



MONTSERRAT

CHAPTER 8.15

ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS ACT

Revised Edition

showing the law as at 1 January 2013

This is a revised edition of the law, prepared by the Law Revision Commissioner under the authority of the Revised Edition of the Laws Act.

This edition contains a consolidation of the following laws—

ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS ACT

Act 9 of 1995 .. in force 2 January 1996 (S.R.O. 71/1995)

Amended by Acts: 3 of 1998 .. in force 14 August 1998

18 of 2010 .. in force 18 September 2010

9 of 2011 .. in force 27 September 2011 (S.R.O. 40/2011)

Amended by S.R.O. 18/2012 .. in force 1 April 2012

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ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS ACT
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CHAPTER 8.15

ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS ACT

(Acts 9 of 1995, 3 of 1998, 18 of 2010, 9 of 2011 and S.R.O. 18/2012)

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE LICENSING OF PERSONS WHO UNDERTAKE ELECTRICAL WIRING, FOR THE REGULATION OF SUCH OPERATIONS, AND GENERALLY FOR THE PREVENTION OR MINIMISING OF DANGER TO PERSONS OR PROPERTY ARISING FROM ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS.

Commencement

[2 January 1996]

PART 1

PRELIMINARY

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the Electrical Installations Act.

Interpretation

2. In this Act—

“**Authority**” means the licensing authority established under section 3;

“**company**” means Montserrat Utilities Limited (MUL) and includes any person duly authorised by the company to do an act on its behalf;
(*Inserted by Act 18 of 2010*)

“**Inspector**” means the Government Electrical Inspector appointed under section 14;

“**installation**” means the whole or part of any system of electrical wiring designed for the use or supply of electrical energy together with all fittings thereto and includes the extension or replacement of an existing installation;

“**licensed wireman**” means a person who is the holder of a valid wireman’s licence issued to him under the provisions of this Act;

“**licensed wiring contractor**” means a person who is the holder of a valid wiring contractor’s licence issued to him under the provisions of this Act.

Licensing Authority

3. (1) There is hereby established a Licensing Authority which shall consist of the following members—

(a) the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Land, Housing and the Environment;

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- (b) the Director of Public Works;
- (c) the Electrical Inspector;
- (d) two persons, who possess appropriate qualifications and experience in electrical installation technology; and
- (e) either—
 - (i) the Managing Director of the company, or
 - (ii) an employee of the company who possesses appropriate qualifications and experience in electrical technology, nominated by the Managing Director.

(2) The persons specified in subsection (1)(d) shall be appointed by the Governor acting on the advice of Cabinet for such period as the Governor acting on the advice of Cabinet thinks fit. *(Amended by Act 9 of 2011)*

(3) The Governor acting on the advice of Cabinet shall appoint a Chairman from among the members of the Authority. *(Amended by Act 9 of 2011)*

(4) The Electrical Inspector shall be the Executive Secretary of the Authority.

(5) The Authority shall have the power to regulate its own proceedings.

(Amended by Act 3 of 1998)

Liability of members

4. No personal liability shall attach to any member of the Authority in respect of anything done or suffered in good faith under the provisions of this Act and any sums of money, damages or costs which may be recovered against them or any of them for anything done or suffered as aforesaid shall be paid out of the revenue of the Government.

PART 2

LICENSING OF WIRING CONTRACTORS AND WIREMEN

Application for licence

5. (1) Any person who is a Montserratian, or permanent resident of Montserrat, or is the holder of a work permit authorising him to work in Montserrat, may apply for a licence to act as a wiring contractor or a wireman in accordance with the provisions of this Part. *(Amended by Act 9 of 2011)*

(2) An application under subsection (1) shall be in the form set out in the First Schedule and shall be accompanied by—

- (a) a certificate showing the qualifications of the applicant; and

- (b) where appropriate, an affidavit or declaration attesting the relevant experience possessed by the applicant.

Grant of licence and fees

6. (1) Where the Authority is satisfied that an applicant is qualified to receive a licence in accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Authority shall, subject to the payment of the fee specified in the Second Schedule grant the licence for a period of one year or three years as the Authority considers appropriate for the grant of licences of that category.

