



An Coimisiún
um Rialáil Fóntas
**Commission for
Regulation of Utilities**

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Electrical Recognition Process - Essential Learning Outcomes of the Accepted Irish Professional Qualifications for entry to the REC Scheme

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS	2
1. BACKGROUND.....	3
2. ACCEPTED IRISH QUALIFICATIONS.....	4
3. ESSENTIAL LEARNING OUTCOMES.....	6
3.1 THE ELECTRICAL NATIONAL/ADVANCED CRAFT CERTIFICATE	6

Supporting CRU documentation

You must read this document in conjunction with the below:

- The Essential Learning Outcomes Document for the Accepted Irish Professional Qualifications.
- Electrical Recognition Process Application Form (International Qualifications) Registered Electrical Contractor Scheme.

1. Background

The Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) is the Competent Authority for electrical contractors in Ireland. The CRU carries out this function through the Registered Electrical Contractor (REC) statutory regulatory scheme. The CRU's regulatory objective with regard to the implementation and operation of the REC scheme ("the scheme") is to protect the safety interests of customers with respect to electrical works.

The statutory registration scheme is fundamental to the delivery of quality and accountability in the provision of electrical works in Ireland and ensures that members of the public availing of the services of RECs can be confident that they are properly regulated and qualified for the job.

The European Recognition of Professional Qualifications Directive 2005/36/EC¹ ("the Directive"), obliges the CRU to put in place a system of recognition for eligible persons with relevant non-Irish Member State² qualifications applying for registration to the scheme.

The Directive applies to nationals of 30 Member State countries³ but does not create any obstacle to recognising professional qualifications which have been obtained outside of these Member States. Once the recognition process **is fully in place for Member State qualifications**, the CRU has made the policy decision to make similar provision for applicants with relevant non-Member State qualifications.

Note: All applicants who hold professional qualification(s) gained outside the ROI must first have their qualification(s) recognised by the CRU's Panel of Experts ("the Panel") before a valid application for registration in the scheme can be made.

¹ [Directive 2005/36/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council.

² See paragraph (2) and (4) for the scope of the [S.I. No. 8/2017](#) - European Union (Recognition of Professional Qualifications) Regulations 2017.

³ The 27 Member States of the European Union and Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein. It must be noted that specific rules apply for Switzerland with regard to the recognition of professional qualifications.

2. Accepted Irish Qualifications

The Electrical Criteria Document , sets out how the REC scheme operates. The current qualification requirements to become a REC are as follows:

- a. The Electrical National/Advanced Craft Certificate Level 6 (NFQ).
And
- b. Verification and Certification (V&C) course or equivalent

The entry requirements to the scheme were decided in consultation with industry stakeholders. Requirements are set at a level to ensure scheme members have the appropriate training and knowledge to safely carry out the regulated electrical works.

The Advanced Craft Certificate is a four-year apprenticeship programme in ROI which prepares the participant for their specific occupation.

In August 2019, the CRU published a decision paper⁴ on the recognition processes for professional qualifications. The decision paper set out that the CRU would establish a Panel to review applications from people with relevant non-Irish professional qualifications.

Applicants will be required to fill out the application form with the relevant details relating to their qualification(s) and professional experience. The Panel will review the applications and assess if applicants have demonstrated an appropriate level of competence to become registered with the scheme.

The Panel will map each applicant's qualification(s) against the list of essential learning outcomes of the relevant accepted Irish qualification(s). If there are any substantial differences (deficits) between the applicant's qualification(s) and the essential learning outcomes, the Panel will assess if the applicant's professional work experience addresses these deficits. The Panel will then decide if compensation measures need to be applied, namely by either sitting an aptitude test or completing an adaptation period.

⁴ [CRU/19/094](#): Decision Paper on the Recognition Processes for Professional Qualifications for entry to the Safe Electric and RGI Schemes.

The CRU considers the following qualifications awarded outside of Ireland as relevant to the RGI scheme:

- Electrical qualification(s)

and/or

- Qualification(s) which have qualified you to practise as an electrician in the Member State where it was obtained/recognised.

Note: If you have any combination of the above qualifications, you should include them in your application.

Section 5 and 6 of the application form will allow you demonstrate that your work experience meets the essential learning outcomes of the relevant accepted Irish qualification(s). You must review which of the above qualification(s) you have and fill out the corresponding table(s).

Section 3 below sets out the essential learning outcomes for the accepted Irish qualifications, knowledge of which is essential in order to act as an REC within the scheme.

All applications to the electrical recognition process will be assessed against these essential learning outcomes. Applicants must demonstrate to the Panel that their relevant professional qualification(s) and work experience meets the relevant essential learning outcomes. Evidence must be provided as part of the recognition application process.

3. Essential Learning Outcomes

3.1 The Electrical National/Advanced Craft Certificate

No.	Electrical Advanced Craft Certificate - Essential Learning Outcomes
1	Demonstrate a specialised knowledge of a broad range of theoretical, conceptual and factual components and characteristics of the Electrical craft
2	Demonstrate a specialised knowledge and understanding of the principles, practices, tools and equipment necessary for the installation, maintenance, repair, testing and verification of Electrical systems
3	Demonstrate a comprehensive range of specialised electrical skills using equipment, test instruments, hand and power tools
4	Exercise appropriate judgement in planning, design, diagnostics and delivering services, installations and maintenance processes relating to Electrical Trade
5	Apply theoretical and technical know-how to install, inspect, diagnose, maintain, repair, test and verify electrical and electromechanical systems within the workplace
6	Demonstrate an ability to comply with statutory regulations governing the safety of personnel, plant, premises and the environment
7	Exercise substantial independence in the workplace, taking responsibility for Electrical duties performed by themselves and others, ensuring safe work practices and interacting with a variety of individuals and groups to include customers, colleagues and suppliers
8	Take initiative to identify and address self-development and training needs in an employment environment
9	Demonstrate an awareness of the function and role of the electrician in society to include an awareness of energy conservation and other relevant ecological concerns