



## ETU OHS NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2006

### WIRING RULES NEXT EDITION

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#### OHS Reps Meetings 2006 10am–12pm

26th April—Melbourne  
31st May—ETU Morwell  
28th June—Melbourne  
26th July—Trades and Labour  
Portland  
30th August—Melbourne  
27th Sept—Trades and Labour  
Shepparton  
25th October—Melbourne  
29th November—ETU Geelong  
December tbc—Melbourne

Development of the next edition of the *Wiring Rules* (AS/NZS 3000) is well underway.

Following a user survey on the current edition (AS/NZS 3000:2000), Committee EL-001 has, through its drafting Subcommittee EL-001-09, been addressing the issues raised and developing a Standard to take the electrical installations industry into the next decade.

Some of the issues being addressed in the revision are:

#### Structure

Current thoughts are to produce this edition as a two-part document. The first part will state the fundamental principles that should be followed to ensure a safe electrical installation. The second part will be a deemed to comply solution by which, if the installer follows the requirements of part 2, then the fundamental principles are satisfied. Part 2 will not be the only way to satisfy the fundamental requirements, but a solution that will probably be followed in the vast majority of installations.

#### Reinstated information

Many respondents to the survey were not in favour of the removal from the 2000 edition of some of

the guidance material such as number of socket-outlets per circuit. Much of this material will be reinstated in the new edition as good practice information, but not as requirements.

#### More explanation and illustration

Some practitioners are unsure of issues such as fault loop impedance, equipotential bonding, derating of cables, etc. More guidance information on some requirements and illustration will be included.

#### Lay out

Some respondents found the Standard difficult to follow with requirements located in different places. This has happened over the years with publication of different editions of the Standard. The Committee will carefully consider all the requirements for any single item or system so they can be located together in sections that follow a logical progression.

#### Safety switches

Extension of the use of residual current devices (RCDs) is an issue carefully considered during each revision of the *Wiring Rules*. The Committee will pay particular attention to examining the effectiveness of dedicated RCDs

for wet areas (bathrooms, laundries, etc) and extending the range of locations where RCDs can be installed based on the benefit gained in increased safety.

#### Protection against arcing faults

With a greater concentration of loads and an increasing number of high current switchboards being manufactured, many industry participants feel that arc fault protection should be required. The Committee is taking steps to determine what protection is appropriate against these faults.

EL-001 is conscious of the fact that the *Wiring Rules* is used as an on the job reference and needs to be compact and easily transportable. The challenge will be to achieve this while covering all of the issues.

A draft of the *Wiring Rules* is now out and available for download from Standards Australia or a link is available from the Energy Safe Victoria web site, and look under "What's New". Public Comment closes on the 30th June 2006 and a new edition ready for electrical installations installed from 2007. Send comments to Allan Mulvena (ETU).

#### OHS REP TRAINING DATES 2006- CONTACT TANYA 93269377

Initial 5 day courses:

May 10,11,16,17,18; August 9,10,15,16,17

November 15,16,21,22,23

1 Day refresher:

March 8, April 12, May 9, June 14, July 11,

August 8, September 12, October 10, November 14

## STATEMENT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ENERGY SAFETY – RE BLUE BOOK

Energy Safe Victoria (ESV) is the regulator for Electrical and Gas Safety in Victoria, Australia. As part of its role, ESV sets the minimum standards for the design, construction, operation and maintenance of electricity network assets.

The Code of Practice On Electrical Safety For Work on or Near High Voltage Electrical Apparatus (the 2005 Blue Book) has been prepared by the 'Electrical Safety Committee' established under Section 10 of the Electricity Safety Act 1998.

The Electricity Safety (Network Assets) Regulations 1999, and The Electricity Safety (Installations) Regulations 1999, invoke the Code as amended from time to time.

The 2005 Blue Book will therefore supersede the 'Code of Practice On Electrical Safety For Work on or Near High Voltage Electrical Apparatus' published in 1998 (the 1998 Blue Book).

ESV has decided that the

2005 Blue Book will come into operation on 31 December 2005

ESV recognises that the Victorian Electricity Supply Industry and high voltage customers need time to train and make workers under their control aware of the requirements of the 2005 Blue Book. It is therefore not necessary for a network operator or a person who owns or operates a high voltage electrical installation to comply with the 2005 Blue Book before 31 December 2006

provided that the 1998 Blue Book continues to be complied with up to that time.

I endorse the 2005 Blue Book and commend the Committee members and those industry organisations involved with the development of the 2005 Blue Book.

Ken Gardner—  
Director of Energy Safety

**Note:** The Blue Book is available at Information Victoria for \$22.00 (ph 1300 366 356) or download from the ESV web site <http://www.esv.vic.gov.au/downloads/bluebookcode.pdf>

## SUPERVISION GUIDELINES FOR LINeworker APPRENTICES

The Guidelines apply to the supervision of all apprentices employed in the Victorian Electricity Supply Industry.

The appropriate level of supervision that should be applied to an apprentice during the on-the-job component should be applied with respect to the welfare of the apprentice in terms of safety and competency development.

Determining the appropriate level of supervision to apply is generally dependent on the

balance between assuring the safety of the apprentice, the work to be carried out and the experience of the apprentice. The level and pattern of supervision to be applied is not one that is time based but takes into account a range of factors such as:

- knowledge and skills (on-and off-the-job technical training/ learning) attained, and

- previous experience/ learning and training/ practice and repetition the apprentice has had relative to each particular task, skill or work function to be performed.

During the course of an apprenticeship it is expected that apprentices will have worked across a representative range of plant & equipment, consistently and to industry requirements with supervision ranging from direct to general

to broad. They will also, have concurrently attained the relevant underpinning knowledge and skills to support workplace performance.

Supervision of apprentices is not only an electrical safety issue, it is also an occupational health and safety issue. For a copy of the guidelines go to:

[http://www.esv.vic.gov.au/downloads/Apprentice\\_Supervision\\_Guidelines.pdf](http://www.esv.vic.gov.au/downloads/Apprentice_Supervision_Guidelines.pdf)

## INSULATED PINS ON 3 PIN PLUG TOPS – PROBLEMS

A design change was made to the 3 pin plug tops where insulation was put on the active and neutral pins with a small section of the tip exposed to make contact.

Whilst the intention of the application had merit, not enough consideration was given to the change that this small design change would make.

To ensure that the pin could still fit into either the socket outlet or

the cord extension socket, the pin was reduced in thickness, thus allowing a weakness to occur and allow the pins in some instances to snap off.

ETU OHS Reps advised the ETU of the concern, and subsequently brought this issue to the attention of the then OCEI (now Energy Safe Victoria).

It can be reported that Standards Australia have taken this issue into account and we now believe that an additional performance test is required in relation to the pins.

We need to be vigilant in relation to insulated pins.

There has already been an incident where a pin snapped off in the active terminal of a

socket outlet and a person received an electric shock. Be aware and inspect socket outlets for broken off pins.

