

EEHA COMPETENCY AND TRAINING: DE-MYSTIFIED



WE'RE SERIOUS



EEHA IS A COMPLICATED INDUSTRY. IN FACT, IT IS ONE OF THE MOST COMPLICATED INDUSTRIES ONE CAN PURSUE A CAREER IN, BUT IT COMES WITH HIGH REWARD AND A FEELING OF ACCOMPLISHMENT UNLIKE ANYTHING ELSE.

At Extend we're passionate about EEHA and we have years of experience to back up that passion so when we say, there are a variety of myths and misunderstandings in regards to EEHA Competency and Training, we're serious.

Rather than listening to the myths and receiving too much or too little training, it's essential that you be given the accurate information to get you where you want and need to be. By obtaining a comprehensive understanding of EEHA competency and training, you're preparing yourself for the success you work so hard for. In this eBook we're going to debunk the myths, clear up the misunderstandings and help you get on the right path, today.



MYTH 1:

EEHA TRAINING IS MANDATORY WHEN CONDUCTING ANY EEHA ELECTRICAL WORK.

FALSE. THE REQUIREMENT IS ABOUT DEMONSTRATING THE COMPETENCE TO SAFELY COMPLETE YOUR WORK. DOES THIS MEAN YOU HAVE TO ATTEND TRAINING IN ORDER TO RECEIVE THIS COMPETENCE? NO, NOT NECESSARILY.

It's true that state law in all Australian states requires that electrical installations comply with the AS/NZS 3000-The Wiring Rules, and the wiring rules do set out a requirement to be competent for hazardous area work.

Let's explore the specifics:

- Section 7.7 of the Wiring Rules discusses installations in hazardous areas and describes a need for them to comply with AS/NZS 60079.14
- Clause 4.4 of AS/NZS 60079.14 states the persons working with explosion-protected equipment (EEHA) in hazardous areas must be competent to do their work.

- Clause 4.4 also nominates undertaking training and assessment to the EEHA Competency Standard, AS/NZS 4761.1 as one way to demonstrate competency.

Clause 4.4 doesn't preclude other ways of demonstrating competency, and it may not be necessary to undertake training to show that you are competent. But the mention of the EEHA Competency Standard AS/NZS 4761 does make undertaking training and/or assessment to that standard a very clear way to show that the competency requirements have been met.

So while it is not necessarily required to undertake training it does provide a simple and well defined pathway – other means of demonstrating competency may not be as straightforward.



MYTH 2:

AN AUSTRALIAN ELECTRICAL LICENSE IS COMPULSORY IN ORDER TO WORK ON AUSTRALIAN PROJECTS.

FALSE! UNLIKE MYTH #1, THIS IS MUCH LESS CONVOLUTED. YES, IF YOU'RE PLANNING ON WORKING WITHIN AUSTRALIA ON THESE PROJECTS THEN YOU WILL NEED TO HOLD AN AUSTRALIAN ELECTRICAL LICENCE IN ORDER TO DO SO.

That being said, not all Australian projects are actually completed within the country. In fact, it is increasingly common for large sections of projects to be routinely constructed internationally, and sometimes entire projects are constructed outside of the country before being brought into Australia by sea. Electrical work completed outside of Australia does not need to be completed by a licenced electrical worker.

Here's why: Australian laws that require individuals to hold Electrical Licenses have no jurisdiction overseas where these projects are constructed. While the EEHA competency requirement (AS/NZS/IEC 60079.14) likely still applies to the project (as it comes from a standard, not from a law), competency and licensing are not the same thing. You are capable of demonstrating competency without holding a license. There are multiple training pathways that can be explored in order to prove competency without holding a licence for work overseas.

Of course any electrical work completed within Australia requires an electrical licence, and the penalties for carrying out work unlicensed are severe – don't be tempted to cut that corner!

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WHILE IT IS NOT NECESSARILY REQUIRED TO UNDERTAKE TRAINING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EEHA COMPETENCY STANDARD, IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED AS A SIMPLE, WELL-DEFINED WAY OF DEMONSTRATING COMPETENCE.”



MYTH 3:

AN AUSTRALIAN ELECTRICAL LICENSE IS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE EEHA COMPETENCIES.

FALSE! AS WE MENTIONED IN REGARDS TO MYTH 2, HOLDING A LICENSE AND DEMONSTRATING COMPETENCY ARE TWO ENTIRELY DIFFERENT THINGS. YOU DO NOT NEED TO HOLD A LICENSE IN ORDER TO PROVE YOUR COMPETENCY; THERE ARE OTHER OPTIONS!

There are training pathways for a variety of individuals including:

- Instrumentation Technicians
- Fire Installers
- Gas Installers
- Security Installers
- Electrical Engineers

Electrical licenses are not the only way into the EEHA door. Whether you're an Electrical Engineer who needs additional training in HA Design and Inspection or you're an Instrumentation Technician interested in expanding your knowledge and in turn, your opportunities, there are options for you!



MYTH 4:

TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT TO AS/NZS 4761 OR TO NATIONAL UNITS OF COMPETENCY ARE THE ONLY WAYS TO PROVE COMPETENCY.

FALSE! IT MAY OFTEN BE THE EASIEST WAY TO PROVE YOUR COMPETENCY, BUT IT IS CERTAINLY NOT THE ONLY PATH YOU CAN TAKE.

In fact, the units of competency in AS/NZS 4761 are actually incredibly broad. This means they often provide too much information and can be a bit over the top in some circumstances.

How is too much information a bad thing? If your role contains only a small portion of EEHA work then there may be better ways to achieve competency. You may want to consider a customised training program to give you exactly what you need. These customised programs are actually

referred to as an 'Enterprise Competency'. They cover only the specific EEHA tasks or equipment required for an individual to successfully complete their job.

At Extend Training we are capable of developing customised programs specifically for your workplace in order to provide everyone with the necessary Enterprise Competency. The result is a targeted training program that expedites the training process and ensures your team is up to speed on what is actually necessary for the job, rather than struggling to remember too much information. With an Enterprise Competency we focus on thoroughly learning the necessities so you can get to work quicker with minimal risk.



MYTH 5:

REFRESHER TRAINING IS REQUIRED EVERY 2 YEARS.

FALSE! THIS MAY COME AS A SURPRISE, BUT THERE IS ACTUALLY NO SPECIFIED INTERVAL REQUIREMENT WHEN IT COMES TO 'REFRESHER TRAINING'.

Did you know that the AS/NZS/IEC 60079.14 only states that "appropriate continuing education or training shall be undertaken by personnel on a regular basis"? While it may seem a bit loose, it is intentionally so.

The reason for this broad requirement is to give individuals and companies the power to determine what training interval and content is most appropriate for them and their operation. Most organisations consider the following when determining what continued education is necessary:

- Specific work requirements
- How frequently team members are exposed to EEHA
- How frequently team members undergo individual training
- How informed team members are in regard to standard updates

Projects and workplaces vary considerably and as such it's essential that training programs be determined individually rather than be an overarching mandate. This allows for better results for both companies, individuals and final products.



THE KEY TO CONTINUED EDUCATION AND TRAINING IS TO UNDERSTAND THE CONTENT PRIOR TO SIGNING UP FOR A COURSE.

You should have the confidence that whatever training you choose to undergo meets all of your individual requirements. Your selected courses should provide you with current and easy to understand information as well as quality and experienced trainers at an affordable price. Stop buying into the myths and start confidently investing in your future.



An excellent training. My colleague and I were very impressed with the whole thing. ”

John, Clough AMEC

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