

Electrician – Panel Builder

Department	Electrical
Reports To	Electrical Manager
Location	Grange, Co. Sligo, Ireland (weekend overtime work required)
Contract Type	Permanent, Full-Time

ROLE OVERVIEW

The Panel Builder is responsible for the assembly, wiring, and testing of bespoke electrical control panels and switchgear to SF Engineering's design standards. Working within the electrical workshop, this role requires a high level of precision, craftsmanship, and adherence to engineering drawings and specifications. Panels built by this team are central components of SF Engineering's food production line solutions and must meet stringent quality, safety, and reliability standards.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Build and wire bespoke electrical control panels, motor control centres (MCCs), and distribution boards in accordance with engineering drawings and wiring diagrams.
- Install and terminate electrical components including contactors, relays, circuit breakers, drives (VSDs), PLCs, HMIs, and associated control equipment.
- Carry out point-to-point continuity testing, insulation resistance testing, and functional testing of completed panels.
- Identify and report discrepancies between drawings and physical build; liaise with the engineering team to resolve any design queries.
- Maintain a clean, organised, and safe workshop environment at all times.
- Complete build documentation, test records, and quality sign-off sheets accurately.
- Support Factory Acceptance Testing (FAT) with customers and engineering staff.
- Assist with improvements to panel build processes, tooling, and material management.
- Work to production schedules and flag any concerns that may impact delivery timelines.
- Support and mentor apprentices or less experienced panel builders where required.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Recognised electrical qualification: City & Guilds 2360/2330, NVQ Level 3 in Electrical Installation, or equivalent (UK); FETAC/QQI Level 6 in Electrical Studies or equivalent (Ireland).
- Demonstrable experience in electrical panel building within a manufacturing or industrial environment.
- Ability to read and work from electrical schematics, wiring diagrams, and panel layout drawings.
- Competent in the use of hand tools, power tools, and test equipment (multimeter, insulation tester, loop tester).
- Strong attention to detail and commitment to build quality and workmanship.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Experience building panels for the food processing, pharmaceutical, or industrial automation sectors.
- Familiarity with PLC hardware (Siemens S7, Allen-Bradley, or similar) and VSD installation.
- Knowledge of UL508A or IEC 61439 panel construction standards.
- Experience with cable management systems, trunking installation, and gland terminations.
- 18th Edition Wiring Regulations (BS 7671) awareness or certification.
- Degree or HND/HNC in Electrical Engineering, Mechatronic or a related discipline, or equivalent trade industry experience.

TECHNICAL COMPETENCIES

- Panel assembly techniques including DIN rail mounting, cable trunking, and component layout.
- Termination of control and power cables including ferrule crimping and ring terminal application.
- Installation and wiring of PLCs, I/O modules, drives, safety relays, and HMIs.
- Electrical test equipment: insulation resistance tester, continuity tester, multimeter, loop impedance tester.
- Understanding of IP ratings, enclosure standards, and panel construction regulations.
- Reading and interpreting EPLAN and AutoCAD Electrical schematics.

SAFETY & COMPLIANCE

- Full compliance with workshop health and safety procedures and Safe Systems of Work.
- Safe isolation of electrical systems before commencing any work, using lock-off/tag-out procedures.
- Correct and consistent use of PPE including safety footwear, eye protection, and insulated tools.
- Adherence to manual handling guidelines when lifting panels and heavy components.
- Awareness of electrical hazards and reporting of unsafe conditions or near-misses immediately.
- Compliance with the Electricity at Work Regulations 1989 (UK) / Electricity Regulations 1972 (Ireland).

PHYSICAL & WORK ENVIRONMENT REQUIREMENTS

- Workshop-based role in a controlled indoor environment.
- Standing for extended periods and working at a workbench for the majority of the shift.
- Manual handling of panels, cable drums, and electrical components — weights can vary significantly.
- Use of hand and power tools in a workshop setting with noise exposure where appropriate PPE is required.
- Occasional travel to site for panel installation support or FAT attendance.
- Standard working hours with overtime available and sometimes required to meet project deadlines.