

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS SUPPLEMENT

*to The Uganda Gazette No. 6, Volume CXII, dated 8th February, 2019*

Printed by UPPC, Entebbe, by Order of the Government.

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S T A T U T O R Y   I N S T R U M E N T S

2019 No. 5.

THE ELECTRICITY (INSTALLATION PERMITS)  
REGULATIONS, 2018

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SCHEDULE—Academic or technical qualifications and other requirements for installation permit

# STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2019 No. 5.

## **The Electricity (Installation Permits) Regulations, 2019.** *(Under Section 119 of the Electricity Act, Cap.145)*

IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred upon the Electricity Regulatory Authority by Section 119 of the Electricity Act, Cap.145 these Regulations are made this 24th day of July, 2018.

### **1. Title**

These Regulations may be cited as the Electricity (Installation Permits) Regulations, 2019.

### **2. Interpretation**

In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires—

“Act” means the Electricity Act, Cap.145;

“Authority” means the Electricity Regulatory Authority established under section 4 of the Act;

“Committee” means the Installations Permits Committee prescribed under regulation 3;

“currency point” means the value of one currency specified under the Act;

“distribution voltage” means any voltage below the minimum transmission voltage;

“electrical installation work” means the installation, alteration or repair, wholly or partially, of any conductor or apparatus or system of wiring in or upon premises, connected or intended to be connected to a supply of electricity;

“installation person” means a person holding a valid permit issued under these Regulations;

“high voltage” means a voltage of 132kV, 220 kV or 400 kV;

“low voltage” means a voltage of 240V or 415V;

“medium voltage” means a voltage of 11kV, 33kV or 66 kV;

“permit” means a permit issued under these Regulations;

“permit holder” means a person or company who holds a valid permit, issued under these Regulations, to carry out electrical installation works;

### **3. Continuation in existence of the Committee**

(1) The Installations Permits Committee in existence at the commencement of these Regulations shall continue in existence in accordance with these Regulations.

(2) The Committee shall consist of the following members—

- (a) three persons representing the Authority to act as Chairperson, Secretary and Coordinator respectively;
- (b) one person representing a holder of a distribution and supply licence;
- (c) one person representing the Engineers Registration Board;
- (d) a representative of the Uganda Consumer Protection Association or a Consumer Protection Advocacy Group; and
- (e) one person representing the vocational training institutes.

### **4. Functions of the Committee**

The functions of the Committee are—

- (a) to assess applications for installation permits and conduct interviews for qualifying candidates;
- (b) to issue installation permits as classified in these Regulations;

- (c) to monitor the performance of installation permit holders;
- (d) to advise the Authority on matters pertaining to electrical installations; and
- (e) to perform any other function that is incidental or consequential to its functions under this regulation or any other function as may be directed by the Authority.

## **5. Operations of the Committee**

(1) The members of the Committee shall be nominated by the institutions they represent and shall be appointed to the Committee by the Authority.

(2) The members shall be appointed by the Authority for a term of three (3) years renewable once.

(3) Subject to sub-regulation (2) the members of the Committee in existence at the commencement of these Regulations shall continue in office until their tenure expires.

(3) The Authority shall appoint members of the Committee in a staggered manner.

(4) A member of the Committee may resign from office by notice in writing delivered to the Authority.

(5) The Authority may on the recommendation of the Committee, remove from office a member who—

- (a) is unable to perform the functions of his or her office by virtue of mental or physical infirmity of body or mind;
- (b) is absent from three consecutive meetings of the Committee without reasonable cause to the satisfaction of the Committee;
- (c) is declared insolvent;
- (d) fails to declare to the Committee any conflict of interest in any conduct of business or matter before the Committee; or

- (e) is convicted of a criminal offence involving dishonesty, fraud or moral turpitude and sentenced for a term of imprisonment exceeding six months.

(6) The Committee members shall be remunerated at rates to be determined by the Authority which shall be commensurate with the man-hours required to accomplish the mandate of the Committee.

#### **6. Rules and procedures**

The Committee shall with the approval of the Authority, make such rules and procedures as may, in the opinion of the Committee be necessary for the performance of the Committee's functions under these Regulations.

#### **7. Meetings of the Committee**

(1) The Committee shall meet at such times as the Committee may determine.

(2) At any meeting of the Committee, four members shall form a quorum.

#### **8. Decisions of the Committee.**

(1) All questions proposed at a meeting of the Committee shall be decided by a simple majority of the votes of the members present and voting; and in case of an equality of votes, the person presiding shall have a casting vote in addition to that person's deliberative vote.

(2) A decision may be made by the Committee without meetings but by circulation of the relevant papers among the members and by the expression of the views of the majority of the members in writing; however, any member shall be entitled to require that the decision be deferred and the matter on which a decision is sought be considered at a meeting of the Committee.

#### **9. Register**

The Committee shall keep a register of all installation permit holders under these Regulations.

#### **10. Permit required**

(1) A person or company shall not practice as an installation person without a valid permit issued by the Committee.

(2) A person employed by a company shall obtain a permit issued under these Regulations, notwithstanding the fact that such company is in possession of its own permit.

