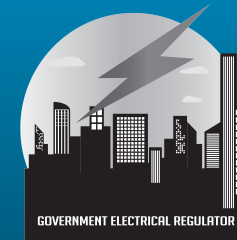




You & The Government Electrical Regulator (GER)



The Government Electrical Regulator (GER) will become fully operational November 01, 2021. We want you to know as much as possible about the GER whether you are a customer who wants your house or business place to be wired or you are thinking about applying to be licensed as an electrical inspector or registered as an electrician. The Electricity Act, 2015 provides for the establishment of the GER.

Under the new regime, inspections of electrical works will no longer be carried out by government electrical inspectors. Customers will engage an inspector from the database of inspectors on the GER system which will be explained in another article.

This column will introduce you to the GER and answer some questions about its role.



What is the Government Electrical Regulator (GER)?

The Government Electrical Regulator (GER) ("Regulator") is the government entity mandated to regulate the electrical installation and inspection processes, register Electricians, enroll Technical Electrical Assistants (TEAs), license Electrical Inspectors and ensure safe electrical installations throughout the island.

The Role of the GER

The GER has seven core functions to fulfil its mandate. These are:

1. Register electricians, enroll technical electrical assistants (TEAs) and license Electrical Inspectors;
2. Make recommendation to government for the licensing of and or revocation of such license for the electrical inspectors pursuant to the The Electricity Act, 2015;
3. Manage curriculum and training materials for electricians;
4. Manage examinations;
5. Facilitate inspections and investigations;
6. Manage compliance of electrical work undertaken by Registered Electricians and conduct review of inspections conducted by Licensed Electrical Inspectors;
7. Monitor, evaluate and report findings.

What Will Change Under the GER?

Based on The Electricity (Electrical Work, Registration and Licensing) Regulations, 2020, ("Regulations") the following changes will apply:

- ✓ Licensed Electricians will now be designated as Registered Electricians
- ✓ Licensed Electricians will be issued with a Registration Certificate and an Electrician's Identification which will be valid for two (2) years.
- ✓ Persons who would like to work as private Electrical Inspectors should submit an application to the GER for processing.

In addition, your main means of conducting business with the GER will be through an online portal.

Contact:
The Government Electrical Regulator (GER)
The Licensing, Registration and Examination Branch

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You & The Government Electrical Regulator (GER)

Access to Electricity Made Easy



Friday, October 15, 2021 is the last day to apply to the Government Electrical Inspectorate (GEI) for inspections

The Government Electrical Regulator (GER) will be established November 01, 2021. If you are involved in doing electrical works this change will affect you. Below, we answer some of your questions.

Q: How do I become a Registered Electrician?

A: A person may apply to be registered as an electrician by submitting to the Regulator a completed application in accordance with Form 2 under the First Schedule of the "Regulations" along with the following documents:

- (a) the application fee set out in the Second Schedule;
- (b) a current police record dated less than twelve months before the date of the application;
- (c) a character reference from a Justice of the Peace, a Notary Public, an attorney-at-law, a medical doctor, a minister of religion, or a police officer who is above the rank of an Inspector;
- (d) a passport size photograph that is taken no more than one year before the date of the application and certified by a Justice of the Peace or Notary Public to be a true likeness of the applicant; and
- (e) evidence of qualification for registration.

Q: What qualifications do I need in order to be a Registered Electrician?

A: Category 1 Registration

1. A Diploma in Electrical Engineering from a recognized training institution approved by an accreditation body.
2. At least 15 years practical experience in electrical work evidenced by a Voluntary Declaration of an electrician or inspector with whom the applicant has

worked. The Voluntary Declaration may be supported by any evidence of the applicant's experience as specified in the declaration.

Category 2 Registration

1. A Diploma in Electrical Engineering or equivalent from a recognized training institution approved by an accreditation body.
2. At least five years practical experience in electrical installation works, evidenced by a Voluntary Declaration of an electrician or inspector with whom the applicant has worked. The Voluntary Declaration may be supported by any evidence of the applicant's experience as specified in the declaration.
3. Successful completion of the Category 1 Electrical Technician Licensing Examination.

Category 3 Registration

1. Successful completion of the HEART/NSTA Trust Level 3 or any other equivalent qualifications.
2. At least five years' practical experience in electrical installation works, evidenced by a Voluntary Declaration of electrician or inspector with whom the applicant has worked. The Voluntary Declaration may be supported by any evidence of the applicant's experience as specified in the declaration.
3. Successful completion of the Category II Electrical Licensing Examination.

Did You Know?

That you can apply to be a registered electrician under the new regime at any time?

That exams will be held multiple times throughout the year?

