



## ETU OHS NEWSLETTER

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### IS THE EQUIPMENT APPLICABLE?

There are times when we need to ask ourselves about the appropriateness of the equipment that we are using. It's often not whether the tool has been tested and tagged or not, it's about whether we are utilizing the equipment outside of its design criteria. There are also occasions where the design change seems to have created more risk than what the design change was meant to rectify.

The photos on the right is of a light fitting that was used on a construction site. This is a 500 watt quartz halogen light. Whilst the fitting is to Australian Standards it doesn't mean that the fitting is designed to be utilized on a construction site as task lighting.

As can be seen from the photo the damage to the light fitting allegedly sustained because of the temperature that the fitting

attained over a sustained period of time. Add to this the potential problem of being burnt by the hot frame and also being dazzled by the intensity of a fitting at eye height and it seems this type of fitting is inappropriate for the task the fitting is being used for.



The second issue relates to a design change that has occurred to ensure that conductive materials could not come into contact with the pins on a normal 3 pin plug top. The design change was to insulate the active pins but still allow for contact in the plug socket. The pins were reduced in thickness to allow the pin to remain the same size. Unfortunately all this allowed this to do for some brands of plug top was for the pins to break off, sometimes becoming lodged in the socket outlet. The outcome could be disastrous.



**OHS Reps Meetings 2005**  
10am–12pm

**17th November**—Geelong ETU Office

**8th December**—Melbourne

### ETU OHS SUPPORT OFFICER – BY ALLAN MULVENA

It has been a year since Danny Timmers came to the ETU in the role of OHS Support Officer. We were able to do this with generous assistance from Workcover. Workcover have long acknowledged the valuable role that the OHS Rep plays in the workplace. Mid 2004, Workcover asked various organisations if they wished to apply for a grant to fund the position of OHS Rep

Support Officer, either on a part time basis or full time. The ETU was fortunate to have their application approved, thus enabling Danny to come on board. With Danny being able to assist me in OHS it has given the ETU the opportunity to place a greater focus on OHS representation. With Danny's assistance we were able to lift the profile of OHS and to instigate other such projects as

production of the monthly ETU OHS Reps newsletter.

Danny has moved on to become an organiser for the ETU looking after areas such as the lift industry which has its fair share of OHS issues.

A recent meeting of OHS Reps expressed their gratitude for Danny's assistance over the year .

## TYPE B GAS FIRED APPLIANCE MAINTENANCE

In the latest issue of Energy Safe (Winter/Spring) published by Energysafe Victoria (formerly OCEI) the issue of electrical workers performing work on Type B gas appliances is explained.

Many electrical workers performing work in factories come across Type B gas appliances that may require repair or maintenance. It is explained that where this work may impact on the safe use of gas the electrical worker performing this work must hold a Type B Gas Appliance Registration.

A Registered Type B Gasfitting person is one that has demonstrated competence in the area of complex gas fired appliances and is registered with the Plumbing Industry Commission (P.I.C.).

If you wish to obtain the Type B Appliance registration firstly contact P.I.C. (03) 9889-2211 and apply for a provisional registration, secondly attend the training course at Energy and Telecommunications Training Australia, (E.T.T.A.), Chad-

stone, thirdly successfully complete the P.I.C. Type B Appliance examination. ETTA (Chadstone Campus) is a division of Central Gippsland Institute of TAFE, and is located at 41 Drummond Street Chadstone. If you have any further enquiries contact Greg Hagger (03) 9251-3024, or email enquiry to [greg-oryh@gippstafe.vic.edu.au](mailto:greg-oryh@gippstafe.vic.edu.au).

The Type B Appliance registration allows the holder to perform installation, service and commissioning work on

componentry between the appliance isolation valve and the flue spigot of the appliance. The Type B Appliance course duration is 10 (ten) days, normally 2 days per week over 5 consecutive weeks and the modules covered are Legal Restrictions & Compliance, Combustion & Flue Gas Analysis, Pre- Purge & Start Gas, Burner Types and Application, Design, Selection & Installation, Type B Electrical Circuits, Commissioning and Fault Finding.

## OHS NOT A ONE WEEK WONDER-CONSULTATION IS COMING?

Occupational health and safety should not be just a one week wonder. Worksafe Week went from October 24-28, but this is just the focus for the entire year.

Throughout the year OHS Reps are working quietly in the background trying to progress OHS issues forward and have these issues dealt with. Some of the more progressive employers are quite willing to work with the reps in ensuring that health and safety is a yearly activity and not just the one hit wonder that

others seem to think is appropriate.

The role and power of the OHS Rep is clearly defined by the OHS Act, and the carry over provisions in relation to consultation of Reps is specified. As from January 1st next year the new consultation provisions of Sections 35 and 36 will come into force. Given the lack of consultation that was apparent in relation to consulting some of the OHS

Reps, how are some employers going to go when they have to not only consult with their entire work force but also consult with their independent contractors and the employees of the independent contractors?

Sections 35 and 36 of the OHS Act are the consultation provisions outlining how employees are to be consulted and what they are to be consulted about. The Act also prescribes how the employees

are to be consulted.

Section 36 requires that the employer must do so by sharing with the employees information about the matters to be consulted; give the employees reasonable opportunity to express their views about the issue; and that the employer must take those views into account. The Act also provides that the OHS Rep must be consulted with or without involvement of employees directly.

## UVEX SAFETYGLASSES

The new UVEX SSS range, selected exclusively by Australian cricketer Brett Lee encourages those requiring protection and at the same time desiring comfortable, stylish performance eyewear for work and play.

The new UVEX SSS range of work and street-savvy eyewear provides protection for work-related medium impact glare and ultraviolet rays. There are two

models to choose from: Torque or Pursuit. Both models feature dual lens sports-inspired design, popular sleek fashion profile and are available in various lens and frame colour combinations, including black anthracite or translucent blue lustre frames with the choice of colour of mirror lenses.

Outdoor tradespeople, exposed to the harsh Australian sun have often been reluctant to wear Standards Approved (AS/NZS 1337) protective eyewear, and consequently make up an extraordinarily high percentage of eye related injuries and experience the cumulative effects of sun damage to the eye through out their work

and personal lives.

Contact Andrew Richmond from UVEX on 0417692611 for further details.