#### **11. Technical qualifications**

(1) A person shall not be granted a permit under these Regulations unless he or she possesses any of the following technical qualifications—

- (a) a University Degree in the relevant field of study;
- (b) a Higher Technician's Diploma;
- (c) an Ordinary Technician's Diploma;
- (d) a Master Craftsman's Certificate;
- (e) a Craftsman's Certificate or Intermediate Certificate; or
- (f) any other technical qualification recognised by the Committee.

(2) The qualifications under sub-regulation (1) shall determine the class of permit which the Committee shall issue to each respective applicant.

(3) A company shall not be granted a permit under these Regulations unless it employs persons with technical qualifications specified in sub-regulation 1 (a) and (b).

#### **12. Application for permit by individuals**

(1) An application for a permit shall be in writing and shall be submitted to the Committee and the permit shall be issued in a prescribed form, subject to such conditions as the Committee may determine.

(2) Every person issued with a permit under these Regulations shall exhibit the permit at all times in his or her usual place of business.

### **13. Application for permit by company**

A company may apply in writing to the Committee for a permit to carry out electrical installation work as a company in Class X as prescribed in regulation 14 (2) of these Regulations.

### **14. Category of permit.**

(1) The Committee may, subject to such conditions as it may impose, issue any of the following types of permit to individuals—

- (a) Class A for carrying out electrical installation work including high voltage;
- (b) Class B for carrying out electrical installation work not exceeding medium voltage;
- (c) Class C for carrying out electrical installation work not exceeding low voltage of 415V;
- (d) Class D for carrying out electrical installation work not exceeding low voltage of 240V;
- (e) Class Z for carrying out installation for specialised fields like—
  - (i) switchgear installation;
  - (ii) centralised cooling and refrigeration;
  - (iii) installation of generator sets;
  - (iv) solar systems;
  - (v) electrical installation systems and designs; and
  - (vi) access controls.

(2) The Committee may, subject to such conditions as it may impose, issue Class X to a company to carry out electrical installation work.

(3) Every company applying for a permit under these Regulations shall have amongst its staff persons qualified to be issued with Class A or Class B categories of the permit.



(4) A permit issued under these Regulations may be renewed but shall not be transferable.

(5) Subject to regulation 19, a permit issued under these Regulations shall expire on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of December of the year during which it is issued.

**15. Conditions to be satisfied**

(1) Any person who applies to the Committee for a permit shall be required to satisfy the Committee—

- (a) that he or she is at least eighteen years of age and that he or she is a fit and proper person to conduct the business of an installation person;
- (b) that he or she has satisfactory knowledge of the latest edition of the rules and regulations and all legislation applying to the type of installation specified in the particular permit;
- (c) that he or she has made adequate provision for the carrying out of his or her work and the supervision of his or her staff;
- (d) that he or she has suitable premises from which to conduct his or her business;
- (e) that he or she has suitable instruments to be able to carry out the recognised tests on the type of installation to which his or her permit applies; and
- (f) that in the case of renewal of a permit the standard of work and the conduct of business have been satisfactory during the period of validity of the previous permit.

(2) A company which applies to the Committee for the Permit shall be required to satisfy conditions specified in sub-regulation (1) of this regulation as may be applicable.

**16. Grant or renewal of an installation permit.**

(1) The Committee may grant to an applicant a class of a permit specified in Column 1 of the Schedule, where the applicant possesses the qualification and experience in Columns 2 and 3 of the Schedule respectively.

(2) An applicant shall be required to furnish the Committee with evidence of on-the-job attachment with a permit holder or having worked under a permit holder for the period specified in the Schedule.

(3) The application for a permit by the company shall be accompanied by—

- (a) certified copy of the certificate of incorporation;
- (b) proof of at least two employees who are permit holders of class A or Class B;
- (c) proof of the ability to undertake electrical works; and
- (d) a copy of the trading licence in the names of the company.

(4) Any permit issued under these Regulations which is not renewed for two consecutive years without the written consent of the Committee shall be deemed to have been revoked and shall not be considered for renewal.

**17. Completion certificate.**

(1) A permit holder shall issue a completion certificate to an owner or manager of premises for installation undertaken by the permit holder.

(2) The completion certificate shall be in a format approved by the Committee and shall include information to indicate the tests carried out by the permit holder.

(3) An installation shall, after completion of any repair, alteration or addition and before it is connected to the electricity supply, be inspected, tested and certified by a permit holder in accordance with these Regulations.

(4) The licensee shall inspect and connect to electricity supply, premises whose installation has been carried out by a person with a valid permit.

(5) In the case of a repair, alteration or addition to an installation, only the affected parts of the installation need to be inspected and tested under these Regulations.

**18. Periodic testing and inspection of electrical installations.**

(1) All installations shall be periodically inspected and tested at intervals not exceeding five years.

(2) An owner or manager of premises shall ensure regular inspection and testing of the installation is conducted to ascertain that the installation is in good and safe condition.

(3) The owner or manager of premises shall engage the services of a permit holder to carry out periodic tests and inspections and shall be issued with an inspection certificate.

