

Do you want to be a registered cabler?

A guide for prospective telecommunications cablers

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Who is this document for?

This document is intended for anyone interested in becoming a registered cabler. If you are going to be working in the telecommunications industry and installing, connecting, maintaining or repairing telecommunications customer cabling that will connect or is intended to connect to a telecommunications carrier's network, you need to read this document.

If you are new to the industry and have no qualifications or experience we advise that you read the entire document from: *Getting started*.

Applicants with prior cabling experience such as electricians or those who have been working in telecommunications or the IT sector may choose to begin reading at: *Step 2: Completing the appropriate training*.

Applicants in these industries may have their previous practical cabling experience recognised and used to fulfil the **practical cabling work** component of the cabling registration. There is still a requirement to complete the **theoretical training component**, including passing an examination, to obtain a cabling registration. It is recommended that you contact a Registered Training Organisation (RTOs) for advice on any additional gap training you may require for the registration being sought.

A list of RTOs in Australia is available [here](#).

Getting started

If you are planning to connect, install, repair or maintain telecommunications **customer cabling** that is connected or is intended to be connected to a telecommunications network (for example, cabling in residential, commercial or industrial premises), it is a legal requirement that you are an appropriately registered cabler or someone who is directly supervised by an appropriately registered cabler.

To become a registered cabler you must meet certain mandatory training and practical experience requirements.

If you are working in the fire, security and data cabling industries and are installing, repairing or maintaining telecommunications customer cabling you are also required to hold a cabling registration.

This document outlines three steps towards becoming a registered cabler:

1. Decide which type of cabling work you will be undertaking—this determines the type of registration you will require.
2. Complete the appropriate training through an RTO for that registration type.
3. Register with one of the five registrars accredited by the ACMA. Your chosen registrar will issue you with a cabling registration once you have completed the appropriate training.

These steps are explained in more detail on the following pages.

For more information regarding the cabling registration process, please contact an [ACMA-accredited registrar](#).

There is also information about cabling on the ACMA website at www.acma.gov.au.

You can also contact the ACMA by:

T 1300 850 115

E info@acma.gov.au

Customer cabling is defined in the [Telecommunications Act 1997](#) as being a line (cabling) that is used, installed ready for use or intended for use on the customer side of the boundary of a telecommunications network.

Step 1: The type of cabling work you will be undertaking determines the registration type you will require

The registration type you require will depend on the type of cabling work you will be undertaking.

There are three types of cabling work:

- > restricted cabling work
- > open cabling work
- > lift cabling work.

These categories of cabling work are defined in the [Telecommunications Cabling Provider Rules 2014](#) (the CPRs). There are corresponding registrations (restricted, open, lift) available that authorise cablers to complete these types of cabling work. There are also additional competencies (previously known as endorsements) that are required if you will be undertaking any **specialised cabling work**.

You must hold the appropriate cabling registration, or be directly supervised by the holder of the appropriate cabling registration, if you intend to undertake any work on customer cabling.

A cabling registration does not allow the cabler to undertake any work on the telecommunications network cabling belonging to a carrier without specific permission from that carrier to do so.

Specialised cabling work is any installation, maintenance or repair work that involves any of the following:

- > broadband (data or co-axial cable in a lift or the home/small office environment)
- > structured (for example, data cable Cat 5/6)
- > optical-fibre cable
- > co-axial cable
- > aerial cable
- > underground cable.

Restricted cabling work

Restricted cabling work, as the name implies, allows you to perform a restricted range of residential and small business cabling work.

To be able to undertake cabling work in this category, you will need a restricted registration from an ACMA-accredited registrar. To be eligible for a restricted cabling registration, you will need to have completed:

- > suitable training from a registered training organisation (RTO)
- > 80 hours of practical cabling work whilst under supervision from a registered cabler.

In addition to your restricted registration, if you will be undertaking any cabling work involving data or co-axial customer cabling, you will be required to do additional training with an RTO to obtain the specialist broadband competency. You are only required to have the broadband competency if you are actually undertaking that type of work.

The registrar will grant you a restricted registration following the satisfactory completion of:

1. An appropriate restricted cabling course (the course will include suitable training to conduct limited underground and aerial cabling and a test involving 30 questions on mandatory cabling practices (required 80 per cent pass mark).
2. A declaration that you have completed a minimum of 80 hours of practical cabling work under the supervision of a registered cabler.

A declaration may be provided by way of either a:

- > suitable recognised industry qualification involving cabling practices (for example, an electrical trade qualification held by a licensed electrician)
- > statutory declaration signed by the candidate in the presence of an authorised witness setting out the details of the candidate's experience
- > detailed log book of cabling experience showing dates and types of work
- > signed statement detailing the candidate's experience by an employer or a registered cabler who has directly supervised the candidate.

The following are examples of cabling work that you can perform as a restricted cabler (subject to having completed the broadband competency).

Examples:

- > Extensions or new installations in domestic premises.
- > Cabling work connected behind an alarm panel or modem (but not via a jumperable distributor, a jumperable frame or a patch panel).
- > Cabling work connected directly behind a Customer Switching System (but not via a jumperable distributor, a jumperable frame or a patch panel).
- > Cabling work for additional phone points (other than the first point) in a commercial, high rise or multi-storey building, if the service involved is a standard telephone service (but not via a jumperable distributor, a jumperable frame or a patch panel).
- > Cabling work for a home automation system (but not via a jumperable distributor, a jumperable frame or a patch panel).

