



ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR NEWS AND UPDATES

NEWSLETTER No. 14

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This newsletter is produced by Bruce Blacker of Insight Electrical Consulting & Training Pty Ltd to inform and aid the electrical contracting industry. All information contained in this newsletter to be taken as a guide only and should be verified prior to its implementation or use.

Welcome

Through this newsletter I will attempt to keep you up to date with the major issues which affect you.

If you have any comment or suggestions in regards to this newsletter please pass them onto me so that the information contained in this publication remains both informative and suits your needs.

Contents

The following articles appear in this newsletter:

- Service and Installation Rules Amendments
 - New Work Health and Safety Regulations
 - Required Safety Equipment & Tools
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Service Rules Amendments

The 2006 edition of the Service and Installation Rules of New South were amended in July 2011. This is the fourth amendment to this document.

This amendment, or if you would like a copy of the latest Service Rules book, these can be obtained by visiting the Department's web site. The web address being: www.deus.nsw.gov.au/publications

New Work Health and Safety Regulations

As of 1st January 2012 a national Work Health and Safety Regulation and Act will come into place. This regulation will replace the current OH&S Regulation and Act.

The model Regulations can be found on the Work Safe Australia web site.

Along with the regulations will come new codes of practice. One of the codes will be "Managing Electrical Risks at the Workplace"

I have had a brief look at the model Regulations, in regards to electrical work and "energised" electrical work. There is not much difference to the current OH&S requirements, i.e. basically prohibits "energised" electrical work except under specific circumstances.

Under the new Regulation a person can be fined up to \$6,000.00 for carrying out work on "energised" circuits and a company up to \$30,000.00 for allowing it to happen.

The installation of RCD protection for outlets is different to the initial OH&S amendment as introduced earlier this year. The new Regulation calls for only outlets rated 20 amps and below to be RCD protected and the RCD protection is only required if the equipment used in the outlet is subject to operating conditions that are likely to result in damage to the equipment or a reduction in its expected life span. It also gives other areas where a RCD should be used.

The Regulation has requirements in regards to timeframes for the keeping of documents like hazard and risk assessments, safe work method statements, etc.

The model Regulation is about 700 pages long but I highly recommend you download a copy and start looking at the areas which will effect you and your business. The requirements of the regulation will come into place over a period of time. This timeframe will be dependant on which requirement is being looked at.

Required Safety Equipment and Tools

Some of the supply authorities have altered their requirements in regards to required safety equipment and tools for the performance of Level 2 Accrediated Service Provider work. Some of the changes are:

Ausgrid:

Insulating gloves, especially those in rescue kits, must be manufactured and certified to Australian Standards. At the present time the only manufacturer, that I know of, who meets this requirement is Deco.

Endeavour Energy:

A 5mm insulated (covered) T-Bar handled allen key is now required to be used in all circumstances, where required. The use of the straight handles, screwdriver type, allen key has been prohibited.

Essential Energy:

Essential Energy has altered their Electrical Safety Rules and they now require insulating gloves of a minimum rating of 1 000 volts to be worn whilst work on their equipment. 650 volt rated gloves are no longer acceptable.

For people authorised as Level 2 Service Provider in Essential Energy they must also carry a non-conductive pit lid lifter.

Please note that I can supply all required equipment.

Web Site

We are constantly upgrading our web site and the range of equipment which we can supply to the electrical industry. Latest items added to our ever expanding range have included: non-conductive pit lid lifters.

If you are after any electrical safety equipment at competitive prices have a look on our web site at www.insightconsult.com.au

Final Comments

Insight Electrical Consulting & Training Pty Ltd is still available to help in many areas including; liaison with supply authorities, technical advice, interpretation of defects and Wiring Rules, switchboard specification and design, single line diagrams, electrical designs, etc. If you have any areas which you need assistance just give us a call and I will help you out.

Insight Electrical Consulting & Training Pty Ltd is able to specify switchboards and source prices from a number of switchboard manufacturers.

All comments in this newsletter are those of Insight Electrical Consulting & Training Pty Ltd and clarifications may be required before this information is used for general work.

Seasons Greetings



I would like to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year.