

CHANGES TO LICENCE CLASSES FOR: EMERGENCY LIGHTING + FIRE DETECTION, ALARM AND WARNING SYSTEMS

NEW FIRE PROTECTION LICENSING FRAMEWORK – 2021

CHANGES TO REGULATION OF FIRE PROTECTION WORK – ELECTRICAL STREAM

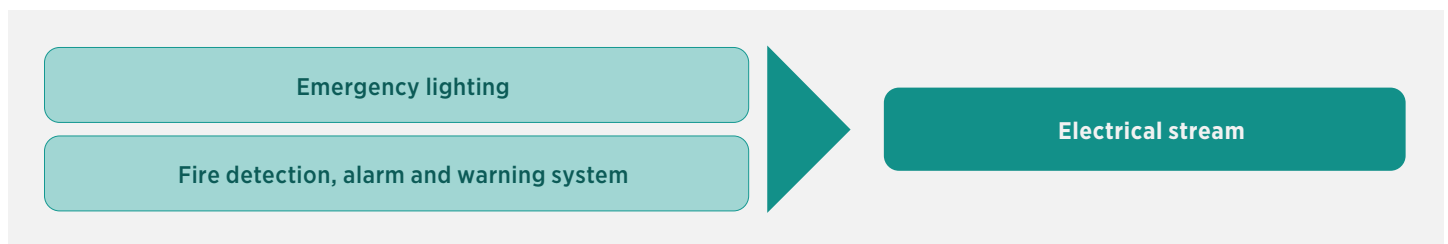
From 1 May 2021, the following changes impacting those who perform work within the fire protection electrical stream will commence:

- The installation or maintenance (including repair), certification, inspection and testing of a battery-operated smoke alarm in a building that is a class 1a or 2 building under the Building Code of Australia will no longer require a fire protection licence.
- An exemption that, prior to 1 May 2021, previously allowed licensed electricians to perform installation, maintenance, general repair, inspection or testing work on fire detection, alarm and warning systems will be removed on 1 May 2021. The removal of this exemption means electrical mechanics will need to obtain a QBCC licence for fire protection work on these systems that is not otherwise electrical work.
- Licensed electrical mechanic workers (employees) can continue performing fire protection work on alarm, detection or warning systems and do not require a QBCC occupational fire protection licence for this work.
- Transitional provisions have been included to enable licensed electrical mechanics who currently perform this work until 31 October 2021 to apply for a QBCC fire protection contractor or nominee supervisor licence, with alternative licensing pathways also available during this period.

Please note that there are no changes for emergency lighting exemptions. Licensed electrical mechanics can continue to inspect and test emergency lighting without a QBCC licence.

CHANGES TO EXISTING LICENCE CLASSES

Under the new fire protection licensing framework commencing on 1 May 2021, the following licence classes will transition to the new electrical stream:



TRANSITIONING TO NEW CLASS – CERTIFY – EMERGENCY LIGHTING

The 'certify' class for emergency lighting will automatically transition to the new 'fire protection – electrical stream – certify – emergency lighting' class on **1 May 2021**. However, transitioning licensees will need to complete additional technical qualifications by 1 May 2027 as outlined below.



Changes to scope of work – CERTIFY – emergency lighting

From 1 May 2021 the scopes of work for the new 'certify' classes will not include work to test fire protection equipment.

Accordingly, 'certify' licensees seeking to test fire protection equipment must also hold the relevant class for 'inspect and test' work by stream (which may be an 'install and maintain' class). In addition, from 1 May 2021, the 'certify' class in the relevant stream must be held to issue a certificate or statement following an inspection. This includes issuing aspect certificates under the *Building Act 1975* and yearly condition reports. An additional licence class for inspect and test work is required for any test work required to support the issuing of the relevant certificate or statement.

For emergency lighting, the 'inspect and test – emergency lighting' is the relevant class for inspect and test work.

A QBCC licensed person holding an 'inspect and test' or 'install and maintain' licence class may be eligible (subject to assessment by a building certifier of the person's competency) to be appointed as a competent person to provide inspection help (Form 16 – Inspection Certificate) under the *Building Act 1975*. These licensees may also complete logbooks or other records of the results of their inspect and test work, but cannot issue certificates or statements, including a yearly condition report, without holding the relevant 'certify' licence class.

For more information, see the changes to [certify licence classes](#) web page.

