



Australian
Industry and
Skills Committee



UEE HAZARDOUS AREAS

Case for Change

Name of allocated IRC: Electrotechnology
Name of the SSO: Australian Industry Standards

1. Administrative information

For a list of the products proposed to be reviewed as part of this project, please see *Attachment A*.

Name of IRC(s):	Electrotechnology
Name of SSO:	Australian Industry Standards

1.1 Name and code of Training Package(s) examined to determine change is required

UEE Electrotechnology Training Package

2. The Case for Change

For information on the job roles to be supported through the proposed qualifications updates, enrolments data, completion rates, and the number of RTOs delivering these qualifications please see *Attachment B*.

2.1 Rationale for change

This Case for Change relates to *AS/NZS 4761.1: 2018 Competencies for working with electrical equipment for hazardous areas (EEHA)*.

The UEE Electrotechnology Training Package currently contains units adopted from 12 of the 22 clauses contained within AS/NZS4761.1:2018. The 10 not currently included are primarily used by degree qualified Engineers to verify competence to work in hazardous areas.

Initially the 10 units were not adopted because the Standard contains preconditions for assessment (qualifications at AQF 5-7) that cannot be adopted within the unit of competency template.

Industry wants all the remaining 10 units contained within the standard available for delivery within the regulated VET system to ensure a mechanism exists for quality verification of competent persons to undertake design, installation, inspection, maintenance, repair of equipment for hazardous areas. Compliance with the preconditions for assessment that cannot be covered under the Standards for Training Packages will need to be verified outside of the system to ensure compliance with the AS/NZS 4761.1: 2018.

2.2 Evidence for change

AS/NZS 4761.1: 2018 Competencies for working with electrical equipment for hazardous areas (EEHA) sets out the generic cross-industry competencies needed for work associated with electrical equipment for hazardous areas. The competencies are intended for use by any industry sector or enterprise conducting operations where explosive atmospheres are present, and cover design, installation, inspection, maintenance, repair and area classification. They set out minimum requirements for persons to be 'competent' to undertake the related tasks.

AS/NZS 4761.1: 2018 replaced AS/NZS 4761.1:2008. The UEE11 Training Package contained 59 Hazardous Area Units of Competency which were directly adopted from this superseded version of the Standard. Due to being superseded they were deleted from the Electrotechnology Training Package as part of Release 2.0.

New units were developed for UEE Release 2.0 to cover 12 of the 22 clauses contained in AS/NZS 4761.1: 2018. In the Standard each clause is a Unit of Competency and the UEE Training package units are a direct adoption of the clauses within the parameters of what is permissible under the 2012 Standards for Training Packages. Based on advice from the Chair of the Standards Australia Technical Committee responsible for maintenance of the Standard, 10 clauses were not adopted in UEE due to the inability of the Unit of Competency template to prescribe the required AQF level

preconditions for assessment (some of the clauses are targeted at Engineers with higher education qualifications). It was proposed that training and assessment of the clauses not adopted would be completed outside of the accredited VET system.

The IRC has received correspondence from Energy Skills Queensland (ESQ) on behalf of nine employers requesting the 10 clauses not adopted in UEE be added to the Training Package. The IRC has committed to a project to develop Units of Competency to cover the requirements of the 10 clauses so they can be trained and assessed within the accredited VET system.

Advice related to compliance with preconditions for assessment will be included in the unit application to ensure this is met.

2.3 Consideration of existing products

No other Training products cover this unique content.

2.4 Approach to streamlining and rationalisation of the training products being reviewed

The units proposed for development in this project cover specific technical skills and knowledge required to work safely in hazardous areas. Streamlining or rationalisation of this content is not possible given the nature of the work functions covered.

3. Stakeholder consultation

3.1 Stakeholder consultation undertaken in the development of Case for Change

*For a full list of industry-specific stakeholders that actively participated in the stakeholder consultation process undertaken to develop the Case for Change, please see **Attachment C**.*

The need for development of this content was identified based on direct advocacy from employers that conduct operations where explosive atmospheres are present.