(2) An applicant for a licence who is not a Montserratian, or permanent resident of Montserrat, but who is the holder of a valid work permit authorising him to work in Montserrat, may be granted a temporary licence for such period of, or in respect of, a project as may be specified by the Authority in the licence. (*Amended by Act 9 of 2011*)

Renewal of licence

7. (1) The holder of a licence (not being a temporary licence) issued under this Act may within fourteen days of the date of expiry of that licence apply to the Authority for its renewal on the form prescribed in the Fifth Schedule.

(2) A person whose licence is renewed by the Authority shall pay the renewal fee specified in the Second Schedule.

(3) A person who is issued with a licence under this Act (not being a temporary licence) shall be deemed to be licensed until he is served with a notice that his application for renewal has been refused, or that his licence has been revoked.

(4) Where on an application for the renewal of a licence the Authority refuses to renew that licence, the Authority shall within seven days of its determination notify the applicant in writing of its decision and the reasons in support thereof.

Qualifications for grant of licence

8. (1) An applicant for a licence to act as a wiring contractor or as a wireman, who possesses the qualifications and experience outlined in the Third or Fourth Schedules as the case may be, is eligible for the grant of an appropriate licence.

(2) An applicant for a temporary licence to act as a wiring contractor or as a wireman shall be required to possess the qualifications and experience outlined in the Third or Fourth Schedules as appropriate.

(3) Notwithstanding subsections (1) and (2), the Authority may grant an appropriate licence to an applicant in any case where it is satisfied that the applicant, though not possessing the formal qualifications outlined in the Third and Fourth Schedule, has nonetheless acquired a sufficient degree

of competence to be able to perform the functions of a wireman or a wiring contractor as the case may be.

Acts in respect of which a licence is required

9. (1) For the purposes of this Act a person shall be deemed to act as a wiring contractor or wireman who, whether for reward or not, undertakes to install, fix, repair, alter or replace the whole or any part of the electrical wiring of any building or site, not being the wiring or a telephone service or a lightning conductor or the wiring (including the earthing) of a wireless aerial.

(2) A person shall not be deemed to act as a wiring contractor or wireman by reason only of the fact that he manipulates a switch or connects or disconnects a plug, or replaces or installs a lamp in a socket or replaces a fuse so long as such replacement is in conformity with the relevant provisions of any such rules in force by virtue of section 20.

Scope of licences

10. (1) A person who is issued with a wiring contractor's licence may undertake the wiring of any type of installation in respect of a building or site.

(2) Unless the Authority stipulates otherwise a person who is issued with a wireman's licence may only undertake single phase installations for a temporary supply or for small domestic and commercial properties of less than 500 square feet.

Power of Authority to refuse to issue or cancel licences

11. (1) The Authority may refuse to issue a licence under this Act or cancel a licence held by a licensed wiring contractor or wireman if, after giving the applicant or licensee an opportunity of being heard it is satisfied that the applicant or licensee—

- (a)* has been convicted of an offence involving dishonesty which he committed in the course of acting as a wiring contractor or wireman;
- (b)* has been convicted of any offence against this Act or the rules thereunder;
- (c)* has been guilty of gross negligence or inefficiency in the course of acting as a wiring contractor or wireman;
- (d)* has previously been refused a licence under this Act, or has previously had his licence cancelled, on any grounds specified in this subsection;
- (e)* because of infirmity of mind or body is incapable of performing his functions safely;

- (f) fails to satisfy the Authority that he is qualified to receive a licence having regard to the provisions of section 8.
- (2) Where the Authority refuses to issue a licence or cancels a licence it shall cause notice of such refusal or cancellation to be served on the applicant or licensee as the case may be, either personally or by letter addressed to him at his usual or last known place of abode.
- (3) Where notice of cancellation has been served in accordance with subsection (2), it shall be the duty of the licensee forthwith to surrender his licence to the Authority.
- (4) A licensee who fails to surrender his licence after its cancellation commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$500.
- (5) If within twenty four hours after the production of a cancelled licence was demanded by the Authority, the holder produces the licence to the Authority or at such police station as may be specified by him at the time the production of the licence was demanded, he shall not be prosecuted under this section.
- (6) A refusal of the Authority to issue a licence and the cancellation of a licence by the Authority shall be subject to appeal to the Governor acting on the advice of Cabinet whose decision shall be final. (*Amended by Act 9 of 2011*)

Duty to produce licence

12. Any person who refuses to produce his licence for inspection on demand by the Authority or by a police officer, commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$100.

