



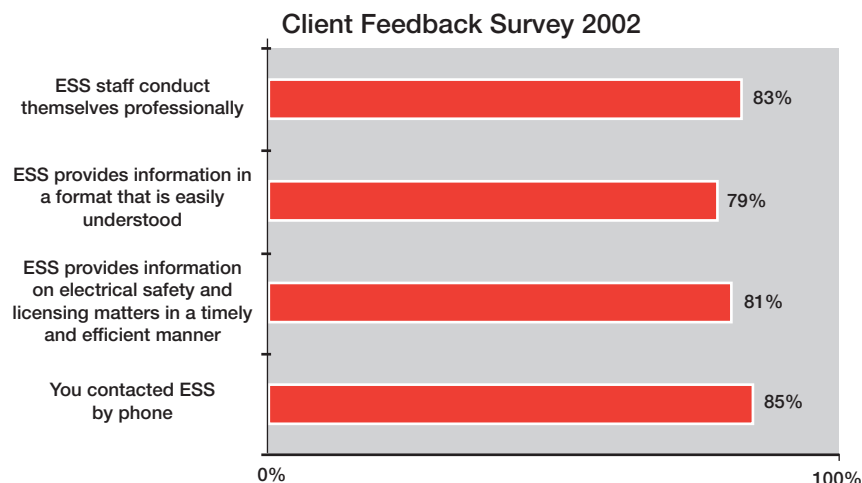
Electricity Industry Bulletin No: 48 September 2002

FOR THE ATTENTION OF ALL ELECTRICAL WORKERS

1. RESULTS CLIENT FEEDBACK SURVEY

Thank you to all contractors who participated in our client feedback survey distributed recently regarding your views on the type of service and information we provide and the relevancy of that information. It was encouraging to receive positive feedback on the relationship between contractors and the ESS staff.

Of the number of forms forwarded to contractors we received a 23% response. Thirty seven percent of respondents provided extra comments. Some of those comments relate to improving the way we process renewal applications, difficulty in interpreting sections of the Act/Regulations and also identifying the difference in functions between ESS and Aurora Energy. ESS are evaluating these comments so look forward to the next issue where we will commence a series of articles, in layperson's terms, covering major sections of the Act. We are also working towards improving the process of renewing licensing applications. Comments received in relation to Aurora Energy have been forwarded to them for their consideration.



2. PCB INFORMATION

Electrical contractors are reminded about the harmful effects from polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's). PCB's can range in appearance from colourless, oily liquid to more viscous and increasingly darker liquids to yellow then black resins, depending on the chlorine content. PCB's were commonly used in oil filled transformers and capacitors in fluorescent light fittings manufactured during the 1950's, 60's and 70's.

It is important that equipment containing PCB's is handled and disposed of correctly.

Environment Australia has produced a useful publication for electricians and electrical contractors titled "Identification of PCB – Containing Capacitors". It includes information on effects, identification, handling, storage and disposal. To order a copy of the PCB booklet please call Environment Australia's Community Information Unit on 1800 803 772 (Monday – Friday) 9.00am - 4.00pm EST, or download or order from their web site at <http://www.ea.gov.au>

In Tasmania PCB waste is controlled waste and disposal should be via approval of the Director of Environmental Management, Department of Primary Industries Water and Environment (DPIWE). Telephone (03) 6233 6518.

3. WILL YOUR APPRENTICE GET A LICENCE?

The only persons permitted to perform “electrical work” are licensed persons or those under a contract of training and supervised (apprenticeship). If an employer signs off an apprentice’s contract in less than four years, they will need to ensure the person has submitted a satisfactory licence application or they will not be permitted to perform electrical work. If this does occur then offences and penalties apply to both the employer and the former apprentice who is now an unlicensed worker.

Applications will be received up to one month prior to the completion of an apprenticeship term, provided applicants meet all other licence criteria.

If you are unsure of the apprenticeship contract completion date, contact the Office of Post-Compulsory Education and Training on 6233 4600.

4. ARE YOU COMPETENT TO WORK IN HAZARDOUS AREAS

The Wiring Rules say that any electrical work done in an area defined as hazardous, due to substances, such as explosive dust, gas or liquid shall be performed in accordance with AS/NZS 2381 series of standards.

AS/NZS 2381.1 says that such persons shall be competent. This may be demonstrated by meeting the relevant National Electrical Equipment in Hazardous Areas Competency Standard (CS-EEHA-001) or equivalent. A dossier shall be kept (normally on site), detailing all the electrical work and other information required by AS/NZS 2381.1 including a declaration certifying the work by the competent person. Ensure only suitably trained staff are used in specialised areas, do not take the risk. Training information may be obtained by contacting Warren Crichton at Electricity Standards and Safety on 6233 7718.

5. ELECTRICIAN CAUTIONED

An electrical contractor was lucky to escape a harsher penalty after he recently failed to lock off or tag an isolated circuit at the main switchboard.

A plumber working near an unterminated cable, that formed part of the isolated circuit, sustained an electrical shock after a builder turned the power back on to use a power tool which was connected to a power point on the same circuit.

The electrical contractor was required to show cause why action should not be taken against his licence under the *Electricity Industry Safety and Administration Act 1997*.

The recommendation submitted to the Delegate of the Regulator was that the electrical contractor be placed before a disciplinary panel.

The Delegate declined to do so in view of action taken by the contractor and the need to promote safety in a positive fashion, despite the worker sustaining an electric shock. The Delegate determined that the electrical contractor receive a reprimand and that all electrical contractors are informed about the need for foolproof methods of isolation and greater care. For further information refer to AS/NZS 4836 Safe working on low voltage electrical installations.