Development of the Case for Change involved consultation with stakeholders via the following communication mechanisms:

- Stakeholder webinars
- Face to Face meetings (Virtual)
- AIS Website
- Stakeholder networks
- Teleconferences
- Emails

The work was outlined during a webinar which included representatives from all States/Territories and regional areas of those jurisdictions. Feedback on the proposed work was invited during the webinar.

The work was posted in the Engagement Hub of the AIS website and feedback invited.

Notification of the opportunity to provide feedback through the Electrotechnology webinar, or in writing through the Engagement Hub, was provided to over 1,100 Electrotechnology sector stakeholder subscribers.

3.2 Evidence of Industry Support

*For a list of the issues raised by stakeholders during consultation and the IRC's response to these, please see **Attachment D**.*

No objections to the proposed review of the qualification were raised during the consultation process. There is strong support for the development to ensure a mechanism exists for verification of competent persons to undertake design, installation, inspection, maintenance, repair of equipment for hazardous areas.

The work was outlined during a webinar conducted for the Electrotechnology industry on 26 March 2021 which had 80 participants. A broad question about the approach that will be used for the review was posed in the Q & A section of the webinar indicating stakeholder interest in the work. The proposed work was also detailed in the Engagement Hub of the AIS website for stakeholders to review and provide feedback, and no issues were raised in response.

3.3 Proposed stakeholder consultation strategy for project

*Note: For a full list of industry-specific stakeholders who are planned to be contacted to participate in the stakeholder consultation process undertaken for this project, please see **Attachment E**.*

Key Industry stakeholders will be identified in consultation with industry regulators, associations, and the Electrotechnology IRC.

A general invitation to participate on the project Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will be sent to all Electrotechnology subscribers. Targeted invitations will also be sent to known technical experts.

AIS, on behalf of the Electrotechnology IRC, will promote the opportunity to contribute through stakeholder webinars, the AIS website, EDM's, AIS newsletter and public notifications. Stakeholders will also be notified of key milestones throughout the life of the project, including requests for feedback on draft materials.

Stakeholder engagement and consultation will occur over the life of the project via a combination of the following methods:

- Direct engagement: Face to face consultations, Site visits, Phone, emails, video/teleconferencing meetings
- Industry forums and conferences
- Webinars
- Online feedback mechanisms
- STA direct engagement

Given the size of Australia and all stakeholders are not centrally located in major cities, a range of consultation strategies will be used so stakeholders in rural, regional and remote areas, and in smaller jurisdictions have multiple avenues to provide feedback.

This includes but is not limited to, online/video consultation, email correspondence and promotional activity via targeted communications including social media. A recently developed Engagement hub on the AIS website provides a one stop portal for information about how all stakeholders can participate and inform Training Package development work.

4. Licencing or regulatory linkages

The units of competency provide a mechanism to verify the competence of people to work in hazardous areas in accordance with Work Health and Safety regulation.

5. Project implementation

5.1 Prioritisation category

It is proposed that this development be progressed as a Fast-track project and will be published together with several other projects which industry needs fast-tracked.

The need to have these competencies available within the regulated VET system is an urgent industry need.

5.2 Project milestones

Key project milestones include:

- AISC project approval – June 2021
- Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) formed – July 2021
- Draft 1 consultation – August – September 2021
- Stakeholder validation – September – October 2021
- Quality Assurance – October – November 2021
- Final consultation with states and territories – November - December 2021
- CfE submitted for approval – 31 December 2021

5.3 Delivery or implementation issues

None have been identified to date.

6. Implementing the Skills Minister's Priority reforms for Training Packages (2015 and October 2020)

The project submission will support industry's expectations for training delivery and provide a revised Companion Volume Implementation Guide (CVIG) to support delivery of the new products.

Units will support the verification of competence of degree qualified engineers to work in hazardous areas.