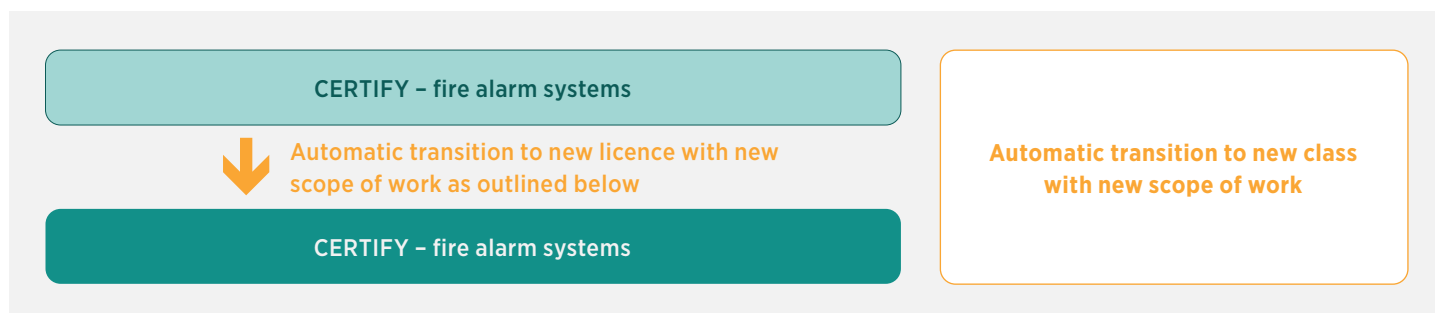
Upskilling requirements for current licensees – CERTIFY – emergency lighting

Existing licensees transitioning to the new class must complete the following technical qualification by 1 May 2027 to meet the following upskilling requirements:

- Certificate IV in Fire Systems Compliance – Fire Detection Systems stream 30903QLD* including both of the following units of competency:
 - » provide photometric data for illumination system design UEENEEG184A* – AND
 - » select effective and efficient light sources and luminaries for given locations and designs UEENEEG185A*.
- * Or other qualification permitted by regulation.

TRANSITIONING TO NEW CLASS – CERTIFY – FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS

The 'certify' class for fire detection, alarm and warning systems will automatically transition to the new 'fire protection – electrical stream – certify – fire alarms systems' class with changes to scope of work as outlined below.



Changes to scope of work – CERTIFY – fire alarm systems

From 1 May 2021 the scopes of work for the new 'certify' classes will not include work to test fire protection equipment.

Accordingly, 'certify' licensees seeking to test fire protection equipment must also hold the relevant class for 'inspect and test' work by stream (which may be an 'install and maintain' class).

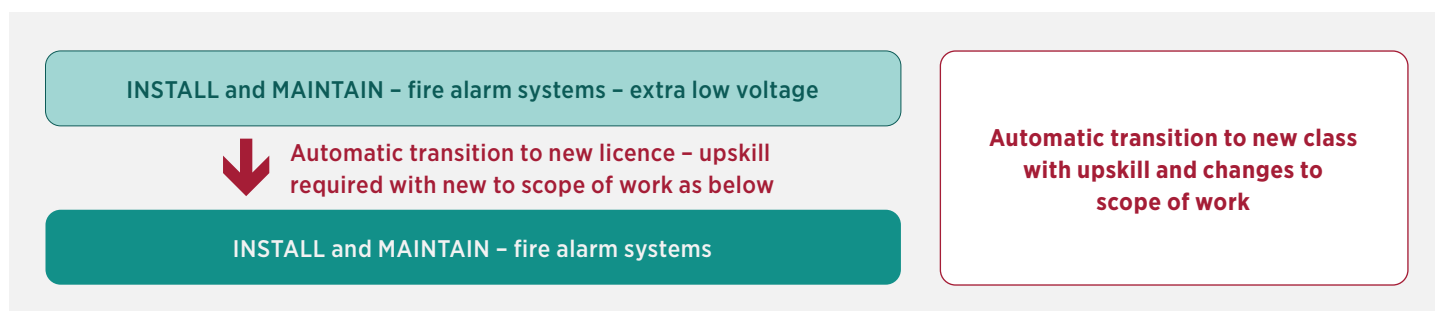
In addition, from 1 May 2021, the 'certify' class in the relevant stream must be held to issue a certificate or statement following an inspection. This includes issuing aspect certificates under the *Building Act 1975*, and yearly condition reports. An additional licence class for inspect and test work is required for any test work required to support the issuing of the relevant certificate or statement.

A QBCC licensed person holding an 'inspect and test' or 'install and maintain' licence class may be eligible (subject to assessment by a building certifier of the person's competency) to be appointed as a competent person to provide inspection help (Form 16 – Inspection Certificate) under the *Building Act 1975*. These licensees may also complete logbooks or other records of the results of their inspect and test work, but cannot issue certificates or statements, including a yearly condition report, without holding the relevant 'certify' licence class (which may be an 'install and maintain' class).