Current holders of licences

13. A person who has been duly issued with a licence prior to the commencement of this Act to act as a wiring contractor or a wireman shall be deemed to be licensed under this Act for a period of six months from the date of commencement of this Act.

PART 3

INSPECTION OF INSTALLATIONS

Appointment of Inspector

14. (1) The Governor shall appoint a person to the office of Electrical Inspector and may remove or replace any person so appointed.

(2) The Electrical Inspector shall enforce the provisions of this Act and any Regulations thereunder and shall have the right to enter at all reasonable times for the purpose of inspecting or testing any electric line or any electrical apparatus or works, upon any land or premises to which electricity is supplied or upon which electricity is generated, transmitted or

distributed and the owner or occupier of the premises shall afford full facilities for such inspection.

(3) The Electrical Inspector shall have the power to direct the Company not to supply electricity to any installation, apparatus or works which he deems unsafe or which, in his opinion, fails to comply in any respect with Regulations made under this Act.

Notice to be given before commencement of installation

15. (1) Before commencing an installation on premises, the owner or occupier of the premises shall give notice to the Electrical Inspector in the form prescribed in the Sixth Schedule.

(2) The notice shall be accompanied by the requisite fee and shall state the name of the wireman or wiring contractor who will be carrying out the installation.

(3) No installation shall be commenced until the Inspector has authorised in writing the commencement of that installation.

(4) If any installation is commenced without written authority, the owner or occupier of the premises who orders such installation, or who causes such installation to be made and the wiring contractor or wireman who undertakes the installation shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$500.

Notice to be given on completion of installation

16. (1) On the completion of an installation the owner or occupier of the premises shall give notice in writing to the Inspector who shall inspect and test the installation and, if the installation satisfies the Inspector, the Inspector shall issue a certificate in the Form set out in the Seventh Schedule.

(2) If the owner or occupier of premises operates or uses, or causes to be operated or used, any installation on those premises before a certificate has been issued in accordance with the provisions of this section he shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$500.

Power to inspect at any time

17. (1) After authorising the commencement of an installation, the Inspector may, before its completion make such inspection of the installation as he may think fit.

(2) An installation, whether installed before or after the commencement of this Act may be inspected by the Inspector on giving at least twenty four hours notice to the owner or occupier of such premises.

(3) Any person who wilfully or maliciously obstructs the Inspector in the exercise of his powers under this section shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$500 or to imprisonment for a term of three months.

Powers of the Inspector to disconnect installations which are defective

18. (1) In the event of the Inspector finding in an installation a defect which in his opinion is likely to cause danger either to persons or to property, he may—

- (a) by notice in writing posted in such place on the premises as he thinks fit or served upon the owner or occupier of the premises, suspend the operation or use of such installation;
- (b) if he considers it necessary, disconnect such installation from any apparatus supplying electrical energy to the installation or from any electric line by which electrical energy is conducted to the installation, and in any such case the said installation shall not be operated or used so long as the said notice of suspension remains unrevoked.

(2) If any person operates or uses an installation in any premises while such notice of suspension remains unrevoked he shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$500 or to imprisonment for a term of three months.

PART 4

MISCELLANEOUS

Offences

19. (1) A person commits an offence under this Act if—

- (a) in any application for a licence under this Act, he makes a statement which is materially false, or tenders in support of any such application a certificate or licence which does not relate to him or which is false in any material particular; or
- (b) not being a licensed wiring contractor he acts as a wiring contractor or offers directly or indirectly so to act; or
- (c) not being a licensed wireman acts as a wireman or offers directly or indirectly so to do; or
- (d) he employs to act as a wiring contractor or wireman, a person who is not a licensed wiring contractor or wireman under this Act; or
- (e) being a licensed wiring contractor or wireman, he lends his licence or makes the use of his licence available to another person; or
- (f) he uses as his own, a licence not granted to him under this Act.

