

The National Standard for electricians: set by your industry [in our office!]

THE NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY AREN'T MADE IN A VACUUM – **THEY'RE DEVELOPED AS THE RESULT OF EXTENSIVE CONSULTATION WITH PEOPLE FROM THE ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY.** THIS MEANS YOU CAN BE SURE THAT THE QUALIFICATIONS APPRENTICES ARE DOING COVER WHAT YOUR INDUSTRY NEEDS.



Michael Rawson, ECANZ National President

Given the ever changing nature of the electrical industry, ensuring relevant qualifications is no small task, which is why ETITO leads regular qualification reviews. These happen though an in-depth consultation process with industry representatives who discuss what unit standards in a qualification need to be updated, and which ones can stay the same. ETITO's qualifications usually undergo a review at least once every 3-5 years [or sooner if required].

Michael Rawson, ECANZ National President, thinks this industry collaboration is ideal. "As an industry, we're the ones who have to work to these standards. And if we've got to work to them, then it's important that we take an active role in determining what they are."

This year the consultation process starts out with the review of the National Certificate in Electrical Engineering [Electrician for Registration] [Level 4]. This qualification is the mainstay for people in the electrical

industry, and the review could see significant changes to the content of the qualification.

Paul Hollings, ETITO Industry Manager, suggests that the industry has a long, hard look at what it wants the qualification to contain. "It's really about future-proofing the qualification; we should be thinking five to ten years down the track, and about what skills electrical apprentices are going to need to have by then. For example, we should be considering whether the qualification needs to be stranded at Level 4 to differentiate between domestic/commercial and industrial electricians," says Paul.

Like Paul and the rest of the team at ETITO, Michael encourages people to share their thoughts about the content of the qualification. "Employers need to get involved in all aspects of training – and that includes the review of unit standards." He adds that when the review of Level 4 is taking place, ECANZ will make sure they have the right people sitting on the advisory group.

Past experience has proven that this consultative approach to qualification development works. Michael believes part of the reason for this success comes from the calibre of the relationships that exist between ETITO and ECANZ. "If I have any questions about what ETITO is doing, I can pick up the phone and call or vice versa. We have good communication and a good relationship."

Add to this input from committed, industry-savvy electricians and the review of the Level 4 qualification is set for success.

If you would like to put forward your opinion on a particular unit standard, send it to reviewcomments@etito.co.nz. Whenever a qualification is being reviewed, these comments are considered as part of the process – so you can be sure your voice will be heard. To stay informed on any developments to the Level 4 qualification, keep an eye on the ETITO website.

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