For more information, see the changes to [certify licence classes](#) web page.

TRANSITIONING TO NEW CLASS – INSTALL AND MAINTAIN – FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS

The 'install and maintain' class for fire detection, alarm and warning systems will automatically transition to the new class, however additional technical qualifications may be required by **1 May 2025** as outlined below.



Changes to scope of work – INSTALL and MAINTAIN – fire alarm systems

The scope of work for fire alarm systems 'install and maintain' will now include the incidental installation of fire collars for both schedule 2 (contractor) and schedule 3 (occupational) licence classes.

- A new definition of the term 'fire alarm systems' has been added and includes intercom systems as well as smoke and heat alarm systems and devices.
- These licensees may also complete logbooks or other records of the results of their inspect and test work, but cannot issue certificates or statements, including a yearly condition report, without holding the relevant 'certify' licence class.

Upskilling requirements for current licensees – INSTALL and MAINTAIN – fire alarm systems

Existing licensees (excluding licensed electrical mechanics) who transition to the new class must complete the following upskilling requirement by 1 May 2025 unless granted approval for an alternative pathway:

- Certificate III in Fire Protection Control UEE31011*, and
- Inspect and test emergency and exit lighting systems CPPFES2026A (unit of competency), or

* Other qualification permitted by regulation.

Alternative upskilling pathway for licensed contractor and nominee supervisors who also hold an electrical mechanic licence

Contractor and nominee supervisor licensees who also hold an electrical mechanic licence may avoid the upskilling requirements by demonstrating specified experience before 1 November 2021.

The specified experience is at least 6 months' experience in the installation and maintenance of the inputs, outputs, and controls associated with the fire detection systems or emergency warning and intercom systems.

Contractor and nominee supervisor licensees who also hold an electrical mechanic licence but do not demonstrate the specified 6 months' experience may meet the upskilling requirement by completing the following units of competency:

- Prevent ozone depleting substance and synthetic greenhouse gas emissions (CPPFES2043A)
- Enter and verify programs for fire protection systems (UEEEEC0026)
- Install fire protection and warning system apparatus (UEEEEC0041)
- Repairs basic electronic apparatus faults by replacement of components (UEEEEC0060)
- Verify compliance and functionality of fire protection system installation (UEEEEC0076)
- Install and maintain cabling for multiple access to telecommunication services (UEEDV0005).

Alternative licensing pathway for licensed electrical mechanics (contractor and nominee supervisor licence classes)

To support electrical mechanics in meeting the new contractor fire protection licensing requirement, an alternative licensing pathway will be available for applications lodged before 1 November 2021.

Under the alternative licensing pathway, electrical mechanics who apply for an electrical stream – install and maintain – fire alarms contractor’s or nominee supervisor’s licence before 1 November 2021 will have the option to demonstrate they have the specified experience as an alternative to the prescribed technical qualifications. Licensed electrical mechanics who lodge the applicable contractor’s or nominee supervisor’s licence application before 1 November 2021 may lawfully perform this work without a QBCC licence until their application is decided.

The specified experience for the alternative licensing pathway is at least 6 months’ experience in the installation and maintenance of the inputs, outputs, and controls associated with the fire detection systems or emergency warning and intercom systems.

Note: the alternative licensing pathway enables applicants to meet technical qualifications only. Applicants must still meet all other licensing requirements, including the requirement to hold 2 years’ experience. The above specified experience which is an alternative to holding the relevant technical qualifications, may be included as part of the experience requirement.

An application to utilise an alternative pathway—without upskilling requirements—must be made before 1 November 2021.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO EXISTING LICENCE CLASSES

Existing licence class			New licence class	Change for licensee	Changes to scope of work	Upskill required
Design	New class		Electrical stream – design – fire alarm systems	n/a	n/a	n/a
Certify	Emergency lighting – certify	➔	Electrical stream – certify – emergency lighting	Automatic transition	✓	1/5/2027
	Fire detection, alarm and warning systems - certify	➔	Electrical stream – certify – fire alarm systems	Automatic transition	✓	X
Install and maintain	Fire detection, alarm and warning systems - install and maintain - extra low voltage	➔	Electrical stream – install and maintain – fire alarm systems	Automatic transition	✓	1/5/2025 unless an alternative pathway is approved
Maintain	Fire detection, alarm and warning systems – maintain extra low voltage	X	Does not transition. Licensees will hold licence class as a continuing class	Continuing class	X	n/a
Inspect and test	Emergency lighting - inspect and test	➔	Electrical stream – inspect and test – emergency lighting	Automatic transition	✓	X

Auto transition to new class with upskill required

Class continues – no changes to scope of work

Auto transition to new class with new scope of work