



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

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Electrical Recognition Process for Eligible Persons under S.I. 8/2017 - Essential Learning Outcomes of the Accepted Irish Professional Qualifications for entry to the Safe Electric Scheme

Table of Contents

1. BACKGROUND	4
2. ACCEPTED IRISH QUALIFICATIONS.....	5
3. ESSENTIAL LEARNING OUTCOMES.....	8
3.1 THE ELECTRICAL NATIONAL/ADVANCED CRAFT CERTIFICATE.....	8

Supporting CRU documentation

You must read this document in conjunction with the below:

- **Guidance Notes** for the Electrical Recognition Process for International Qualifications for Eligible Persons under S.I. 8/2017– Safe Electric Scheme Electrical Recognition Process
- **Application Form** (International Qualifications) for Eligible Persons under S.I. 8/2017– Registered Electrical Contractor (REC) Safe Electric Scheme

1. Background

The Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) is the Competent Authority for regulating electrical contractors in the Republic of Ireland (ROI). The CRU regulates the activities of electrical contractors with respect to safety. The CRU carries out this function through a statutory regulatory scheme, known as the Safe Electric scheme. The CRU's regulatory objective, with regard to the implementation and operation of the Safe Electric scheme ("the scheme"), is to protect the safety interests of customers, primarily in a domestic setting, with respect to electrical works.

The statutory registration scheme is fundamental to the delivery of quality and accountability in the provision of regulated 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"), as transposed into Irish law by S.I. 8 of 2017 European Union (Recognition of Professional Qualifications) Regulations 2017, obliges the CRU to put in place a system of recognition for eligible persons with relevant qualifications from outside of the Republic of Ireland, applying for registration to the scheme to become a Qualified Certifier (QC). The Directive applies to nationals of Member State countries.²

Note: Applicants who hold professional qualification(s) gained outside the ROI and wish to become a Qualified Certifier (QC) must make an application for registration to the scheme through this recognition process for eligible persons to have their qualification(s) recognised by the CRU's Panel of Experts ("the Panel").

¹ [Directive 2005/36/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council, which was amended by the Directive [2013/55/EU](#)

² 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 carrying out of specified electrical works is a *regulated profession* in the ROI, therefore, anyone carrying out these electrical works must work for a Registered Electrical Contractor (REC) who is registered with the Safe Electric scheme. Each REC must have a Qualified Certifier (QC) who must be registered as a QC with the REC. The QC will certify the electrical works undertaken by the REC. If you plan to work for a REC, but do not wish to become a QC, you do not need to apply to the CRU to have your qualifications recognised. Similarly, you do not need to apply through this process if you plan to register as a REC but will employ a full-time QC who meets the requirements to join the scheme.

The Electrical Criteria Document sets out how the REC scheme operates. (known as the Safe Electric Scheme). The Electrical Criteria Document³, sets out how the REC scheme operates. The current qualification requirements for Applicants with an Irish qualification to **become appointed by a REC as their QC** 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 verify and certify 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. In June 2023, an Information Note was published alongside this document setting out changes since that decision paper was published. The 2019 decision paper, however, set out that the CRU would establish a Panel to review applications from people with relevant non-Irish professional qualifications. This Panel will continue to assess

³ The Electrical Criteria Document is subject to amendment from time to time. The [Criteria Document Version 3](#) was published by the CRU on 22 April 2016.

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

applications.

Applicants are required to fill out the application form with the relevant details relating to their qualification(s) and professional experience. You must provide an Attestation of Competence(s) to demonstrate your qualifications and/or work experience. The Expert Panel will review the applications and assess if Applicants have demonstrated an appropriate level of competence to be eligible to register as a QC with the scheme.

The Panel will use the information provided by each Applicant and review their application against the list of Essential Learning Outcomes/Key Understandings of the relevant accepted Irish qualification(s). Section 3 of this document (below) sets out the essential learning outcomes for the accepted Irish qualifications, knowledge of which is essential in order to act as a QC within the scheme. This assessment enables the Panel to determine whether you are qualified for the same profession as Qualified Certifier in Ireland. The Panel may be satisfied that the Applicant has sufficiently demonstrated their competence and the Applicant may then apply to join the Safe Electric Scheme.

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 to bridge any remaining substantial deficits, namely by providing Applicants with the opportunity to complete an aptitude test in the form of an interview or completing an Adaptation Period. Partial Access will also be considered as an appropriate outcome.

The application form provides you with the opportunity to voluntarily provide additional information demonstrating your qualifications and work experience meets the essential learning outcomes of the relevant accepted Irish qualification(s).

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

- Electrical qualification(s)

and/or

- Qualification(s) which have qualified you to practice as a Qualified Certifier in the Member State where it was obtained/recognised.

If you have any combination of the above qualifications, you should include them in your application (including expired qualifications).

All applications to the electrical recognition process will be assessed against these essential learning outcomes.

3. Essential Learning Outcomes

The Panel will assess Applicants against the following relevant categories:

3.1 Electrical

No.	Electrical- Essential Learning Outcomes- Key Understandings
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