This Case for Change was agreed to by the Electrotechnology IRC

Name of Chair

Signature of Chair

Date

Attachment A: Training Package components to change

Australian Industry Standards

Contact details: David Dixon, Chief Operating Officer

Date submitted: TBA

Project number	Project Name	Qualification/ Unit / Skillset	Code	Title	Details of last review (endorsement date, nature of this update transition, review, establishment)	Change Required
1	Hazardous Areas	Qualification	UEE42620Y	Certificate IV in Hazardous areas - Electrical	05/Oct/2020 - Transition	Update
1	Hazardous Areas	Qualification	UEE61220Y	Advanced Diploma of Engineering - Explosion protection	05/Oct/2020 - Transition	Update
1	Hazardous Areas	Unit	New Unit	Manage continuous supervision inspection of electrical installations for hazardous areas	NA	New
1	Hazardous Areas	Unit	New Unit	Conduct a conformity assessment review of explosion-protected equipment	NA	New
1	Hazardous Areas	Unit	New Unit	Assess the fitness-for-purpose of explosion-protected equipment	NA	New
1	Hazardous Areas	Unit	New Unit	Design explosion-protected of electrical systems and installations	NA	New

Project number	Project Name	Qualification/ Unit / Skillset	Code	Title	Details of last review (endorsement date, nature of this update transition, review, establishment)	Change Required
1	Hazardous Areas	Unit	New Unit	Perform compliance audits of hazardous areas and related electrical installation	NA	New
1	Hazardous Areas	Unit	New Unit	Classify areas where flammable gas or vapour hazards may arise	NA	New
1	Hazardous Areas	Unit	New Unit	Classify areas where a combustible dust hazard may arise	NA	New
1	Hazardous Areas	Unit	New Unit	Repair reeling, trailing and flexible cables used in coal mining	NA	New
1	Hazardous Areas	Unit	New Unit	Test reeling, trailing and flexible cables and their attachments used in coal mining	NA	New
1	Hazardous Areas	Unit	New Unit	Inspect, maintain and fit plugs/couplers for reeling, trailing and flexible cables - coal mining	NA	New
1	Hazardous Areas	Unit	New Unit	Verify compliance of repaired reeling, trailing and flexible cables and attachments - coal mining	NA	New

Attachment B: Job role, enrolment information, the number of RTOs currently delivering these qualifications

Please set out the job roles to be supported through the updated qualifications, enrolment data over the past three years in which data is available for each qualification, completion rates for each qualification, and the number of RTOs delivering these qualifications.

Job role	Qualification to be updated to support the job role	Enrolment data (for the past three years)	Completion rates (for the past three years)	Number of RTOs delivering (for the past three years)
341111 Electrician (General)	UEE42620Y Certificate IV in Hazardous areas - Electrical	2044	1262	8
312412 Electronic Engineering Technician	UEE61220Y Advanced Diploma of Engineering - Explosion protection	22	13	0

Attachment C: List of stakeholders that actively participated in the consultation process of the Case for Change

Active participation has included stakeholders from the following organisations across all states and territories within Australia:

- Industry Reference Committee (IRC) Representatives
- Employers (Non-IRC)
- Peak Industry Bodies
- Unions
- Regulators
- RTOs
- Other/Consultants

Attachment D: Issues Raised by Stakeholders during consultation on the development of the Case for Change

Stakeholder Type	Issues Raised	IRC's Response to Issues Raised
Industry Reference Committee (IRC) Representatives	NIL	NA
Peak Industry Bodies	NIL	NA
Employers (Non-IRC)	NIL	NA
Regulators	NIL	NA
Registered Training Organisations (RTOs)	NIL	NA
Training Boards/Other	NIL	NA
State and Territory Training Authorities (STAs)	NIL	NA
Unions	NIL	NA
<i>Please add other categories as appropriate</i>	NIL	NA

Attachment E: List of stakeholders to be contacted as part of the development of the Case for Endorsement

The Case for Endorsement development will involve contacting stakeholders from the following types of organisations across all states and territories within Australia:

- Industry Reference Committee (IRC) Representatives
- Employers (Non-IRC)
- Peak Industry Bodies
- Unions
- Regulators
- RTOs
- Other/Consultants