(2) A person who commits an offence under this section is liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$500, and on a second or subsequent

conviction to fine of \$1,000 or to imprisonment for six months or to both such fine and imprisonment.

Regulations

20. The Governor acting on the advice of Cabinet may make regulations for carrying out the purposes of this Act and, in particular and without prejudice to the generality of this power, such regulations may make provision—

- (a) for the protection of consumers and of the public generally against personal injury or damage to property arising from the generation, supply or use of electricity;
- (b) prescribing the measures to be taken to prevent or minimise danger to persons or to property which may arise from the electric wiring of buildings or the manner of installing, fixing, wiring, repairing, altering, replacing, connecting, disconnecting or removing the same;
- (c) providing for enquiries to be held in connection with any accident which is or may be attributed to an escape of electricity or the state or conduct of any part of the undertaking;
- (d) regulating the performance of their duties by persons acting as wiring contractors and wiremen;
- (e) prescribing a penalty not exceeding a fine on summary conviction of \$500 for breaches or contravention of the regulations;
- (f) prescribing the qualifications of wiremen and wiring contractors;
- (g) for the examination, licensing and registration of wiremen and wiring contractors and for the granting of certificates of competency and of registration;
- (h) prescribing the forms of certificates of competency and registration for wiremen and wiring contractors;
- (i) prescribing the fees to be charged in respect of the examination of wiremen and wiring contractors;
- (j) prescribing the forms of certification of inspection to be issued by such inspectors and the persons by whom such fees shall be paid;
- (k) prescribing the fees to be charged in respect of the licensing of wiring contractors and wiremen and the inspection of installations;
- (l) for revising the fees to be charged in respect of the licensing of wiring contractors or wiremen or fees for inspection;

(m) prescribing the standards with which all installations shall comply;

(n) prescribing for periodic inspection after installations are completed and for charging fees for such inspections.

(Amended by Act 9 of 2011)

Act to bind the Crown

21. This Act binds the Crown.

FIRST SCHEDULE*(Section 5(2))***LICENSING AUTHORITY**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LAND, HOUSING
AND THE ENVIRONMENT, MONTSERRAT

ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS ACT

**APPLICATION FOR LICENCE BY AN APPLICANT
NOT PREVIOUSLY LICENSED***(WIREMAN/WIRING CONTRACTOR)*

1. I, ^(a) of
^(b) hereby apply to the
Authority for a licence to act as a Wireman
Wiring Contractor ^(c)
2. I was born on at ^(d)
3. I annex hereto my photograph in duplicate and
I am willing to submit myself to an examination ^(f)
4. I have ^(f)/have not ^(f) previously applied for or been refused a licence as a
wireman/wiring contractor under the above mentioned Act.
5. I have ^(f)/have not ^(f) held a licence under the above-mentioned Act and/or
under any previous regulations providing for the licensing of
wiremen/wiring contractor.
6. I have ^(f)/have not ^(f) been convicted of an offence or offences described
in section 11(1)(a) or (b) of the Act ^(e).

The particulars of such previous convictions are as follows:

Date of conviction

Court

Offence

Date

Signed

Applicant's signature Date:

Read these footnotes carefully.

- (a) Full name in block capitals
- (b) Full address
- (c) See section 5 of the Act. Annex any certificate held by you which in your opinion will qualify you to act as a wireman/wiring contractor.
- (d) State name of town and country as appropriate.
- (e) These offences are:
 - (i) An offence involving dishonesty committed while being engaged in electrical installations; or
 - (ii) An offence against the Act or regulations thereunder.
- (f) Delete if inappropriate.

