



Electricity Industry Bulletin No: 54 May 2004

FOR THE ATTENTION OF ALL ELECTRICAL WORKERS

1. COLOUR CONFUSION AND CABLE IDENTIFICATION

An employer's duty of care extends to making sure a worker can correctly identify cable colours. Do you check that your workers are able to identify colours correctly? Recently, the issue of colour confusion within the electrical industry was raised with the Electrical Licensing Board (the Board) for consideration and advice. The Board recommends the following as a guide to colour confusion (generally known as 'colour blindness').

Colour confusion in the electrical industry has the potential to lead to dangerous situations, both for the electrical worker and for the consumer. From a licensing point of view, it raises questions regarding:

- the suitability of a candidate for work in the industry, and for the granting of an occupational licence
- the duty of care to ensure the promotion of safety for the electrical worker and the general community when issuing a licence.

Following its consideration of these questions from a Tasmanian and national licensing perspective, the Board has issued the following comments to help people already working in the industry, and anyone considering entering the industry.

Before starting training, all new electrical trainees should undertake a cable colour identification test for colour confusion, using the designated and industry-critical colours of red, green, green/yellow, black and light blue from *Table 3.5 Colours of cable cores* of AS/NZS 3000:2000 (Wiring Rules). If a colour deficiency is identified, the trainee must see a medical practitioner or certified optometrist for further tests to work out if their colour confusion can be managed. For example, their colour confusion may be managed by introducing improved lighting, using a colour chart, separating cores or comparing with known conductors.

If the colour confusion can be managed, the trainee can be accepted into training, the condition and management method noted on their training record, and in the case of group training, all host employers notified. If no suitable outcome is available the trainee should be counselled to seek an alternative traineeship that doesn't have the same requirements. A person unable to manage their colour confusion should not progress in the industry for safety reasons.

In considering an application for a licence, the Regulator requires information about the applicant's qualifications and experience in carrying out electrical work and any other information relevant to the applicant's capacity and fitness to carry out electrical work of the relevant class or classes.

Information on colour confusion would be considered relevant to the applicant's capacity and fitness to carry out electrical work. However, where there is evidence that it has not affected their ability to perform work to the appropriate standard and level of safety, including under managed conditions, the condition would not automatically stop a successful licensing outcome.

It is strongly recommended that all efforts are made to ensure a person who has unmanageable colour confusion is identified at a very early stage, and counselled to seek a course that doesn't lead to them becoming a licensed electrical technician. Employers have a responsibility to ensure that electrical workers can adequately perform the tasks assigned to them, and that trainees are able to achieve the contractual outcome intended. Guidelines available on the ESS website.

2. AURORA AND ESS ALLIANCE AGREEMENT



The renewal of the alliance and service level agreement between Electricity Standards and Safety (ESS) and Aurora Energy furthers the commitment of these two organisations to work together in the interests of electrical safety. The revised agreement was signed on 8 April 2004 by the Delegate of the Regulator Steve Hyam and the Manager of Contract Services, Aurora Energy, Russell Scott.

The agreement builds on the existing arrangement between Aurora and ESS that has operated since the safety regulatory requirements were moved from the then Hydro Electric Commission to the State Government some time ago.

A framework for co-operation between the two parties is achieved on two levels:

1. The Memorandum of Alliance established the way in which ESS, Aurora Energy and Aurora Services work together to promote and further electrical safety through joint effort and promote electrical installation standards to minimise public risk
2. The Service Level Agreement identifies the roles and responsibilities for electrical inspection staff and spells out specific functions and associated levels of performance. The revised agreement covers inspections of private poles, better defines responsibilities for investigations involving Aurora infrastructure and includes performance reporting requirements. Authorised Aurora Energy staff in conjunction with ESS are now conducting electrical contractor audits.

3. NEW BROCHURES SPREAD THE WORD

Three new brochures have been produced by ESS to spread safety messages (two of which are enclosed). All the brochures can be viewed on our website at www.wst.tas.gov.au/electricity or we can send you extra copies (by calling 1300 322 366).

ELECTRICAL SAFETY FOR OLDER HOMES/BUILDINGS

Electrical contractors who work on old buildings are advised to distribute this brochure when providing advice to customers with older electrical installations. Sometimes an independent view to back your opinion will be sufficient to convince the customer to upgrade.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY—GUIDE TO BEST PRACTICE

This brochure covers three important topics:

- testing installations in accordance with AS/NZS 3000
- isolation, tag and lockout procedures
- supervision of electrical workers.

Every electrician should carry this brochure.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY FOR PLUMBERS

This brochure provides plumbers with a step-by-step process that will help reduce the risk of electric shock when they disconnect main water supplies. The Master Plumbers Association will distribute this brochure to plumbers.



STANDARDS AUSTRALIA UPDATE

AS/NZS3760 has been revised - AS/NZS 3760:2003 *In-service safety inspection and testing of electrical equipment* was published on 19 December 2003 and AS1939 has been revised – Now titled AS 60529:2004 *Degrees of protection provided by enclosures (IP Code)*, it was published on 27 January 2004.

