



## Electricity Industry Bulletin No: 45 December 2001

### **ATTENTION COMPANY MANAGERS**

**Please ensure your nominated manager and electricians see this circular.**

### **1. NEW, REVISED AND AUGMENTED REGULATIONS**

The Electricity Industry Safety and Administration Amendment Regulations 2001 were made by the Governor-in-Council on 28 November 2001. These improved Regulations will:

- allow contractors to apply for their licences with proof that they have their public liability insurance cover into, for or beyond the period of their licence. This means that the insurance no longer has to cover the full period of their licence at time of application as earlier required
- allow Electricity Standards and Safety (ESS) to have the right to request contractors to prove that they have insurance coverage at anytime during a licence period
- require electrical technicians and contractors to notify ESS in writing of changes in their particulars (name, address, telephone, facsimile, and email changes or new details)

Contractors should tell their employees about these developments so that everyone is fully aware. Remember to update any changes on your register of electrical workers.

These Regulations may be purchased in full from the Printing Authority of Tasmania or free via our website (<http://www.wsa.tas.gov.au/ess/electric.htm>)



### **2. CONDITIONS IMPOSED ON LICENCES**

Conditions have recently been imposed on the licences of three electrical technicians as a result of their defective and substandard electrical work.

Imposing conditions is one way of handling unsatisfactory workmanship instead of prosecuting the licensee in court or using other formal disciplinary powers in the Act.

Conditions will be considered where a pattern of poor workmanship or declining standards of work is present or becoming apparent and will only be imposed, at this stage, with the consent of the licensee.

The conditions imposed so far have involved retraining, at the licensee's expense, in areas where the licensee made mistakes. Retraining is provided by attendance at TAFE or, under TAFE supervision, by private tuition or by assignments.

Time limits for the completion of the retraining are imposed. Quarterly reporting of progress backed up by TAFE documents is required.

For as long as the conditions are in place, electrical technicians with conditions on their licence are required to inform their employer of the conditions.

Conditions can be imposed on the licences of electrical technicians and contractors.

The power to impose conditions exists under section 33(2) of the *Electricity Industry Safety and Administration Act 1997* (the "Act").

The failure to comply with conditions is an offence (maximum fine \$10,000).

### 3. PROSECUTION



The office of Electricity Standards *and* Safety has had another successful prosecution for unlicensed electrical work.

After an anonymous tip off, ESS coordinated the investigation of the reported electrical work by Mr. Darren Ian Scolyer (aged 38) of 11 Cotton Street Wynyard.

Mr. Scolyer was subsequently charged by ESS with three instances of unlicensed electrical work at his home during August 2001.

Mr. Scolyer pleaded guilty to all counts in the Burnie Magistrates Court on 13 November 2001.

Mr. Scolyer was convicted and fined a global penalty of \$150 with court costs of an extra \$36.65.

ESS relied on the ground work of an Aurora Energy Compliance Inspector that led to Mr. Scolyer's subsequent confession and conviction.



#### **SWEDA Brand 4 and 6 outlet power boards**

Model No AP0662E, AP1654Y.

These power boards do not meet the requirements of the relevant electrical safety standard.

Return to store of purchase for a full refund  
Or contact Mayvic Pty LTD 02 9550 1166

#### **Compaq AC Adaptor**

Supplied with certain models of Armada notebook computers

AC adaptor model PPP003, PPP003SD and PP2012.

The adaptor can overheat posing a potential fire hazard.

Customers should discontinue using the AC adaptor and contact:

**Compaq** on 1800 252 277

# Website Updates

<http://www.wsa.tas.gov.au/ess/electric.htm>

Our website has been designed to be user friendly, but if you have any difficulties with it or have any ideas to improve it, please contact Tina on 6233 7851 or email her on [tina.eyre@dier.tas.gov.au](mailto:tina.eyre@dier.tas.gov.au)

### **New fee calculator tool for electricians**

To enable persons to calculate the correct payment required when making an application for an electrician's licence, we have developed a new on-line calculator tool. It cannot be used for electrical contractor applications at this stage.

The tool has been designed to make it easy for anyone wishing to renew (including late renewals) or apply for a new licence to calculate the correct payment to enclose with the application.

Simply choose the category in which the first letter of your surname begins and click the check box for new or renewal and the rest is done for you.

Check it out at:

<http://www.wsa.tas.gov.au/ess/licens.htm>

### **What's coming up?**

This section is regularly updated with new information, advice on new standards, seminars and other useful info. Check it out occasionally to see what's new.

### **Product recalls**

Keep your customers in mind and have a list of the latest product recalls available. They can be viewed on our website.