SECOND SCHEDULE

1. Licence Fees		Fees
Temporary Wireman Licence		EC\$ 500
Temporary Wiring Contractor's Licence		EC\$1000
Replacement Licence		Equivalent Fee to the Licence to be replaced
Wireman	– One Year.....	EC\$ 75
	– Three Years.....	EC\$ 185
Wiring Contractor	– One Year.....	EC\$ 150
	– Three Years.....	EC\$ 375
 2. Renewal Fees		
Wireman	– One Year.....	EC\$ 75
	– Three Years.....	EC\$ 185
Wiring Contractor's	– One Year.....	EC\$ 150
	– Three Years.....	EC\$ 375

3. Inspection Fees

DOMESTIC INSTALLATIONS

(a) Temporary Supplies	EC\$ 50
(b) 0 – 500 Sq. Ft	EC\$ 50
(c) 501 – 1000 Sq. Ft	EC\$ 100
(d) 1001 – 2000 Sq. Ft	EC\$ 150
(e) 2001 – 3000 Sq. Ft	EC\$ 200
(f) 3001 – 4000 Sq. Ft	EC\$ 250
(g) 4001 – 5000 Sq. Ft	EC\$ 300
(h) 5000 Sq. Ft. & above	EC\$ 350

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL INSTALLATIONS

(a) Temporary Supplies	EC\$ 75
(b) 0 – 500 Sq. Ft	EC\$ 125
(c) 501 – 1000 Sq. Ft	EC\$ 150
(d) 1001 – 2000 Sq. Ft	EC\$ 200
(e) 2001 – 3000 Sq. Ft	EC\$ 250
(f) 3001 – 4000 Sq. Ft	EC\$ 300
(g) 4001 – 5000 Sq. Ft	EC\$ 350
(h) 5000 Sq. Ft & above	EC\$ 400

FOR 3-PHASE INSTALLATIONS

A sum of EC\$50.00 shall be payable in addition to the above charges.

NOTE:

All dimensions are external gross floor areas and relate to the total floor area to be created and in which the installation is to be undertaken. The Inspector shall have the right to waive payment of an inspection fee where the installation is being undertaken for a Government Department.

(Substituted by S.R.O. 18/2012)

THIRD SCHEDULE

(Section 8(1))

LICENSING AUTHORITY

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LAND, HOUSING
AND THE ENVIRONMENT

QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSING

Title: Qualifications of Electrical Wiring Contractors
Target
Groups: Electrical Wiring Contractors and designers of
installations

Pre-requisites:

- (i) City and Guilds Certificate #823 Electrical Installation Practice or equivalent qualification.
- (ii) Five years recent experience in practical electrical installation work.
- (iii) Extensive training in electrical technology, installations (domestic, commercial and industrial).
- (iv) A valid Wireman Certificate.
- (v) Where the application is for a temporary licence the applicant must be a holder of a work permit in Montserrat and a wiring contractor's licence or equivalent issued in his country.

Qualification Content should include:

1. **The I.E.E. Regulations – Current Edition**
 - (i) Background
 - (ii) Comparison with earlier editions
 - (iii) Comparison with American and Canadian Codes
2. **Local regulations and authority**
3. **Protection of electrical installations**
 - (i) Switches
 - (ii) Insulation
 - (iii) Protection against shock
 - (iv) Protection against short circuits
 - (v) Earthing
 - (vi) Earth leakage breakers

4. **Cables and Raceways**
 - (i) Types of cables
 - (ii) Cable enclosures
 - (iii) Supports, joints
5. **Circuit Designs**
 - (i) Maximum demand and diversity
 - (ii) Cable sizing
 - (iii) Use of electrical drawings
 - (iv) Riser diagrams and drawings
6. **Contracts, Estimates, Maintenance and Costing***
 - (i) Contractual procedures
 - (ii) Types of installations
 - (iii) The demand for maintenance
 - (iv) Maintenance costs
 - (v) Trouble Shooting
 - (vi) Renovations
7. **Inspection and testing**
 - (i) Visual
 - (ii) Continuity
 - (iii) Earth Test
 - (iv) Test sequence
 - (v) Insulation resistance test
 - (vi) Completion and certification