(4) The licensee shall issue a fourteen days defective installation notice to the owner or manager of any premises which is overdue for inspection.

(5) Where the owner or manager of any premises fails to comply with sub-regulation (4), supply shall be disconnected by the licensee until proof of an inspection certificate is provided.

(6) The inspection certificate shall be in a format prescribed by the Authority.

**19. Cancellation of permit**

(1) The Committee may at any time cancel a permit if it is satisfied that the permit holder has failed to comply with any conditions contained in these Regulations.

(2) In case of cancellation of a permit, the Committee shall request the permit holder concerned in writing, to appear in person or by representation, before the Committee and show cause why the Committee should not exercise its power under sub-regulation (1) of this regulation.

**20. Obtaining information**

In order to obtain any information and to carry out any inspection as provided under these Regulations, the licensee may, at its direction, request any person to carry out any such inspection or tests as it may require and to furnish a report of such inspection to the licensee.

**21. Information about installation**

A permit holder who completes or directs the completion of any electrical installation work which is to be connected to a supply system shall—

- (a) when such supply is to be delivered by a licensee under the Act, submit to the licensee a "Completion of Installation" report in a format prescribed by the Committee; and
- (b) in all other cases give information to a licensee under the Act, which information shall include the completion date and a summary of the work carried out.

**22. Discipline**

(1) A person issued with a permit under these Regulations shall exhibit a high degree of discipline in the performance of the persons work.

(2) A company issued with a permit under these Regulations shall ensure that its employees or agents exhibit a high degree of discipline in the performance of their work.

(3) A licensee shall monitor the professional performance of a permit holder under these Regulations and shall report any case of malpractices to the Authority.

(4) The Committee may, at any of its sittings consider any case reported under sub-regulation (2) and may, depending upon the gravity of the case, suspend a permit.

(5) The Committee may prescribe procedures for handling disciplinary matters.

### **23. Appeals**

A permit holder or any other person aggrieved by any action of the Committee concerning the refusal or cancellation of a permit may appeal in writing within fourteen days of the date of such refusal or cancellation to the Tribunal under the Act.

### **24. Compliance with standards**

All installations shall comply with these Regulations and the standards set under the Uganda National Bureau of Standards Act.

### **25. Offences and penalties.**

A person or company who—

- (a) undertakes or carries out any electrical installation work without being the holder of a permit required for the work undertaken or carried out or without being under the direction of a permit holder;
- (b) contravenes or fails to comply with any of the terms and conditions of any installation permit granted under these Regulations or who willfully gives false or misleading information in relation to electrical installation work;
- (c) submits or causes to be submitted to a licensee a completion certificate which a person, company or knows or has reason to believe that it contains false information;
- (d) undertakes or carries any electrical installation work while his or her company or any branch is not certified or while the permit of such a company is suspended or revoked;

- (e) undertakes or carries out, any electrical installation work except under the direction of a certified permit holder of a type appropriate to such work; or
- (f) being an owner or occupier of any premises or any developer or main contractor of any premises under construction, who causes or permits to be carried out upon the premises any electrical installation work in contravention of these Regulations;

commits an offence and is liable on conviction to pay a fine not exceeding two hundred currency points or imprisonment not exceeding twenty-four months or both.

**26. Offences by company.**

Where an offence under regulation 25 is committed by a company, the company and every officer of the company who knowingly and wilfully authorises or permits the contravention is liable for the offence.

**27. Fees**

The Committee shall with the approval of the Authority prescribe—

- (a) application fees to be paid by every applicant for an installation permit under these Regulations;
- (g) annual fees to be paid by individual holders of the different classes of permits; and
- (h) annual fees to be paid by a company.

**28. Revocation of SI. No. 19 of 2003**

The Electricity (Installation Permits) Regulations, 2003 are hereby revoked.

## SCHEDULE

*Regulation 16 (1)*

Academic or technical qualifications and other requirements for  
installation permit

Class	Qualification	Required experience
Class A-High voltage	At least a Bachelor of science in electrical engineering or its equivalent.	At least three years' experience under the supervision of a Class A holder and holder of Class B.
Class B-Medium voltage	At least a National High Diploma or National Diploma in electrical engineering or its equivalent.	At least two years' experience under the supervision of a Class A holder.
Class C-Low voltage not exceeding 415V	At least a Master craftsman certificate level III or craft certificate Part III or its equivalent.	At least two years of hands-on experience under the supervision of a Class A or B holder.
Class D-Low voltage not exceeding 240V	At least a workers pass, Level I or II craftsman certificates, non-formal training certificates or craft certificates part I and part II in electrical installations or its equivalent.	At least two years' experience under the supervision of a Class A, B, or C holder.
Class Z-Specialised fields	At least a certificate in electrical installation, below an advanced certificate in electrical installation craft or its equivalent.	At least one years' experience

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**Cross references**

1. The Electricity Act, Cap 145.
2. The Electricity (Installation Permits) Regulations, 2003, S.I. No. 19 of 2003.
3. The Uganda National Bureau of Standards, Cap. 327.

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