspection of the same.

Schedule.

Contravention.

4. Any wireman who contravenes any provision of these Rules is liable on summary conviction to a fine of seven hundred and fifty dollars.

Rule 3.

## SCHEDULE

No.

Notification of an addition or alteration to an Electric Installation.

I, . . . . ., being a licensed wireman do hereby give notice that I propose, at the request of . . . . ., owner/occupier, to carry out



the addition/alteration to the electric installation situated at  
....., and as described below.

Description of Present Installation	Description of Proposed addition/alteration

and will on completion make application for inspection.

I have informed ....., whose signature appears below, that  
it is illegal to operate any addition or alteration to the installation  
until it has been inspected and a certificate of approval issued.

*Wireman.*

I confirm that I have been informed as above.

*Owner/Occupier.*

OFFICE STAMP.

## **ELECTRIC INSTALLATIONS (WIREMEN'S LICENCES AND FEES) RULES**

17 of 1945  
(Sch.).  
[1 of 1949  
51/1980].

*deemed to be made under section 11*

1. These Rules may be cited as the Electric Installations (Wiremen's Licences and Fees) Rules. Citation.

2. Applications for licences under the Act shall be in the appropriate form in Part A of the Schedule and shall be accompanied by the certificates or previous licence (unless surrendered on cancellation) on which the applicant bases his claim to be qualified under section 6 of the Act. Such certificate shall be returned by the Licensing Authority to the applicant when or before the licence is granted or refused, as the case may be, and such previous licence shall be so returned if it has not expired.

Application for  
licences.  
Part A.  
Schedule.

3. Licences under the Act shall be in the appropriate form in Part A of the Schedule.

Licences.  
Part A.  
Schedule.

4. The fees to be taken for things done under the Act shall be in accordance with Part B of the Schedule.

Fees.  
Part B.  
Schedule.

**SCHEDULE****PART A****FORM 1****ELECTRIC INSTALLATIONS (BUILDINGS) ACT****Application for Licence by an Applicant not previously Licensed.**

1. I, (a) ....., of (b) ....., hereby apply to the Licensing Authority for a licence to act as a wireman.

2. I was born on ..... at (c) .....

3. I annex hereto my photograph in duplicate and the following certificates namely (d):  
.....

4. I have (f)/have not (f) previously applied for and been refused a licence as wireman under the above mentioned Act.

5. I have (f)/have not (f) held a licence under the above mentioned Act and/or under any previous regulations providing for the licensing of wiremen.

6. I am not suffering from any physical infirmity which would prevent me from acting as a wireman.

7. I have (f)/have not (f) been convicted of an offence or offences described in section 8(1)(b) and (c) of the Act (e).

The particulars of such previous convictions are as follows:

<i>Date of conviction.</i>	<i>Court.</i>	<i>Offence.</i>	<i>Sentence.</i>
.....	.....	.....	.....

Dated ..... Signed .....

Read these footnotes carefully.

- (a) Full name in block capitals.
- (b) Full address.
- (c) State number of house, name of street, name of town and country as appropriate.
- (d) See section 6 of the Act. Annex certificate of efficiency as a wireman issued under the Industrial Training Act and, if you passed the qualifying examination after 1st January 1950, annex also a certificate from the Board that you were duly apprenticed as a wireman and served your apprenticeship to the Board's satisfaction. If you were qualified abroad, annex the Board's certificate that you are qualified to act as a wireman.
- (e) These offences are —
  - (i) an offence involving dishonesty committed while you were acting as a wireman; or
  - (ii) an offence against the Act or the Rules thereunder.
- (f) Delete if appropriate.

## FORM 2

## ELECTRIC INSTALLATIONS (BUILDINGS) ACT

**Application for Licence by an Applicant who has been Previously Licensed.**

1. I (a) . . . . ., of (b) . . . . ., hereby apply to the Licensing Authority for a licence to act as a wireman.

2. I have previously been licensed as a wireman. My last licence was issued by . . . . ., on . . . . ., and is annexed.

3. No licence previously issued to me has been cancelled (c).  
I have had a previous licence cancelled (c).

4. I am not suffering from any physical infirmity which would prevent me from acting as a wireman.

5. I have (e)/have not (e) been convicted of an offence or offences described in section 8(1)(b) and (c) of the Act (d).

The particulars of such previous conviction are as follows:

<i>Date of conviction.</i>	<i>Court.</i>	<i>Offence.</i>	<i>Sentence.</i>
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.....

Dated .....

Signed .....

Read these footnotes carefully.

- (a) Full name in block capitals.
- (b) Full address.
- (c) Strike out inappropriate sentence.
- (d) These offences are—
  - (i) an offence involving dishonesty while you were acting as a wireman; or
  - (ii) an offence against the Act, or the Rules thereunder.
- (e) Delete if inappropriate.

## FORM 3

## ELECTRIC INSTALLATIONS (BUILDINGS) ACT

**Form of Licence.**

The Licensing Authority hereby licenses . . . . ., of . . . . ., to act as a wireman from . . . . . to . . . . ., 19....

Dated .....

*Licensing Authority.*

[51/1980].

PART B

FEES

	\$
1. For a licence as a wireman .....	10.00
2. For a duplicate licence as a wireman .....	5.00
3. For a certificate of apprenticeship issued by the Board under section 6(b) of the Act .....	10.00
4. For a certificate issued by the Board under section 6(c) of the Act .....	15.00