

Are You Looking to Expand Your Business into Cabling?

Are you aware of your requirements regarding your cabling licence? This article will assist members with the processes involved in becoming a registered cabler, provide details on our affiliated registrar, ACRS, and explain the procedure for TCA Forms.

Cabling Registration

If you are planning to connect, install, repair or maintain telecommunications customer cabling that is connected or is intended to be connected to a telecommunications network (for example, cabling in residential, commercial or industrial premises), it is a legal requirement that you are an appropriately registered cabler or someone who is directly supervised by an appropriately registered cabler.

To become a registered cabler you must meet certain mandatory training and practical experience requirements. If you are working in the fire, security and data cabling industries and are installing, repairing or maintaining telecommunications customer cabling you are also required to hold a cabling registration.

This article will briefly outline the three steps towards becoming a registered cabler.

Step One: Determine what registration type you will require

The registration type you require will depend on the type of cabling work you will be undertaking.

There are three types of cabling work:

- restricted cabling work
- open cabling work
- lift cabling work.

There are corresponding registrations (restricted, open, lift) available that authorise cablers to complete these types of cabling work. There are also additional competencies (previously known as endorsements) that are required if you will be undertaking any specialised cabling work.

Restricted cabling work

Restricted cabling work, as the name implies, allows you to perform a restricted range of residential and small business cabling work.

To be eligible for a restricted cabling registration, you will need to have completed:

- suitable training from a registered training organisation (RTO)
- 80 hours of practical cabling work whilst under supervision from a registered cabler.

Open cabling work

Open cabling work includes all types of residential, commercial and industrial premises customer cabling work.

To be eligible for an open cabling registration, you will need to have completed:

- suitable training from a registered training organisation (RTO)
- 360 hours of practical cabling work.

Lift cabling work

Lift cabling work allows you to install, repair or maintain cabling for lift installations only beyond a cross connection point adjacent to the lift motor room. Registration in this category is only available if you are already a qualified electrician or an electrical tradesperson with a Cert 3 in Electrical or equivalent.

Registrars will grant a lift registration to a suitably qualified electrical tradesperson following the successful completion of an appropriate lift cabling course. As the lift cabling registration requires you to initially hold an electrical trade qualification, you

are deemed to have already met the minimum number of hours of cabling work experience and therefore no declaration of cabling work experience is required.

If you intend to undertake data or co-axial cabling in the lift environment, you must also complete the relevant broadband competency training.

Step Two: Complete the Appropriate Training

The training that you are required to undertake to become a registered cabler will depend on:

- the type of registration you are seeking
- your level of previous experience and training
- the qualifications you hold.

If you wish to obtain an open registration, you must complete the open registration course (UEENEEF102A: Install and maintain cabling for multiple access to telecommunications services). Please note that there are pre-requisites to this course. Contact the NECA SA office to find out the details.

Members can take this course through our allied RTO, PEER VEET, and receive 10% discount. The course with PEER takes 40 hours and is generally run Monday-Friday 8am-4pm at certain times of the year.

If you wish to obtain a restricted registration, you must complete the restricted registration course (UEENEEF101A: Install and maintain cabling for direct access to telecommunications services). Please note that there are pre-requisites to this course.

Step Three: Apply for a Cabling Registration

After you have completed the appropriate training for the type of cabling registration you have selected, you can apply for a cabling registration.

Source: 'Do you want to be a registered cabler?', ACMA 2015, www.acma.gov.au

ACRS

NECA's affiliated cabling registrar is ACRS. Cabling registration is \$31 for one year or \$81 for three years. To register, visit their website: www.acrs.com.au

Endorsements/Competencies

If you wish to undertake structured, optical fibre or co-axial cabling work you must take further training to obtain your endorsements – or competencies as they are now called.

Structured and Coaxial Cabling

This competency provides the participant the necessary knowledge and skills to install, inspect, test and certify structured (Category 5/5e/6) and Coaxial cabling installations to the ACMA technical standards and to Australian Standard AS3080 and AS3815 respectively.

Members can undertake the training through our allied RTO, PEER VEET, and receive 10% discount. The course with PEER takes 32 hours and is generally run Monday-Thursday 8am-4pm at certain times of the year.

Optical Fibre

This competency provides the participant the necessary knowledge and skills to install, inspect, test and certify optical fibre cabling installations to the Australian Communications & Media Authority (ACMA) technical standards and to Australian Standard AS3080.

Members can undertake the training through our allied RTO, PEER VEET, and receive 10% discount. The course with PEER takes 24 hours and is generally run Monday-Wednesday 8am-4pm at certain times of the year.

TCA Forms

What is the TCA1 form?

Section 4.5 of the Telecommunications Cabling Provider Rules 2014 requires cablers to complete a Telecommunications Cabling Advice Form (known as a TCA1 form) after each cabling job. The form is given to the customer and a copy must be retained for 12 months by the cabler or their employer. For audit purposes, the ACMA can ask cablers to submit completed TCA1 forms for all jobs they conducted in the last 12 months.

TCA1 usage guidelines

The following are practical guidelines developed by the ACMA for the use of TCA1 forms:

- The forms are the responsibility of the cabler undertaking the work. However, you may make arrangements with your employer for the forms to be stored by the employer. You must be able to access the form if requested by the ACMA.
- The form is available from the ACRS website or the NECA SA office. Alternatively, the form can be incorporated into existing invoices or other business documentation to avoid additional paperwork. This can be done by having the signed declaration section as an optional add-in on the electronic version of the invoice or by using a rubber stamp after printing.
- There are some very small jobs for which the ACMA does not require a TCA1 form to be completed. Cablers can complete a TCA1 form for these

small jobs if desired. Even when a TCA1 form is not required, the cabler needs to be registered to undertake small jobs work and the Wiring Rules and all other Cabling Provider Rules still apply.

TCA2 form

The ACMA has introduced an optional addition to the current TCA1 form. The TCA2 form is designed for use by registered cablers to alert customers or building managers of any non-compliant cable installations that are outside the contracted scope of work. Cablers may choose to issue it with a quotation prior to undertaking work, or after completing a particular cabling job to advise the customer or building manager of other matters that may still require attention.

- The TCA2 form is not a replacement for the TCA1 form.
- Registered cablers will still be required to complete and sign a Telecommunications Cabling Advice (TCA1) form on completion of a cabling job.
- A copy of the TCA1 must be provided to the customer and your employer (if applicable).
- You must keep all copies of your TCA1 forms for at least 12 months and these must be made available to ACMA inspectors or auditors on request.

For further information about the training or the competencies, or to enrol, contact PEER VEET on (08) 8348 1200. For any other information on cabling, contact the NECA SA office on (08) 8272 2966.