4. LIAISON AMONG POLICE OFFICERS, AURORA AND ESS CONTINUE TO GET GOOD RESULTS

In late 2003, officers from Aurora Energy and the police attended the George Town home of Meindert Cornelius van der Molen to check on some irregularities.



After investigation by Aurora and with appropriate certificates from ESS, police charged Mr van der Molen with four related offences.

In the Launceston Court of Petty Sessions in February 2004, Mr van der Molen pleaded guilty to these charges and was fined \$2,500 (plus court costs of \$26.50) by Magistrate Wilson for:

- stealing electricity
- diverting electricity without proper authority
- interfering with electrical infrastructure
- unlawfully carrying out electrical work.

5. SAFE ELECTRICAL GOODS - A GUIDE FOR RETAILERS AND IMPORTERS

Does your business sell, import or hire electrical articles? It is important that all electrical articles in Tasmania are safe to use. If you are involved in selling, importing, or hiring electrical goods it is your responsibility to ensure that they are safe to use and will cause no harm.

ESS has recently published guidelines to enable retailers and importers of electrical articles to meet their obligations under the *Electricity Industry Safety and Administration Act 1997*. These guidelines are available from Tony Millhouse at ESS: call 6233 7585.

6. UNLICENSED ELECTRICAL WORKER FINED

Tony Reginald Rex Thorne appeared in the Hobart Magistrate's Court before Magistrate Matterson on 17 March 2004.

After a hearing, Mr Thorne was found guilty of offences occurring on 27 June 2003 at Garden Island Creek including:

- 1) taking electricity without proper authority
- 2) unlawfully attaching an object to transmission
- 3) unlawfully interfering with electricity supply from a distribution network
- 4) performing electrical work when not licensed to do so.

The Magistrate dealt with Mr Thorne in this way:

- a conviction was recorded in respect of all these offences
- he was fined \$700.00
- he was ordered to pay court costs of \$185.37 and
- he was ordered to pay \$793.12 compensation to Aurora.

ESS wishes to thank the officers of Aurora Energy Pty Ltd and Tasmania Police for their co-operation.

7 LICENSING FEES

Licensing fees will increase on 1 July 2004 due to indexation and in accordance with the *Fees Units Act 1997*.

We will be publishing a guide to the new fees in the September 2004 Bulletin. The alphabetical renewal periods remain the same.

For more information contact Licensing on (03) 6233 7831.

NEW LOOK WEBSITE

If you have visited our website (www.wst.tas.gov.au/electricity) recently you will have noticed a few changes. We have upgraded the website to make it more user friendly, with clear and easy to find prompt buttons so that you can find the information you're looking for quickly and easily.

A new feature of the website is the revamped Electrical Contractor's Service & Installation Guide which you can read and print out as needed. Be sure to make yourself aware of the information provided in the Guide. Electricity Standards and Safety will continue to provide information in relation to safety and technical matters on the website, so visit it regularly to keep abreast of the latest changes.



POWERBASE CAMPING GENERATOR PB – 800 AND GE 800

Powerbase Camping Generator with a red or a blue fuel tank 240 Volt handyman generator 800W Peak Output. Red tank models sold exclusively through AutObarn stores from 27 November 2003 in ALL STATES of Australia and blue tank models sold through Tradelink stores from 19 November 2003 in Victoria, Tasmania and Wagga.

An incorrect socket and plug fitting to the 12 Volt DC charging cable may allow connection directly to the 240 Volt supply, causing risk of electrocution.

Customers should cease use immediately, and return the product with accessories to the relevant store for either a full refund or refitting of correct face plate.

For further information please contact the manufacturer Pinnacle Distributors Pty Ltd, 2/48 Kitchen Road, Dandenong Victoria, 3175 or local call 1300 724 421.



FLUKE MODULAR TEST LEADS TL221, TL222, TL224

TL221, TL222, and TL224 test leads, manufactured between December 2002 and October 2003. The three affected models are: TL221 Straight to Straight, TL222 Right to Right, TL 224 Right to Straight.

TL221, TL222 and TL224 test leads, manufactured between December 2002 and October 2003, may have a faulty connection that could cause the tester to not indicate that voltage or current is present. This could place the user in a potentially hazardous situation.

Consumers should stop using the affected TL221, TL222 and TL224 test leads. Verify that your leads are affected by this recall by going to Fluke's website at www.fluke.com/TL22Xreturns. Return your test leads to your local Fluke sales representative for a free replacement.

SONY ERICSSON MOBILE PHONE CHARGER

Sony Ericsson 2-pin Mobile Phone Chargers, marked 'Made in Thailand by Delta' with the serial number BML 162 099/4 R1A. Provided with Sony Ericsson products, and sold as a separate accessory.

A potential fault has been identified which may cause the plastic casing to open up and expose the electronics of the charger, creating a possible hazard to the user. It may also cause a disruption to power supply.

Consumers are to stop using the charger immediately. Call 1300 132 183 or visit any Sony Ericsson Service Centre for a free replacement. Further information is also available at www.sonyericsson.com.au

REMINDER: All recall products are published on the website www.recalls.gov.au



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