6. AURORA LAUNCHES NEW “HEALTHY HOME” PAMPHLET

Aurora recently distributed a new electrical safety pamphlet to every home in Tasmania. The title is “Show some respect for the electrical health of your home” and highlights many electrical early warning and maintenance issues around the home. Should a customer receive an electric shock or have any concerns about the condition of their electrical installation they are advised to call Aurora on 13 2004 or their licensed electrical contractor, respectively.

Contractors are reminded of the importance of advising people to take any electrical shock seriously and report it immediately.

7. STANDARDS AUSTRALIA UPDATE

The revision of AS 3002 Electrical installations – Shows and Carnivals has been completed and was published on the 24 July 2002. The standard is available on line (www.standards.com.au) or from Standards Australia offices.

The standard is now titled AS/NZS 3002:2002 Electrical installations – Shows and Carnivals and will apply in Tasmania as mandatory from 1 October 2002.

There are a number of significant changes.

- The standard is now joint with New Zealand.
- The standard applies to small fetes and shows where all temporary wiring with detachable connections are installed by untrained persons.
- Requirements for protection by RCD's have been brought up to date.
- Recommendations for in-service testing have been included.
- Requirements for outlet boxes have been included.
- Drawings for generator connections are included.

The revision of AS 3004 Electrical installations – Marinas and pleasure craft at low voltage has been completed and was published on the 20 May 2002.

The standard is now titled AS/NZS 3004:2002 Electrical installations – Marinas and pleasure craft at low voltage and will apply in Tasmania as mandatory from 1 October 2002.

There are a number of significant changes.

- The standard is now joint with New Zealand.
- The text has been extensively redrafted.
- Methods of connection and corresponding figures have been reordered in order of increasing possibility of corrosion or alkaline degradation.

Additional FAQ's

A total of 43 frequently asked questions and answers have now been published on the web site www.wiringrules.com.au.

Questions on issues covering RCD requirements, earthing and damp situations in bathrooms have been included.

AS/NZS 3820 – ESSENTIAL SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR LOW VOLTAGE ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

AS/NZS 3820:1998 sets out requirements for low voltage electrical equipment, to ensure that it is constructed in accordance with good engineering practice 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 standard was gazetted on 20 March 2002. This means that it is now a requirement under the *Electricity Industry Safety and Administration Act 1997* for electrical equipment to comply with this standard.

Electrical contractors have an obligation to ensure that electrical equipment installed by them meets the requirements of this standard.

Further information on the application of this standard can be obtained by contacting Tony Millhouse at Electricity Standards and Safety on 6233 7585. Copies of this standard are available from Standards Australia 1300 654 646.

7. WHO'S WHO?

It was evident from our recent feedback sheet that confusion still exists between the roles of the Regulator, Electricity Standards and Safety, Aurora Energy, Transend Networks and Hydro Tasmania.

The Regulator

Responsibility for electrical safety issues and related activities in Tasmania, is carried out by an independent Regulator under the *Electricity Industry Safety and Administration Act 1997* (the Act).

The Regulator is Mr Andrew Reeves, Director of the Office of the Tasmanian Energy Regulator. Mr Reeves has delegated his powers under the Act to the Director of Industry Safety, who is Mr Stephen Hyam.

Any references to the Regulator in the Act are therefore the responsibility of Mr Hyam.

Electricity Standards and Safety (ESS)

ESS is a separate office, managed by the Chief Electrical Inspector and under the Delegate of the Regulator carries out the functions of the Act.

These functions include the previous electrical safety regulatory role carried out by the "old" Hydro including the licensing of electrical contractors and electricians, accident investigation, product regulation, appliance approvals, and overseeing the inspection and compliance monitoring system.

Hydro, Transend and Aurora Energy

These are three separate entities controlling three distinct areas of infrastructure. For simplicity:

- Hydro ➤ generation
- Transend ➤ transmission
- Aurora Energy ➤ distribution/retail supply

Aurora Energy's Electrical Compliance Group, under authority from the Regulator, still carries out the functions of inspection and compliance monitoring. Compliance Inspectors, who have been appointed by the Delegate of the Regulator are Aurora employees and are authorised officers under the Act.

Enquiries for inspections, wiring rules interpretations and lodgement of notices (EIN's) should be made to the Compliance Group located in Ulverstone, Launceston and Moonah.

Enquiries for metering, servicing and new connections should be directed to Aurora's Customer Connections Group. Contact phone numbers were enclosed with Bulletin No 47.



Breville Electric Smart Kettle Model SK20 and SK25

There is a possibility that the handle may separate from the body of the vessel and may cause scalding if the vessel is holding hot water.

Affected customers are requested to take their kettle to the nearest authorised Breville service agent for an inspection and modification. Any queries to Breville Pty Ltd - 1300 727 424

Schneider Electric RCD Model "Square D" QOE range

Certain materials used in the manufacturing process may over time, result in the inability of the circuit breaker to trip as designed when a leakage current is detected.

For further information contact your local Schneider office or the help centre on 1300 369 233 or visit the website www.schneider-electric.com.au

Fluke 170 Series Digital Multimeter

This notice pertains only to 175, 177 and 179 Digital Multimeters manufactured between 1 January 2001 and 12 July 2001.

When measuring AC voltage above 500, the display on affected meters can be slow in showing a final, accurate measurement. The final reading may not be displayed for 6 to 18 seconds. During this delay, the meter may not indicate that high voltage is present, placing the user in a potentially hazardous situation.

Consumer Action

Stop using the meter and contact VMS Laboratory on (02) 9771 9300 or facsimile (02) 9771 9600 (Attention Fluke 170 Recall Administrator) to arrange for repairs free of charge.

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