



## Electricity Industry Bulletin No: 41 December 2000

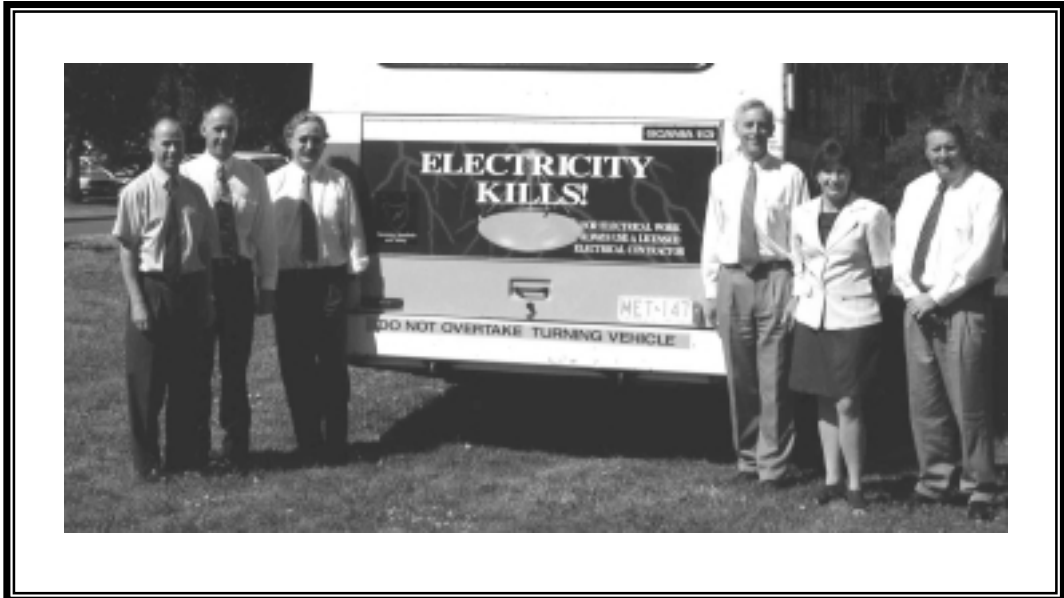
### **ATTENTION COMPANY MANAGERS**

Please ensure your nominated manager and electricians see this bulletin.

### **1. SAFETY PROMOTIONS CAMPAIGN**

Electricity Standards and Safety have increased advertising to promote a greater awareness of electrical safety. Three different signs on the rear of Metro buses will be circulated throughout Burnie, Launceston and Hobart over the next 9 months. The 3 themes promoted are "Electricity Kills", "Don't Do it Yourself" and "Safety Switches Save Lives". All signs include the statement "for electrical work always use a licensed electrical contractor". Other promotional material will be distributed directly to electricians and the general public.

It is our intention to follow the same theme in other areas such as shopping centre displays and car stickers.



Electricity Standards and Safety staff members with the bus displaying one of our current promotional signs, "Electricity Kills".

So that you can now put a face to that voice on the phone we are from left:

Rob Steedman, Warren Crichton, Charles Woodhouse, John Hammersley, Tina Eyre and Tony Millhouse.

## *Merry Christmas*

John Hammersley and all the staff at Electricity Standards and Safety wish you all a Safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

### **Office Hours over the Festive season:**

Close 3 pm Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2000

Reopen Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2001

All electric shocks should be reported to Aurora Energy on 13 2004

Serious electrical accidents should be reported to 1300 366 322

## 2. INSTALLATION AND CONNECTION OF HOT WATER CYLINDERS

It has become increasingly noticeable to Aurora Installation Inspectors that electricians are not consulting with builders and plumbers about hot water heater cylinder access and other requirements.

Yes we know that on occasions water heaters are boxed in after the electrician is long gone, however many are connected in positions that will not meet the requirements of the Wiring Rules. Please keep an eye on this issue and remember it is the electrician's decision to connect or not. Refer to Clause 4.3.9.2 AS/NZS 3000.

## 3. SWITCHBOARD LOCATION – MINIMUM HEIGHT

Requirements for locations of switchboards have changed in the latest revision of the wiring rules, AS/NZS 3000:2000.

In particular, the requirements for a switchboard in a domestic installation no longer state 0.9m minimum height. The requirement now being 1.2m with an exception if it complies with clause 2.9.6.

Clause 2.9.6 requires compliance with clause 1.7.3.4 and while at first glance this may not seem too hard, a closer look shows it's not always easy. Clause 1.7.3.4 sets down requirements for degrees of protection and construction.

Compliance will need to be demonstrated in both these areas as well as for any accessibility issues. If a switchboard is installed at a height of less than 1.2m be prepared to demonstrate to an inspector how it complies. eg. 0.3m above the floor in an elderly persons unit will not make it.

The best option is not to fit domestic switchboards at less than 1.2m above the ground, floor or platform and compliance with the minimum height requirements will be achieved.



## 4. RCDS - THE WIRING RULES RAISE THE BAR A LITTLE

Further clarification AS/NZS 3000 Clause 2.5.3:

### *Domestic Installations*

All lighting and socket-outlet circuits shall be protected at the origin of the final sub-circuit. Exemption for plug in electric cooking appliances.

### *Residential-type areas of electrical installations*

All socket-outlet circuits protected at the point of origin of the final sub-circuit. Exemption for (a) plug in electric cooking appliances (b) socket-outlets installed more than 2.3m above floor level for a luminaire or an appliance not exceeding 150W.

### *Other electrical installations*

Consideration of the all environmental conditions surrounding socket outlets is required when determining the need to fit RCD protection. Examples are given in clause 2.5.3.3 however if you are in doubt, remember "RCDs save lives".

