

Electrical Drafter interview questions

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What to expect

Interviews for Electrical Drafter roles typically assess your technical drawing skills, knowledge of Australian Standards, and ability to communicate with engineers and project teams. You may be asked to complete a practical CAD test or discuss your portfolio.

- **Technical:** Questions about electrical systems, standards, and drafting practices.
- **Software:** Questions about CAD software and workflow.
- **Behavioural:** Questions about past experiences, teamwork, and problem-solving.
- **Scenario:** Hypothetical situations about design conflicts or site issues.
- **Compliance:** Questions about keeping up with standards and regulations.
- **Coordination:** Questions about working with engineers and electricians.

The interview usually starts with introductions and a discussion of your background. Then the interviewer will ask a mix of technical and behavioural questions, often including a scenario or two. You may be asked to complete a short CAD test or walk through a sample drawing. Finally, you will have the chance to ask questions about the role and the team.

1. Can you walk me through how you ensure your electrical drawings comply with AS/NZS 3000?

Why they ask

To assess your technical knowledge of the standard and your attention to detail in applying it.

How to structure your answer

Use a step-by-step walk-through. Start by explaining how you review the standard, then describe your drafting process, and finish with how you verify compliance before issue.

Example answer

"In my previous role, I would start by reviewing the project specifications and identifying the relevant sections of AS/NZS 3000. For example, for a commercial fit-out, I would check the requirements for electrical installations, including cable sizing and protection. As I drafted, I would cross-reference the standard, often using the AS/NZS 3000 handbook and online resources. After completing the drawings, I would run a compliance check, either manually or using an internal checklist, and then have a senior engineer review the drawings. This process helped me catch issues early, such as incorrect circuit protection, before they went to site."

2. What CAD software are you proficient in, and how do you manage version control and collaboration?

Why they ask

To assess your tool proficiency and your workflow for working in a team.

How to structure your answer

List the software you use, then describe your version control and collaboration practices, giving specific examples.

Example answer

"I am proficient in AutoCAD Electrical, Revit MEP, and MicroStation. In my last project, we used AutoCAD Electrical for all schematics. I would save files to a central server with a strict naming convention that included the project number, drawing type, and revision. For collaboration, I used Bluebeam Revu to mark up and review drawings, and I would update the drawing register in Excel."

When changes were made, I would issue revised drawings to the team via a shared folder and notify the relevant engineers and electricians. This ensured everyone was working from the latest version and reduced confusion on site."

3. Tell me about a time when you had to update drawings due to a design change. How did you manage the process?

Why they ask

To assess your adaptability and attention to detail when handling changes.

How to structure your answer

Use the STAR method: describe the situation, task, action, and result.

Example answer

"On a hospital project, the engineer changed the switchboard layout after the initial drawings were issued. I was responsible for updating all affected schematics and cable schedules. I first reviewed the change, then identified all drawings that needed revision. I used our drawing register to track the updates and set a priority order. I worked closely with the engineer to confirm the new layout and then updated the drawings in AutoCAD Electrical. I also issued a change note to the site team. As a result, the updated drawings were issued within two days, and the site team could proceed without delay."

4. You notice a discrepancy between the engineer's sketch and site conditions. What do you do?

Why they ask

To assess your problem-solving and communication skills under pressure.

How to structure your answer

Describe your immediate steps, how you escalate, and how you resolve the issue.

Example answer

"First, I would document the discrepancy by taking photos and noting the exact location and details. Then I would review the engineer's sketch and the site conditions to understand the difference. I would not proceed with drafting until I had clarification. I would contact the engineer and the site supervisor to discuss the issue, providing my findings. If necessary, I would arrange a site meeting to resolve it. Once a decision is made, I would update the drawings and issue a revised version. This approach ensures accuracy and avoids rework."

5. How do you keep up to date with changes to Australian Standards relevant to electrical drafting?

Why they ask

To assess your commitment to professional development and compliance.

How to structure your answer

Describe your sources and habits, such as subscribing to updates, attending training, or networking.

Example answer

"I subscribe to Standards Australia updates and regularly check the AS/NZS 3000 amendments. I also attend industry webinars and workshops, and I am a member of a professional drafting group where we discuss changes. In my last role, I set up a monthly review of standards with the engineering team to ensure our drawings were current. This helped us stay compliant and avoid costly mistakes."

6. Describe how you coordinate with engineers and electricians to resolve design issues.

Why they ask

To assess your teamwork and communication skills.

How to structure your answer

Give a specific example, focusing on how you collaborated and the outcome.

Example answer

"On a recent industrial project, I coordinated with the engineer and the electrician to resolve a cable routing conflict. The electrician found that the proposed route clashed with existing services. I organised a meeting with both parties, and we reviewed the drawings and site conditions together. I then updated the drawings to reflect the agreed alternative route. This collaboration avoided a delay and ensured the installation could proceed smoothly. I always make sure to keep communication open and document decisions so everyone is on the same page."