

Guidance Note – Water Equipment

Background

Prescribed electrical equipment is defined as *extra low voltage equipment that is placing, or may place, persons or property at electrical risk and is prescribed by regulation.*

The *Electrical Safety Act 2002* (ES Act) definition of electrical equipment captures items included as prescribed electrical equipment (section 14(1)(e), ES Act), bringing those items within the electrical equipment regulatory framework (which includes supply chain duties, licensing requirements, recalls). This risk-based approach to the regulation of extra low voltage equipment recognises that particular extra low voltage equipment poses a risk to Queenslanders commensurate with low voltage equipment.

From [1 April 2025](#), water equipment was included as prescribed electrical equipment in section 285C of the *Electrical Safety Regulation 2013* (ES Regulation).

Note that the inclusion of water equipment as prescribed electrical equipment maintains an existing licensing expectation under former section 72 of the ES Regulation.

What is water equipment?

Water equipment means any apparatus, appliance, cable, conductor, fitting, insulator, material, meter or wire that fulfils all the following criteria:

- is operated or used for controlling, generating, supplying, transforming or transmitting electricity at extra low voltage (section 285C(2)(a), ES Regulation)
- can only be operated or used when connected (whether permanently or by plug) to an external source of electricity such as a 230v supply (section 285C(2)(b), ES Regulation)
- is designed for use in the interior of the container of a swimming pool, paddling pool, spa or bathtubs (ES Regulation section 285C(2)(c), ES Regulation).

The table below lists common types of equipment that typically may be used with a swimming pool, paddling pool, spa pool or bathtub. Where other types of equipment are used, you should assess them against the requirements of section 285C of the ES Regulation.

Equipment type	ESR s285C 2 (a)	ESR s285C 2(b)	ESRs 285C 2(c)	Is it prescribed water equipment?
Pool/spa lights	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pool robot cleaner with cord	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pool robot cleaner battery operated	Yes	No	Yes	No
ELV Submersible pump hard-wired	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Swim jets	No	Yes	Yes	No
Solar powered leaf skimmer	Yes	No	No	No
Salt/chlorinator cell	Yes	Yes	No	No

What is not water equipment?

Water equipment does not include battery powered toys, battery powered pool cleaners, submersible phones and camera devices.

Do I need an electrical work licence to work on water equipment?

You must be the holder of an appropriate electrical work licence to perform electrical work on water equipment unless a provision contained within section 18(2) of the ES Act applies.

Electrical work is defined in section 18(1) of the ES Act as:

- (a) connecting electricity supply wiring to electrical equipment or disconnecting electricity supply wiring to electrical equipment; or
- (b) manufacturing, constructing, installing, removing, adding, testing, replacing, repairing, altering or maintaining electrical equipment or an electrical installation.

Electrical work on water equipment can be split into two work types: electrical installation work or electrical equipment work. Examples of these electrical work types are provided below.

Electrical installation work includes installation of pool spa lighting and associated electricity supply wiring during construction of a swimming pool, paddling pool, spa or bathtubs including the initial connection of the lighting cables to the supply transformer, testing and energisation.

NOTE: Electrical installation work must only be performed by a person who holds an electrical mechanic (electrician's) licence.

Prescribed electrical equipment work includes:

- Replacing the supply cord of a corded robotic pool cleaner where the connection method is hard wired into the cleaner.
- Replacing the pump motor of a corded robotic pool cleaner where the connection method is hard wired into the cleaner.
- Disconnecting/reconnecting pool/spa lighting electricity supply wiring from the terminals of a lighting transformer.
- Replacing/retrofitting pool/spa lighting installed within the pool/spa container where the electricity supply wiring must be connected to or disconnected from the water equipment using a tool. This includes any modification or change to the method of connection such as replacing a plug attached to the electricity supply wiring or re-terminating the electricity supply wiring into a plug.
- Replacing pool/spa lighting electricity supply wiring between the supply transformer and pool/spa lighting installed within the pool/spa container.

What tasks can I perform if I am not the holder of an appropriate electrical work licence?

Section 18(2) of the ES Act identifies that particular work tasks are not electrical work and therefore do not need to be completed by a licensed electrical worker.

Examples of work associated with water equipment that does not require an electrical licence include:

- Connecting electrical equipment to an electricity supply by a flexible cord plug and socket outlet.
- Connecting/disconnecting the flexible supply cord and plug of a robotic vacuum cleaner to the separated extra low voltage (SELV) power supply supplied with the equipment.

- Replacing the supply cord of a corded robotic pool cleaner where the connection method in the equipment is via plug and socket arrangement.
- Replacing the motor within a corded robotic pool cleaner where the connection method in the equipment is via plug and socket arrangement.
- Replacing pool/spa lighting installed within the pool/spa container where the connection method is via a plug and socket arrangement and no other work is required (e.g. no modification to electricity supply wiring and/or replacement of a plug).

Do I need an electrical contractor licence?

You must be the holder of an unrestricted electrical contractor licence to perform *electrical installation work*, such as installing water equipment (e.g., pool/spa lighting and associated wiring) during initial construction.

If you perform *electrical equipment work* on water equipment as part of your business, you will be required to hold either an electrical contractor licence or a [Queensland Building and Construction Commission](#) trade contractor's licence.

Learn more

Further information on prescribed electrical equipment can be found on the WorkSafe website: [Prescribed Electrical Equipment and Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024](#).

Information on electrical licences, classes of licences and how to apply for a licence can be found at [Electrical licences](#).