Upcoming Events

**Public Consultations
October 20-22, 2021
Live stream information
to be publicized.**

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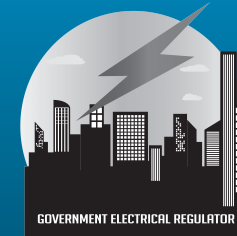


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In this issue, we answer some of your questions about **Private Electrical Inspectors**.

Q: How do I become a Licensed Private Electrical Inspector?

A: (1) A person may apply to be licensed as a Private Electrical Inspector by submitting to the Regulator:

- a completed application in accordance with Form 1 under the First Schedule of the "Regulations";
- the application fee set out in the Second Schedule;
- a current police record dated less than twelve months before the date of the application;
- a character reference from a Justice of the Peace, a Notary Public, an attorney-at-law, a medical doctor, a minister of religion, or a police officer who is above the rank of an Inspector;
- a passport size photograph that is taken no more than one year before the date of the application and certified by a Justice of the Peace or Notary Public to be a true likeness of the applicant; and
- evidence that the person is qualified for a licence.

(2) Upon receipt of an application the Regulator shall review the application and recommend to the Minister that the licence be granted, if the Regulator is satisfied that the applicant is suitably qualified to be licensed as an inspector.

Q: What qualifications do I need in order to be a Private Electrical Inspector?

A: Class 1 Licence

- A Degree in Electrical Power Engineering from a recognized training institution approved by an accreditation body.
- Ten years prior experience in high voltage electrical installation works evidenced by a Voluntary Declaration of an inspector with whom the applicant has worked. The Voluntary Declaration may be supported by any evidence of the applicant's experience as specified in the Declaration.

Class 2 Licence

- A Degree in Electrical Power Engineering from a recognized training institution approved by an accreditation body.
- At least seven years prior experience in electrical installation works of voltage level of up to 1kV.

Class 3 Licence

- A Diploma in Electrical Power Engineering or equivalent from a recognized training institution approved by an accreditation body.
- At least five years prior experience in electrical installation works of voltage level of up to 250 Volts.

Did You Know?

That as a Private Electrical Inspector you can work as a Registered Electrician but you cannot inspect your own work?

That to operate as a Private Electrical Inspector you will need public liability insurance?

Upcoming Events

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October 20-22, 2021
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In this issue, we turn the spotlight on **Technical Electrical Assistants (TEAs)**.

Q: How do I become a Technical Electrical Assistant (TEA)?

A: You must apply to the Committee of Examiners and pay an application fee of \$3,000.00 and an enrolment fee of \$1,500.00 to be enrolled as a Technical Electrical Assistant.



Q: What qualifications do I need in order to be a Technical Electrical Assistant?

A: A certificate in electrical installation or electrical engineering from an institution approved by an accreditation body.

Q: For how long does my Technical Electrical Assistant identification last?

A: The Technical Electrical Assistant identification is valid for a period of five (5) years.

Did You Know?

That a Technical Electrical Assistant assists in carrying out electrical work or modification or inspecting an electrical work or both?

Upcoming Events

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October 20-22, 2021**
Live stream information to be publicized.

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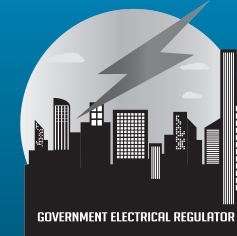


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In this issue, we turn our attention to the licences of **Registered Electricians, Private Electrical Inspectors and Technical Electrical Assistants (TEAs)**.

Q: For how long does my Inspector's licence or Electrician's Registration last?

A: The license or registration granted is valid for a period of two (2) years.

Q: If I am a Registered Electrician, Private Electrical Inspector or Technical Electrical Assistant, can I give my licence or registration to someone else?

A: No. Your licence is not transferable and should not be used by anyone else.

Q: Can I lose my licence, registration or enrollment?

A: Yes. You can lose your licence, registration or enrollment due to the following reasons:

- a) breaching the conditions of your licence or registration;
- b) malpractice;
- c) failure to comply with existing regulations; and
- d) if a court has found you guilty of negligence or any act that causes loss of life or damage to property.

Q: Can my application for a licence, registration and enrollment be rejected?

A: Yes. Your application can be rejected if you do not meet the required requirements.



Did You Know?

- That you can give up your licence, registration or enrollment?
- That you must make a written submission to the Minister and the Regulator using a specified form and return the particulars which were issued to you when giving up your licence or registration?





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In this edition, we answer some of your questions pertaining to examinations.

Q: What kind of exams will I be doing to be a Registered Electrician ?

A: You will be doing a written exam which is a multiple choice paper as well as a practical which is done by way of an assimilation.

Q: Who will administer the exams?

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

Q: How often will the GER accept applications for 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: What help will the GER provide for electricians doing examinations?

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

Q: Do Private Electrical Inspectors have to do an exam?

A: There are no examinations for Private Electrical Inspectors. However, you must meet the relevant qualifications and experience needed.



