



ATTENTION COMPANY MANAGERS

Please ensure your nominated manager and electricians see this circular.

1. DISCOVERY OF UNSAFE ELECTRICAL WORK - ELECTRICIANS RESPONSIBILITIES

It seems many electricians and electrical contractors are not stopping to think of their responsibilities to ensure the safety of themselves, their workers, their customers and the general public.

All too frequently we get to hear about instances where there has been lack of care taken by electricians with electrical work. Escutcheon panels left off switchboards, even in schools, wiring left unterminated and energised, discovery of unsafe work not made safe.

In one such case

An electrician called to carry out an electrical inspection of a residential premises that was up for sale, rightly made a thorough inspection.

Finding substantial defects that clearly indicated unlicensed electrical work he produced a detailed report. One item listed a cable junction made using an automotive type block that had exposed live studs in an accessible area under the house.

Fine up to this point, the electrician sent in the report but failed to make safe.

Any ensuing injury as a result of a person contacting the live parts would of landed the electrician in serious trouble.

If you do find electrical work or equipment that is unsafe, make it safe. If it looks like it's been done by an unlicensed person advise Electricity Standards and Safety, as well as the owner.

Just telling someone isn't enough! **The installation must be made safe.**

2. CONTRACTING OR WORKING INTERSTATE?

We have mutual recognition agreements with all Australian states and territories and also New Zealand for electrical licensing.

This recognition is for qualifications, not for the licence. Each state requires persons to be licensed in their area and pay the required fee. This includes contractor, electrician and restricted electrical licences.

Any interstate electrical workers whom contractors may employ or contract individually in Tasmania must hold the appropriate Tasmanian licence before they commence any electrical work.

Contact details for interstate licensing authorities may be found on our website.

3. HIGH VOLTAGE INSTALLATIONS

Electrical Contractors carrying out new electrical work on high voltage installations need to plan carefully. Approval will be required before connection can be made.

In most cases a consultant will be required and will either be private or Aurora Energy, but it still pays to check for approval first. If there is no consultant, the contractor must contact an inspector with Aurora's Standards and Compliance group.

Single line drawings must be supplied. Don't expect connection until you do and if it's at the end of the job and the drawing does not comply, think of the inconvenience, let alone any additional costs. So make sure the drawing comes first.

Electrical Installation notices must also be submitted and existing parts of the installation must comply. E.g. too often earth mats have not been upgraded to meet changes to a substation and both the over current and short circuit protection does not comply.

4. HEAT PUMPS CONTAINING HCFC R22:- INSTALLATION, DECOMMISSIONING AND SERVICING

Heat pumps predominantly use ozone depleting controlled substance HCFC R22.

The legislation in place to control and monitor their use is Part 6 of the *Environmental Management and Pollution and Control Act 1994*.

If your business involves selling or purchasing ozone depleting controlled substances, you must be authorised to do so.

If you undertake a controlled activity by using these controlled substances, including the installation, decommissioning or servicing of heat pumps containing them, you must also be authorised.

These authorisations are issued by the

Director of Environmental Management, and penalties may be applied for breach of the Legislation.

For further information regarding authorisations, you may contact Mr Marc Newbown, Ozone Protection Administrative Officer at the Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment, on (ph) 03 6233 2781, or by email on marcus.newbown@dpiwe.tas.gov.au.

Further information and application forms can also be found at the internet location <http://www.dpiwe.tas.gov.au/env/ozone.html>.

It should be noted however that prerequisites including appropriate accreditation must be met prior to applications being considered.



PRODUCT SAFETY RECALL

Westinghouse Frost Free Vertical Freezer - Model FJ303, Serial Numbers 00252603 to 03351412 and 64443156 to 95243332. Model FJ383, Serial Numbers 00251165 to 03054003 and 64244656 to 95241694 Contact Tollfree 1800 001 218

Delonghi Portable Air Conditioner Model PAC 45. May require modifications to motor. Contact Tollfree 1800 126 702

5. SLOW COMBUSTION "CONVAIR" STYLE WOODHEATERS

There appears to be numerous (too many) installations where originally a Convaire style combustion woodheater was installed with a hard wired fan, controlled by a nearby switch. These heaters are being removed by persons unknown and the cable is just being cut off, presumably after turning off the switch on the wall and the cable then poked through a hole in the floor. This leaves a dangerous situation, some of which have been picked up during six month checks.

ELECTRICIANS BEWARE

6. ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION NOTICES

The failure to lodge EINs is a problem.

The comparison between the amount of electrical work done by some electrical contractors and the number of forms they lodge does not add up.

Proposals are being developed that would give authorised Electricity Standards and Safety and Aurora inspectors the job of auditing the paper work of electrical contractors and matching the electrical work with the notices they lodge.

