

# RL D 79805

## Personnel Competency

### 1 Principle

All workers must have the appropriate competencies to operate, work near or on/within electrical equipment and be authorised for their duties to be carried out in adherence to the Rail Safety National Law, Transport for NSW (TfNSW) standards and Sydney Trains documents.

Persons working or reviewing work methods, near or on/within electrical equipment, shall be trained and accredited both technically and as per the ENSR for the equipment and work that they are to perform.

### 2 Personnel competency classification

Workers are grouped into three classifications based upon knowledge and experience for working around and on electrical equipment.

Workers must maintain the SADs for their certification as set out in the SafeWork codes of practice/SP D 79049 *Safe Approach Distances (SADs)*.

These Electrical personnel competencies are:

**a. Ordinary Person**

Someone who has not been trained and assessed as competent to recognise and avoid electrical hazards on the Sydney Trains Electrical Network.

**b. Accredited Person**

Someone who has an approved accreditation and has been determined by Sydney Trains to be competent to perform specific types of work around and on the Sydney Trains electrical network.

**c. Authorised Person**

Someone who is qualified, competent and has been given authorisation from Sydney Trains to perform a specific set of functions relating to the Sydney Trains electrical network.

The functions and training requirements as set out in *PR D 78701 Personnel Certifications – Electrical*.

### 3 Person undergoing training

A person who is in training is permitted to perform the work they are being trained in. Provided a relevant electrical authorised person assesses them to be competent to carry out the work under supervision and keeps them under direct supervision.

### 4 Re-certification

A certified person must be regularly assessed to have the required technical knowledge and experience.

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## 5 Suspension or withdrawal of certifications

Following an electrical safety incident, a person's Authorisation may be suspended while the matter is investigated. Refer to PR D 78701.

The following persons may suspend any electrically certified person:

- the Associate Director Electrical Distribution Unit
- an ICON Electrical System Operator
- an Electrical Authorising Officer who is working for Sydney Trains, Electrical Distribution Unit.

## 6 Operation of high voltage and 1500 Volt equipment

Only appropriately Authorised Persons, as stipulated in PR D 78701, are permitted to operate high voltage and 1500 Volt equipment. The Authorised Person shall ensure that approval is obtained from ICON Electrical prior to carrying out any such operation except when a life-threatening situation exists.

Authorised Persons undertaking operating work in relation to a planned WHVI/1500 Volt Authority shall have an approved field copy of the WHVI/Authority. They shall confer and agree on the switching sequence required prior to switching being carried out. They shall consider relevant ICON Electrical instructions, relevant Local Instructions, and the requirements of the ENSR such as not operating off-load switches under load.

All verbal directives involved in the operation of electrical equipment shall be repeated back by all parties and recorded in writing or checked against an existing authorised document.

## 7 Entry to substations

Persons shall not enter a substation unless they are:

- Approved for Entry (refer to PR D 78701 *Personnel Certifications – Electrical*), or
- an Authorised Person (Substations), or
- accompanied and supervised by an Authorised Person (Substations) who will be responsible for their safety (refer to Note), or
- an Authorised Traction Operator (entry only into the 1500 Volt link area or 1500 Volt switch area), or
- an Authorised Officer (Mains) who is authorised to operate 1500 Volt switches (entry only into the 1500 Volt link area or 1500 Volt switch area).

### NOTE

A reference to being Authorised for an electrical function is a reference to being certified for that function as stipulated under the respective parts of *SPD 79055 Electrical Competency Specific Certifications*.

The Authorised Person (Substations) shall not admit more unauthorised persons than can be adequately supervised, having due regard to the persons being admitted and the hazards present.

Even though an Authorised Attendant is an Authorised Person (Substations), only those specifically authorised in writing may supervise others inside substations. Refer to PR D 78701.

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## 8 Reference documents

The following documents provide a subset of relevant supporting information. This list is not exhaustive:

- PR D 78700 Working around Electrical Equipment
- PR D 78701 Personnel Certifications – Electrical
- PR D 78701 FM05 External Application for Electrical Certification or Re-Certification
- PR D 78701 FM06 Internal Application for Electrical Certification or Re-Certification
- SP D 79035 Sydney Trains Electricity Distribution Network Management Plan
- SP D 79048 Competence of Persons
- SP D 79049 Safe Approach Distances (SADs)
- SP D 79055 Electrical Competency Specific Certifications
- SP D 79056 Special exception from working to the ENSR
- SP D 79056 FM01 Electrical Network Safety Rules Waiver



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## 9 Document properties

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1.0	1 February 2022	ENSR Project Team	First issue as Sydney Trains document. Extracted from PR D 78000 Electrical Network Safety Rules and PR D 78101 General Requirements for Electrical Work. Reviewed as part of the ENSR Project.
1.1	9 February 2026	Nick Loveday	Periodic review, republished with no change.



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