**Did you know that you can download all licence application forms and relevant licensing information from our website?**

#### 4. NEW STANDARDS, REVISIONS AND AMENDMENTS

- AS/NZS 3018:2001 "Electrical installations - Domestic installations"
- AS/NZS 3017:2001 "Electrical installations - Testing and inspection guidelines"
- A list of Frequently Asked Questions regarding the AS/NZS 3000:2001 wiring rules (like the old rulings) is out now on Standard Australia web site: [www.wiringrules.com](http://www.wiringrules.com)
- **HB 300:2001 - Guide to using the Wiring Rules**

Standards Australia recently released HB 300:2001 for those who design, select, install and test electrical installations. The guide includes many explanations, diagrams and examples to assist in understanding the performance based requirements and principals of the 2000 edition.

If you are having difficulty interpreting some of the new rules then this handbook is well worth a read.

- **Amendment 1 to the Wiring Rules**

Major changes include:

1. The nominal voltage in Australia is now 230V/400V +10% -6%.

This has been changed to more closely align internationally and be in accordance with AS 60038.

These 230V/400V values are now to be used for all calculations in accordance with the Wiring Rules and any other associated standards.

2. Section 7 has had many of the rules and drawings revised to include the re-zoning of wet areas. Of particular note is that the height of zones above wet areas now revert back to the 1991 requirement, extending to 2.5 m or ceiling height, whichever is the lower and also amendments to the zoning to permit standard socket outlets in some zones under specific conditions.

Amendments are available free of charge from Standards Australia from either their office or downloaded from their website ([www.standards.com.au](http://www.standards.com.au)). Make sure you obtain a copy and insert it in your Wiring Rules now.

#### 5. ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION TESTING AUDIT

Electricity Standards and Safety has now commenced the electrical installation testing audit, as previously reported in bulletin 43. Electrical technicians from various sections of the industry have assisted in the audit.

Mixed results have been recorded with deficiencies found in the methods used to test an installation and misinterpretation of readings from testing equipment.

At completion of the audit program an evaluation will take place and recommendations will be forwarded to the Chief Electrical Inspector.



*Electricity Safety Officer, Tony Millhouse and Earle Patman of Sackett Services participating in the installation testing audit.*

#### 6. ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF SUPPLY

Work on an electrical installation connected to a stand alone alternative source of supply, is electrical work. Such installations include mini hydro schemes, wind or solar systems and an installation intended to be connected to combustion driven generators. Work on these types of installations must meet all legislative requirements including compliance with the Wiring Rules (including associated standards) and Aurora Energy's requirements for the notification of work performed (EIN).

Should you be required to install a combination system comprising of an alternative supply and Aurora Energy supply, Aurora Energy must be consulted.



## 7. AS/NZS 3820:1998 ESSENTIAL SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR LOW VOLTAGE ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT.

This standard sets out the requirements for low voltage electrical equipment, to ensure that electrical equipment is constructed in accordance with good engineering practise in regard to safety such that it does not endanger the safety of persons (particularly children, the elderly and people with disabilities), domestic animals or property, when properly installed and maintained and used in applications for which it was made.

The objective of this standard is to provide a set of outcome-oriented criteria for the safety of electrical equipment, primarily for use by electrical regulators in relation to products for which regulatory approval before sale is not required.

Electricity Regulators in all Australian jurisdictions are currently in the process of calling up this standard in legislation.

## 8. SEPARATION FROM GAS PIPES

The Dangerous Goods Regulations 1998 calls up AS/NZS 1596 Storage and handling of LP gas, which in turn refers to AS 5601 Gas installations.

This standard states that:

25mm distance must be maintained between any above ground gas line carrying LP gas and any metallic conduit, metallic armouring of a cable or earthing electrode.

Gas piping must not be used to support electrical cables or conduits, eg. TPS cabled to a gas pipe.

Separation between underground gas and electrical services shall be at least 100mm if the electrical conduit or cable is mechanically protected by suitable bricks or concrete slabs and continuous orange marker tape. The separation distance shall be at least 300mm, if the cable or conduit is not mechanically protected as above.

For electrical installations where the system voltage does not exceed 1000 volts, a separation distance of at least 500mm must be maintained between an earth electrode and underground gas pipes.

## 9. RCDs, OTHER ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS

Clause 2.5.3.3 of the Wiring Rules requires RCD protection on socket outlets not exceeding 20 A where there is an increased risk of electric shock. This clause lists some factors that may represent an increased risk of electric shock.

To expand on those listed it is considered that

- (a) Environmental conditions would include any socket outlet not exceeding 20 A in areas designed to be wet or hosed down, installed outside or for the supply to equipment intended to be used outside.
- (b) Type of equipment to be used, includes any socket outlet not exceeding 20 A that is not installed specifically for the purpose of fixed wired stationary, double insulated equipment.
- (c) Method of use, an outlet installed for equipment, the use of which is likely to create wear and tear on leads or equipment, including hand held power tools, outlets for cleaners using polishers and vacuum cleaners or the like.
- (d) Type of electrical installation and nature of processes being conducted in an area would include; workshops (joinery, mechanics, fitting and turning etc), industrial site work areas and processing areas where there is an increased risk of electric shock.

If RCDs are not installed, be prepared to explain why not!



### Office Hours over Festive Season:

Closed from 3pm  
Monday 24th December

Re-open 9am Tuesday 2nd January

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