### *Alterations, additions and repairs*

- The addition or replacement of a socket outlet or lighting point to an existing circuit that is not currently RCD protected (RCDs not mandatory but recommended).
- New mains (RCDs not mandatory but recommended).
- Existing switchboard relocated (RCDs not mandatory but recommended).
- New switchboard installed (RCDs mandatory on circuits applicable to the type of installation).
- Part rewire of final sub-circuits (mandatory on all new circuits in accordance with clause 2.5.3, recommended on other circuits).

### **PLEASE NOTE**

Employers and office staff should be aware that the up-to-date contractor and electrician application forms are available on our website. <http://www.wsa.tas.gov.au/ess/electric.htm>

Using the latest forms (with the relevant fees) will ensure a speedier renewal and save return correspondence for additional portion of fees.

## 5. AUSTRALIAN TRADES RECOGNITION

This office has had feedback from overseas qualified electricians advising that electrical contractors' in Australia do not know the process a foreign electrician has to go through to be employed as an electrician here.

The process for overseas applicants to obtain an electrician's licence in Tasmania follows:

1. Provision of an Australian Recognised Trade Certificate (ARTC), currently issued by Trades Recognition Australia.
2. Proof of having obtained a minimum of 9 months on the job practical experience in the use of "The Wiring Rules" (AS/NZS 3000).

Note: Provided applicants have an ARTC, as mentioned above, a Provisional Licence would be required for them to perform electrical work (supervised) to obtain this practical experience.

3. Provide evidence of having completed a course in "installation testing" at a Registered Training Organisation (TAFE). Further information on the this course can be obtained from TAFE Tasmania.
4. Successfully complete the "Electricians' Licensing Exam" as set by this Office.
5. Pay an application fee of \$30:60 and a proportion of the \$91:80 triennial licence fee. This will align the licence with the renewal dates as laid down by regulation.

The following is a flow chart indicating what the normal sequence of events would be for a person seeking to obtain an Electrical Technician's (Electrician's) licence if their qualifications were obtained either outside of Australia and New Zealand or within the Australian Defence Forces.

### Step 1

Enquire at Trades Recognition Australia to have their qualifications assessed as having provided the equivalent under pinning knowledge to that of an electrical technician. When issued with a certificate, (ARTC) as an electrical mechanic, go to Step 2

### Step 2

Apply to the Licensing Administrator for a Provisional Licence to enable them to work under the supervision of an electrician.  
(Persons cannot carry out electrical work unless they have a licence)

### Step 3

Persons then must obtain a minimum of 9 months practical application of the AS/NZS 3000 whilst working under the supervision of an electrician and working for an electrical contractor.

### Step 4

Successfully complete a course in Installation Testing at TAFE or equivalent.  
(At any time during the above 9 months)

### Step 5

Successfully complete the Electrical Technician's Licensing Exam that is conducted by this Office in March and October each year.  
(This should be undertaken towards the end of the 9 month period)

### Step 6

Complete the prescribed licence application form for an Electrical Technician, pay the appropriate fee and lodge this application with the Licensing Administrator together with evidence of all of the above criteria (send copies of personal documents).



# Website updates

**If you haven't had a look yet.  
Maybe it's time.**

## **5. APPROVAL OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT IN TASMANIA**

In the interest of safety, the Electrical Regulatory Authority in each State and Territory of Australia administers regulations aimed at preventing the sale of unsafe electrical equipment.



Tony Millhouse fills this role in Tasmania. A webpage can now be accessed via our website that contains information on how to apply for approval of electrical equipment.

[www.wsa.tas.gov.au/ess/equipment.htm](http://www.wsa.tas.gov.au/ess/equipment.htm)

If you have any queries regarding electrical equipment safety (specifically fires, unsafe equipment failure or electric shocks), Tony can be contacted on 6233 7585.

**DON'T FORGET ELECTRONIC VERSIONS OF THE BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE**

[www.wsa.tas.gov.au/ess/publ.htm](http://www.wsa.tas.gov.au/ess/publ.htm)

Other publications available are the Electrical Licensing Board and Disciplinary Panel annual reports and a Code of Practice (for retailers of electrical appliances).

A list of Electrical Product Safety Recalls is now available at [www.wsa.tas.gov.au/ess/recalls.htm](http://www.wsa.tas.gov.au/ess/recalls.htm). There are also links to other informative websites including Choice magazine.



## **MAKITA POWER TOOLS**

A voluntary recall has been issued for the following power tools. It has been reported that after significant usage the operating switch may stick in the "on" position after the trigger has been released. This could present a potential risk of injury to the operator.

Electric drill Model	6408, 6410
Electric screwdriver	6821
Hammer drills	HP2030, HP2033, HP2041
Rotary hammer	HR2410

For further information contact:  
Makita 03 6278 1899

## **TIFFANY ELECTRIC FRYPAN**

Due to inadequate earthing arrangements between the controller prong and metal base GAF Control Pty Ltd have conducted a public recall for frying pan model number FP1220.

For further information contact:  
GAF Control Pty LTD 03 9646 0900

# **PUBLIC WARNING NOTICE**

## **CHILDRENS NIGHT LIGHT**

Gerard Industries Pty Ltd has released a public warning notice in relation to Ringgrip Cartoon Character Night-Lights. Ringgrip advises consumers to unplug the night-light, remove the cartoon character and test whether the clear plastic cover is security attached to the base of the night-light. Do not use any tools as you could damage the product and render it unsafe. If the cover is loose or comes off, the light is to be disposed of safely and not used again. If any doubt dispose of it.

For further information contact:  
Ringgrip 1800 686 572

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