



# The Government Electrical Regulator (GER)

*Access to Electricity Made Easy*

## Frequently Asked Questions

The Government Electrical Regulator (GER) will be established on November 1, 2021. Under the GER, the Government will no longer be carrying out electrical inspections as this function will be privatized. There will be several other changes. This Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) has been developed to help members of the public, electricians and private electrical inspectors as they navigate the new system.





## Members of the Public

**Q:** What should I do if I want my house or business to be wired?

**A:** Log on to the GER Portal at <https://ger.gov.jm>, choose the electrician from among the list of registered electricians on the Portal. After the electrician completes his or her work, you will need to choose a private electrical inspector from the list of licensed private electrical inspectors on the GER Portal to carry out the inspection of the electrical works. The JPS will be able to see the inspection certificate as soon as it is uploaded to the GER Portal.

## Electricians

There are three categories of electricians. Categories 1 to 3.

- Category 1 electricians are licenced to carry out electrical work at all levels.
- Category 2 electricians are licenced to carry out electrical work at voltage levels below 1 kV and a maximum power of 500 kVA.

- Category 3 electricians are licenced to carry out electrical work up to 250 volts single phase and a maximum power of 150 kVA.

**Q:** I am a licenced electrician and already in the system, do I have to apply under the new system?

**A:** Not now. When your licence is up for renewal, you should go to the GER Portal and apply for your renewal under the new system. Your renewal will be processed within thirty (30) business days of the receipt of all relevant documentation.

**Q:** Will I need to do an exam when renewing my licence?

**A:** No, unless you are upgrading to a higher category.

**Q:** If I am already in the system, in which Category will you put me?

**A:** You will be placed in a category based on voltage level. For example, if you carry out electrical works at all voltage levels, you





will be placed in Category 1. If you are working with less than 1 kV, you will be placed in Category 2. If you are working with voltage of up to 250 volts, you will be placed in Category 3.

**Q: I have an apprentice working with me, can he be registered?**

**A:** Yes. However, he or she must have a certificate in electrical installation or electrical engineering from an accredited institution.

**Q: Can I register to be an electrician and an inspector?**

**A:** Yes. However, you cannot inspect your own work.

**Q: What help will the GER provide for electricians doing examinations?**

**A:** The GER will provide syllabus and eventually past papers, tutorials and workshops.

**Q: Will I be doing only written examinations?**

**A:** No. You will do a written examination which is a multiple choice paper and practical which is done by way of assimilation.

**Q: Who will administer the exam?**

**A:** A Committee of Examiners established by law. The examiners include experienced electricians.

**Q: How often will the GER accept applications for electricians and conduct exams?**

**A:** You can apply at any time during the year. Exams will be conducted multiple

times during the year. A calendar of exam dates will be provided at the beginning of each year.

**Q: Will the GER regulate the fees electricians charge?**

**A:** No. The GER will have an interest in monitoring how the sector operates under the new regime including fees charged by electricians and inspectors. In time, the GER may provide information to the public on the range of fees that they could expect to be charged for the different categories of electricians.

**Q: Will I need to do a drawing for electrical works?**

**A:** Yes. This is important as we try to improve safety under the new regime.

**Q: Can I appeal a decision to reject my application to register as an electrician?**

**A:** Yes. If your application is rejected, you may by application in writing, appeal to the Regulator within thirty (30) days after being informed of the refusal.





# Private Inspectors

There are three classes of inspectors. Class 1 to 3.

- Class 1 inspectors are licenced to inspect and certify electrical work at all levels.
- Class 2 inspectors are licenced to inspect and certify electrical work at voltage levels below 1 kV.
- Class 3 inspectors are licenced to inspect and certify electrical work up to 250 volts.

**Q:** Will I be required to do an exam to qualify as an inspector?

**A:** No. However, your application and supporting documentation will be reviewed by the Regulator and a recommendation made to the Minister based on the Class that would apply to you.

**Q:** Can I also work as an electrician?

**A:** Yes, but you cannot inspect your own work. You will have to apply and be registered by the GER as an electrician.

**Q:** Is it true that I am required to have insurance as an inspector?

**A:** Yes. The Electricity Act, 2015 requires you to have public liability insurance. The insurance industry has decided to pool the risk to provide coverage since this is new. As a result, GK Insurance is the lead insurer.

**The information contact:**

**Email:** [commercial\\_lines@gkco.com](mailto:commercial_lines@gkco.com)

**Telephone:** 876-926-3204,  
876-564-3900 and 876-371-1957

**Q:** How much will I have to pay for insurance?

**A:** Contact GK Insurance for that information. Once you are insured, you need to provide the information to the GER.

**Q:** Can I start operating as an inspector without insurance?

**A:** No. You will be in breach of the law. You will not be granted a licence without public liability insurance and you must have insurance for the duration of your licence.

**Q:** Does the customer need to get a drawing for a re-inspection?

**A:** Yes.

**Q:** Will GER set fees to be charged by inspectors?

**A:** No. The GER will have an interest in monitoring how the sector operates under the new regime including fees charged by inspectors. In time, the GER may provide information to the public on the range of fees that they could expect to be charged for the different classes of inspectors.

**Q:** Can I appeal a decision to revoke or suspend my licence?

**A:** No, not at this point. If there is a reported breach of a term or condition of your licence, the Regulator will notify you of his intention to take action in regards to this complaint. You will at this point, be given the opportunity to present a defence within the time specified in the notification. The Regulator will then carry out an investigation into the alleged breach and if the complaint is found to be legitimate, the Regulator may recommend to the Minister either the suspension of the licence or the revocation of the licence.