This process, which may develop and change, will take place with the consent of the contractor and not rely on section 10 of the *Electricity Industry Safety and Administration Act 1997* unless the need arises.

Electrical contractors must continue to lodge their electrical installation notices.

The relevant legislation is By-law 5(2) of the Hydro-Electric Commission By-Laws 1994. It carries a fine of one penalty unit, which equates to \$100.

7. NOTIFICATION REGULATIONS

With input from NECA and ECIA, officers of Aurora and Electricity Standards and Safety have been developing draft Regulations under the *Electricity Industry Safety and Administration Act 1997* to cover the notification of electrical work.

This work is getting close to the stage where it would be opportune to open it up for comment by electrical contractors and their organisations.

There will be some changes to the existing processes with the intention of streamlining and more clearly defining the ground rules for the benefit of all interested parties.

The following are proposed inclusions in the new regulations:

- electrical contractors will remain responsible for their employees' defective work
- contractors must record all their electrical work and retain the record for 10 years
- some electrical work must be inspected before it is commissioned (one example is work on private high voltage lines)
- some electrical work that is to be concealed will have to be advised before it is concealed and may be inspected beforehand (e.g. joints in underground mains)
- minor work (e.g. the installation of general power outlets and most repairs) will not require notification to Aurora
- a form similar to an EIN will be lodged with Aurora within set time limits
- contractors must give their customer a copy of an EIN for all electrical work, under the name:- Electrical Contractor's Certificate of Compliance, within set time limits
- there will be no fee to lodge the EIN
- Aurora officers won't inspect all electrical work but will be entitled to
- Aurora officers must inspect certain work
- work not complying with AS/NZS 3000:2000 will have to be rectified and reinspected
- a notice will be sent and a fee recovered as an incentive to get it right the first time
- if reinspection finds the same faults (or new faults arising from the rectification work) another notice, fee and reinspection will follow
- the customer will get a copy of each defect notice which will indicate that it is an offence for the electrical contractor to seek to recover any defect fee
- there will be time limits by which work must be rectified and inspected but inspectors can expand it (if circumstances justify doing so)
- non-payment of fees within 14 days or breach of any other requirements will be reported to Electricity Standards and Safety who may prosecute or commence disciplinary proceedings under the Act.

Any comments or suggestions you now have will be welcomed and considered.

8. VICARIOUS LIABILITY

Electrical contractors must be aware that if their employees commit an offence under the *Electricity Industry Safety and Administration Act 1997* (the “Act”) the contractor will, quite possibly, be liable to prosecution. In several ways the Act says it is the employers’ role to monitor their employees. You may need to assess what you do. The relevant provisions from the Act are set out below.

Vicarious liability of employers

91. (1) If an employee commits an offence against this Act, the employer is also guilty of an offence and liable to a penalty not exceeding the maximum prescribed for the employee's offence.

(2) It is a defence to a charge against an employer for the employer to establish that the employer could not, by the exercise of reasonable diligence, have prevented the employee's offence.

(3) An employer may be convicted of an offence under this section whether or not proceedings have been brought against the employee.

Liability of directors and managers

92. (1) If a body corporate commits an offence against this Act, each director or manager of the body corporate who knowingly authorised or permitted the offence is also guilty of an offence and liable to a penalty not exceeding the maximum prescribed for the body corporate's offence.

(2) A director or manager may be convicted of an offence under this section whether or not proceedings have been brought against the body corporate.

9. HAZARDOUS AREAS MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

To complement the release of the new competency standards for hazardous areas, a series of nationwide seminars on the development in hazardous areas management

and equipment are being held.

The Hobart seminar will be held on 23 March at Hobart Vista. For more information contact Standards Australia on 6224 2380.

10. REGISTER OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

Electricity Standards and Safety are getting a lot of returned mail from electrician renewal applications which are sent out. We still do not have up-to-date addresses for most of these.

To assist with this, all contractors will be receiving (with their renewal notices) a request for a register of all electrical workers who work on their behalf.

By completing a register of electrical employees we can confirm addresses and ensure renewal notifications are sent to the correct address. It will also aid in ensuring that you only employ electricians who are licensed.

Regardless of the above, the onus is on the electrician to ensure renewal.

11. PAY TV DISHES INSTALLED IN HAZARDOUS AREAS

A question was raised regarding the suitability of satellite dishes normally used in domestic situations to receive broadcasts from Austar, Foxtel etc and their installation within a hazardous area as defined in AS/NZS 2430.3 *Classification of hazardous areas*.

There is a risk of a spark being generated by:

- The amplifier under abnormal conditions or,
- the decoder where current can feed back to the dish.

If electrical contractors or their employees come across Pay TV satellite dishes installed in hazardous areas, it would be wise to alert the householder to contact both the gas and TV dish installers.