* Not required for Designers of Installations

FOURTH SCHEDULE

(Section 8(1))

LICENSING AUTHORITY

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LAND, HOUSING
AND THE ENVIRONMENT

QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSING

Title: Qualifications of Electrical Wireman
Target Electrical Wireman
Groups:

Pre-requisites:

- (i) City and Guilds Certificate (#823 Electrical Installation Practice) or equivalent qualification.
- (ii) Basic training in small domestic and commercial electrical installations.
- (iii) Previous training in electrical technology.
- (iv) Where the application is for a temporary licence the applicant must be the holder of a work permit and a wireman's licence or equivalent issued by his home country.

Qualification Content should include:

1. Types of Installations
 2. Local Legislation
 3. I.E.E. and other Regulations
 4. Principles of Electrical Installations
 - (i) Basic wiring methods
 - (ii) Testing of installation
 - (iii) Earthing and bonding
 - (iv) Protection against shock
 - (v) Protection of circuits, isolation and switching
 - (vi) Use of electrical drawings
 - (vii) Circuit design
 - (viii) Inspection and testing
 5. Certification
-

FIFTH SCHEDULE

(Section 7(1))

ELECTRICAL INSPECTORATE DIVISION

ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS ACT

APPLICATION FOR LICENCE BY AN APPLICANT

WHO HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY LICENSED

(RENEWAL OF LICENCE)

I of
hereby apply to the Authority for a licence to act as a wiring contractor/
wireman¹.

I have previously been licensed as a wiring contractor/wireman¹. My last
licence was issued on
and is annexed.

No licence previously issued to me has been cancelled.

I have not had a previous licence cancelled.

I have been/not been convicted of an offence under this Act.

.....
Signature

Date

¹ Delete as appropriate

SIXTH SCHEDULE

(Section 15(1))

ELECTRICAL INSPECTORATE DIVISION

APPLICATION TO WIRE FOR ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

Applicant's Name: (Please print clearly)
Address supply required: Floor area in sq.ft.: Distance from Mains:
Block/Parcel #: Development Permit No: Date of Approval:
Wiring Contractor: Name: Address:
Type of Installation (i.e.) Conduit: Surface: Trunking: New Services:
Add/Extension: Reconnection: Rewire: Inspection Consumer's Request:
Temp: Domestic: Re-inspection: Commercial/Industrial: Phase:
Separate Meter Request: Reference Number: Permit Number:

I/We hereby request the Electrical Inspectorate Division to permit me/us to wire as to the IEE Regulations and Montserrat Building Code and agree to pay all charges in accordance with tariff from time to time in force. I/We also agree to observe and be bound by the conditions for Electrical Installations and Electricity Supply in keeping with the laws of Montserrat.

I/We also understand that it is an offence to commence any work prior to obtaining a permit to carry out same, and that all work must be carried out by a licensed Wiring Contractor or Wireman. Be advised that the issuance of a permit to wire does not guarantee the supply of Electricity.

Applicant's Signature Present Address
Signature of Owner of premises Date of Application

No. of Lights	Outlets 115v	Outlets 230v	Total Watts	DOMESTIC APPLIANCES No.	Description	Other Apparatus Watts	HP
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

.....
ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR APPROVAL

.....
DATE

SEVENTH SCHEDULE

(Section 16(1))

ELECTRICAL INSPECTORATE DIVISION

REQUEST FOR CONNECTION

TO: MONTSERRAT ELECTRICITY SERVICES Ltd.

Date: Ref #: Permit #:

Applicant's Name: Address supply required:

Floor area in sq.ft.: Distance from Mains Supply: No. of Phases:

Add/Extn: Type of Installation (i.e.) Conduit: Surface: Trunking:.....

New Services: Reconnection: Sep. Meter: Rewire:

Consumer's Request: Temp: Domestic: Commercial/Industrial:

No. of Lights	Outlets 115v	Outlets 230v	Total Watts	DOMESTIC APPLIANCES		Other Apparatus	
				No.	Description	Watts	HP

.....

.....
ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR APPROVAL

.....
DATE