Did You Know?

- That you will not need to do an exam when renewing your licence? If you are upgrading to a higher category however, you must do an exam.
- That there are three categories of Registered Electricians?
- That all Registered Electricians will be placed in a category based on the level of voltage you are qualified to work with?

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In this issue, we highlight some of the obligations of Private Electrical Inspectors under this new system.

Q: Is it true that I am required to have insurance as a Private Electrical 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. As a result GK Insurance is the lead insurer.

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

A: Contact GK Insurance for that information.

You may send an email to: commercial_lines@gkco.com or call (876) 926-3204, (876) 564-3900 or (876) 371-1957.

Once you are insured, you need to provide the information to the GER.

Q: Can I start operating as a Private Electrical Inspector without public liability insurance?

A: No. Public liability insurance is a requirement when applying for your licence. You will not be granted a licence without it and you must have this insurance for the duration of your licence.

Q: Can I appeal a decision to take away 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 a complaint. At this point, you will be given an opportunity to defend yourself within a specified time. The Regulator will then carry out an investigation into the alleged breach and if the complaint is legitimate, the Regulator may recommend to the Minister either a revocation or suspension of the licence.

Did You Know?

- That the Government will no longer be doing electrical inspections?

Upcoming Events

Do you want to learn how to use the GER Portal?

Join any of the familiarization sessions in November

November

2 | 4 | 9 | 11 | 23 | 25 | 2021
at 10:00 AM

Join via



Meeting ID: 825 8613 9471
Passcode: 104292

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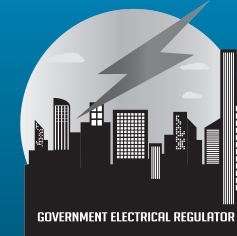


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The Government Electrical Regulator (GER) is fully operational as of November 01, 2021

This means that the Government will no longer provide inspection services but will become a Regulator under this new regime. In this issue, we highlight some of the changes that you will encounter under the GER.

Q: What should I do if I want my premises to be wired?

A: You need to log on to the GER Portal at <https://ger.gov.jm> and choose a Registered Electrician from the list. When the work is complete, you will also need to choose a Private Electrical Inspector from the Portal to inspect the work.

Q: Do I need to apply to the JPS to get light to my premises?

A: Yes, you will need to apply to JPS to get light to your premises. JPS requires an application from the customer to energise the premises.

Q: How long will it take for the inspection report to get to JPS?

A: JPS will see the inspection report as soon as it is uploaded to the Portal by the Private Electrical Inspector.

Q: What is the inspection fee that I am required to pay?

A: The inspection fee will be determined by the Private Electrical Inspector that you have engaged.

Q: Will the GER regulate the fees charged by Registered Electricians and Private Electrical Inspectors?

A: No. The GER will monitor the fees charged in the sector and in time provide information on the range of fees that you can expect to be charged for the services.



Did You Know?

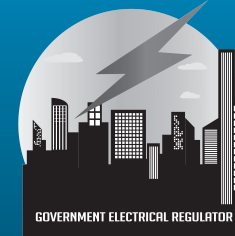
- That a person can be registered as both a Registered Electrician and a Private Electrical Inspector but he or she cannot inspect his or her own work?





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This means that the Government will no longer provide inspection services but will become a Regulator under this new regime. This is our last publication and in this issue, we be giving some general information to Registered Electricians to guide you through your interactions with the GER.

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.

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

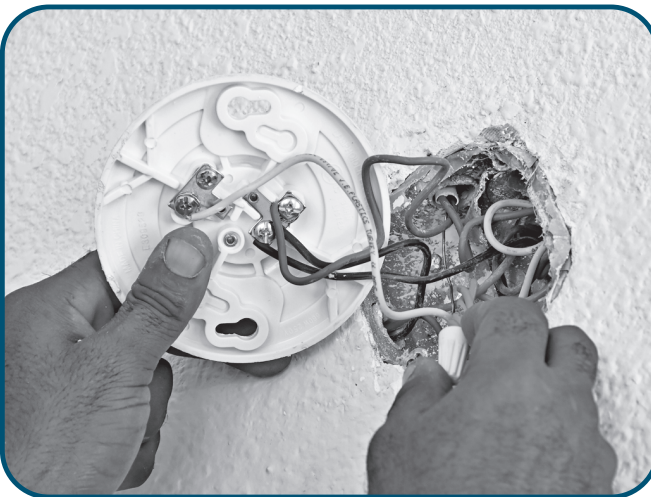
A: Yes. However, he or she must have a certificate in electrical installation or electrical engineering from an accredited institution.

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

A: Yes. This is very 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.



Did You Know?

- That a person can be registered as both a Registered Electrician and a Private Electrical Inspector but he or she cannot inspect his or her own work?

Upcoming Events

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