Open cabling work

Open cabling work includes all types of residential, commercial and industrial premises customer cabling work.¹

To be able to undertake cabling work in this category, you will need an open registration from an ACMA-accredited registrar. To be eligible for an open cabling registration, you will need to have completed:

- > suitable training from a registered training organisation (RTO)
- > 360 hours of practical cabling work.

In addition to your open registration, if you are undertaking specialised cabling work (structured, aerial, underground, optical fibre or coaxial), you will need additional training with an RTO to obtain a competency (s) for the relevant specialised cabling work. You are only required to have competency (s) in specialised cabling if you are actually undertaking that type of work.

The registrar will grant you an open registration following the satisfactory completion of:

1. An appropriate open cabling course (the course will include a test involving 50 mandatory cabling practices questions that you must complete with at least an 80 per cent pass mark).
2. A declaration that you have completed a minimum of 360 hours of practical cabling work experience.

The following are examples of cabling work that you can perform as an open registered cabler (subject to having the appropriate endorsements or specialist competencies).

Examples:

- > Cabling work including structured, coaxial, optical fibre, aerial and underground cabling work on private and public property in which the customer cabling terminates at the network boundary on a socket, network termination device or a distributor/patch panel.
- > Cabling work in a building where the electrical power exceeds 230 V ac for single-phase and 400 V ac for three-phase:
- > Cabling work that requires the sharing of the cable sheath with other services.

Lift cabling work

Lift cabling work allows you to install, repair or maintain cabling for lift installations only beyond a cross connection point adjacent to the lift motor room. Registration in this category is only available if you are already a qualified electrician or an electrical tradesperson with a Cert 3 in Electrical or equivalent.

Registrars will grant a lift registration to a suitably qualified electrical tradesperson following the successful completion of an appropriate lift cabling course.

If you intend to undertake data or co-axial cabling in the lift environment, you must also complete the relevant broadband competency training.

¹ Although an open registration allows the cabler to conduct all types of telecommunications customer cabling work, cablers seeking to work in the lift industry may be required by their employers to also have a lift cabling registration.

As the lift cabling registration requires you to initially hold an electrical trade qualification, you are deemed to have already met the minimum number of hours of cabling work experience and therefore no declaration of cabling work experience is required.

More information

The *Pathways to ACMA Cabling Provider Rules—Cabling registration* document provides additional information including training pathways on becoming a registered cabling provider. The Pathways document can be found on the ACMA website at: www.acma.gov.au.

Step 2: Completing the appropriate training

The training that you are required to undertake to become a registered cabler will depend on:

- > the type of registration you are seeking
- > your level of previous experience and training
- > the qualifications you hold.

Restricted and open customer cabling training typically includes:

- > occupational health and safety
- > the regulatory framework, which covers the telecommunications Wiring Rules
- > basic telephony
- > cabling installation practices for domestic work
- > basic electrical fundamentals and principles
- > workplace experience or practice.

A Registered Training Organisation (RTO) will be able to assist you to determine the appropriate training and optimal pathway to enable you to meet the mandatory requirements for the particular registration type being sought.

Recognition of prior learning and previous cabling experience may be available but must be assessed by a registered assessor or an RTO assessor. RTO assessors can advise you on any outstanding training requirements.

The list of RTOs around Australia is available [here](#).

Step 3: Applying for a cabling registration

After you have completed the appropriate training for the type of cabling registration you have selected, you can apply for a cabling registration from any one of the five [ACMA-accredited registrars](#).

Existing holders of cabling registrations wishing to add specialist competencies (or previous endorsements) to their registration should contact their registrar, provide proof of having completed the necessary training and have the registrar add the competency (or endorsement) to their registration.

ACMA-accredited registrars

The registrars are (in alphabetical order):

- > Australian Cabler Registration Service (ACRS)
- > Australian Security Industry Association Limited (ASIAL)
- > BICSI Registered Cablers Australia Pty Ltd (BRCA)
- > Fire Protection Association Australia (FPA Australia)
- > TITAB Australia Cabler Registry Service (TITAB ACRS).

How much does registration cost?

Each registrar sets its own registration fees. Contact each registrar directly to enquire about registration fees.

Information sources

Australian Communications and Media Authority

To seek technical clarification on the Wiring Rules, other technical standards or the Cabling Provider Rules, please contact the ACMA on 1300 850 115 or email info@acma.gov.au.

Registrars

Registrars can provide advice on the administrative process for applying for a cabling registration.

Current registration holders should contact their registrar to advise changes of address.

Australian Cabler Registration Service (ACRS)

T 1300 667 771
E enquiries@acrs.com.au
www.acrs.com.au

Australian Security Industry Association Limited (ASIAL)

T 1300 127 425
E cabling@asial.com.au
www.asial.com.au

BICSI Registered Cablers Australia Pty Ltd (BRCA)

T 1800 306 444
E info@brca.asn.au
www.brca.asn.au

Fire Protection Association Australia (FPA Australia)

T 1300 731 922
E cpr@fpaa.com.au
www.fpaa.com.au

TITAB Australia Cabler Registry Service (TITAB ACRS)

T 03 9349 4955
E info@titab.com.au
www.titab.com.au

National industry training advisory bodies

The following National Industry Training Advisory Bodies (ITABs) can provide advice on training pathways and the availability of regional training organisations in your local area.

Ee-Oz Training Standards

T 02 6241 2155
E ee-oz@ee-oz.com.au
www.ee-oz.com.au

Innovation & Business Skills Australia

T 03 9815 7000
E reception@ibsa.org.au
www.ibsa.org.au