



PUBLIC NOTICE

OBLIGATION TO REPORT ELECTRICAL INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS TO THE ECB

Licensees are required to report to the Electricity Control Board (ECB) electrical incidents and accidents as part of the licence conditions in the same manner they are required to report to the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation. Reporting to the ECB only applies to electricity related incidents and accidents and not any other type of incidents, accidents, health or safety issues and licensees still have to report them to the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation accordingly as the custodian of safety related matters in the country.

Part of the ECB's mandate is to exercise control over and regulate the provision, use and consumption of electricity in Namibia and all this must be done in a safe manner and this is how reporting to the ECB comes in. As soon as the licensee is aware of an electrical incident or accident in the respective area of jurisdiction, the licensee must send to the ECB a brief accident report that can even be just one page.

The detailed accident report must follow after thorough investigations are carried out and within 7 days from the time of the incident. The ECB can also send out a team to carry out its own investigations should it be deemed necessary. Licensees remain criminally liable for any criminal charges should there be negligence from their side and reporting to the ECB does not mean they are criminally pardoned.

Reporting of electrical incidents or accidents is guided by the Technical Rules promulgated in 2016. The Technical Rules are currently under review to enforce compliance and also to incorporate other changes brought about in the industry.

The ECB also just reviewed the Electricity Safety Code currently undergoing promulgation, which governs the minimum safety standards for the operating, maintenance, construction and installation of power systems in Namibia. If these two tools, the Technical Rules and the Safety Code, are applied appropriately, there should be minimal or even zero electrical incidents and accidents in the country. Everyone has the responsibility to ensure the safe use of electricity, and the ECB requests the general public to report suspicious or unsafe electricity installation or practices.

 No 35 Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab Street, Klein Windhoek.

Business Hours: Weekdays from 07:30 - 16:30

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