



# LEGAL CIRCUIT

Wired to Code. Bound by Law

Independent Electrical Forensic | Compliance | Liability Consultant

LC-001

June 2026

## Electrical Compliance, Safety, and Liability

Most electrical incidents do not begin with a catastrophic failure. More often, they arise from small defects, overlooked compliance issues, undocumented alterations, poor workmanship, or inadequate maintenance. When an electrical incident occurs, three questions usually follow:

### Compliance

Did the installation comply with applicable standards, regulations, and safety requirements?

### Safety

Were people, property, and assets adequately protected from harm?

### Liability

Who may be responsible for the failure, loss, or resulting damage?

These questions are connected, but they are not the same.

An installation may have complied when first constructed, but later become unsafe due to deterioration, damage, alteration, environmental conditions, or inadequate maintenance. Likewise, compliance documents do not always resolve questions of responsibility after an incident. Independent electrical investigations help establish what happened, why it happened, whether compliance issues exist, and what action may be required. Early identification of risk can reduce disputes, regulatory exposure, property damage, business interruption, and personal injury.

## Key points

Electrical incidents are rarely explained by compliance alone. Safety, liability, and the underlying technical facts must be considered together.

### Prepared by

Victor Saifi  
NZ Registered Electrical Engineer | Electrical Inspector | Lawyer

### Legal Circuit

*Wired to Code. Bound by Law.*  
[www.legalcircuit.co.nz](http://www.legalcircuit.co.nz)

### Disclaimer

This briefing provides general information only. It does not constitute legal, engineering, or professional advice. Each matter should be assessed on its own facts, merits, and circumstances.