

From 30 April 2013 any person who distributes electricity for the purpose of giving a supply of electricity to any premises is required to be authorised by either a licence or exemption. It is important that those who are presently carrying out electricity distribution activities are aware of new statutory requirements and apply for a licence if they do not benefit from an exemption. Carrying out the activity without authorisation from 30 April 2013 will be a criminal offence.

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) consulted in October 2012 on the electricity distribution licensing exemptions which should apply in Northern Ireland.

If you are presently carrying out electricity distribution activities you are encouraged to:

- review the new statutory requirements (which are found in the Electricity (Northern Ireland) Order 1992 (as amended by in particular the Gas and Electricity (Internal Markets) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011), and
- read DETI's consultation (which can be accessed from <http://www.detini.gov.uk/energy-newpage-7>)

in order to determine whether you need to be authorised by licence or benefit from an exemption.

Any person carrying out electricity distribution activities and needing to be authorised by a licence will need to apply for that licence in accordance with the Electricity (Applications for Licences and Extensions of Licences) (No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007 (as amended including by the Gas and Electricity (Internal Markets) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011). Available at:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2011/155/schedule/2/made>

That application must be made to the Utility Regulator, as we are the body empowered to grant all electricity licences, including electricity distribution licences.

We are currently working on the conditions that are likely to be included in a 'standard' electricity distribution licence and will be publishing a draft of that standard licence on our web-site shortly.

If you are likely to require authorisation by licence on 30 April 2013 you are strongly encouraged to submit any application at the earliest opportunity.

We are not able to advise on whether any person is subject to the licensing requirement or benefits from an exemption. If you are unsure about the answer to that question in your case, you will need to seek legal advice.

We are, however, willing to discuss and advise on the process that needs to be followed in order to apply for and obtain an electricity distribution licence.

Please contact Albert Shaw on 02890316322 or by Albert.Shaw@uregni.gov.uk if you would like any further information on any of the above.