



## ETU OHS NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2006

### SYNTHETIC MINERAL FIBRES

Rock Wool, Glass Wool (fibreglass) and ceramic fibre are synthetic mineral fibres (SMF).

Glass Wool and Rock Wool are synthetic insulation products that are used to insulate and or fire rate steel beams, air-con duct work, pipe work, plant and equipment. Ceramic fibre is generally used to insulate furnaces.

When working with or in the vicinity of SMF material your employer must ensure that employees are instructed in the guidelines as supplied in the manufactures Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS). Your employer must ensure that any risk to the health and safety of employees created by exposure to SMF that is procured, handled, stored or disposed of in the workplace is examined, assessed and controlled.

A risk assessment must be carried out by a competent

person who, through training, education and experience has the knowledge and skills to enable them to perform the assessment prior to work proceeding and at any other time that there is a change in a process, procedure or the environment which may result in a change of exposure.

Employers must ensure that they obtain information as to the likely exposure levels for each typical task that employees may experience. All employees must be provided with information, instruction and training.

Employers must eliminate as far as is reasonably practicable the risk of exposure to air-born SMF fibres and must do this by following the hierarchy of control, which is;

- 1) Elimination,
- 2) Substitution,
- 3) Isolation,
- 4) Administrative controls,

5) PPE

Where exposure levels are such that PPE is required it must be readily available on site and is not to be regarded as a substitute control measure, employees required to use PPE must be trained in its correct fitting, maintenance and storage.

The SMF work area must have an exclusion zone of a minimum of 3 metres around the area and have barriers and signage installed.

SMF must be stored in intact containers or under cover sheets in low traffic areas, work areas should be cleaned regularly with a heppa filtered vacuum cleaner or wet mopped, waste should be placed in plastic bags and disposed of as contaminated waste, washing facilities must be in place to wash affected skin or eyes.

### PLANT COMPLIANCE WITH AUSTRALIAN STANDARDS

There have been some concerns raised by our members in relation to the safety aspects of some pieces of equipment that are coming from overseas.

It is important for all ETU members to ensure that the piece of plant they are using or inspecting is safe for use. There have been instances where electrical equipment has come from overseas but is

inappropriate for use here without modifications. It is not up to the electrician involved to do those modifications, and nor should they as they have now taken on the role of the designer of the plant. Similarly the ETU has identified that equipment being used in the workplace is not appropriate for use in that application.

Equipment such as ladders are

designed and tested to Australian Standards. Domestic grade ladders are not to be used in the workplace as they were never designed for this full time application only for the occasional use.

We have identified that a particular brand of ladder (Gorilla), appears to have some safety concerns being raised about it.

**TRAINING DATES**  
**OHS—CONTACT**  
**TANYA AT EEIT**  
**PH. 93269377**

**INITIAL 5 DAY**

**1 DAY REFRESHER**

**OHS Reps Meetings 2006**  
**10am—12pm**

**29th November—ETU Mallee**  
**Murray Trades and Labour**  
**Council 162 Seventh St**  
**Mildura**  
**December tbc—Melbourne**

## A GUIDE TO WORKING IN THE ROAD RESERVE

The document provides a summary of the requirements which must be followed when working in a road reserve.

Before any work can be undertaken in the Road Reserve consent must be obtained from the Coordinating Road Authority. If you are undertaking the works, you are the “works manager” as detailed in the Road Management Act and its Regulations.

In certain circumstances, Utilities, Responsible Road Authorities, Fire Authorities and their agents may be exempt from applying for consent. These exemptions can be found by

reference to the Road Management (Works and Infrastructure) Regulations 2005.

As a general rule VicRoads or the local council are the Coordinating Road Authority.

Consent is required for all works on, in, under or over a road. This includes:-

1. excavate or break up the surface of the road;
2. erect a structure on, in or over a road;
3. removing or interfering with a structure on the road;
4. planting or removing a tree

or other vegetation;

5. tunnelling under a road;
6. connecting a road to a road;
7. installing drains, pipes, cables, building shelters etc on a road reserve;
8. erecting an obstruction on a road;
9. installing a driveway crossing; or
10. constructing a footpath.

A Traffic Management Plan must be prepared for all works on roads and comply with any requirements included in the conditions of consent from the

coordinating Road Authority.

WorkSafe Victoria is charged with encouraging and enforcing worksite safety.



## SAFETY RECALL— B & R HAGAR MOULDED CASE

### Moulded Case Circuit Breaker

#### Date:

18/10/2006

#### Supplier Name:

Hager B&R Pty Ltd

#### Product Info:

With the following references from the 250A MCCB product

range.

1. HN203.
2. HN204.
3. HN254.

The product has an interrupting capacity of 40kA and is of a three pole configuration.

### Defect Details:

The fault can cause the circuit breaker to malfunction and it may therefore not trip when expected.

### Consumer action:

**Market Coverage:** National

**Recall Coverage:** National

## SAFETY RECALL— CLIPSAL 4 GANG POWER POINT- SUMMARY

Up to 500 of the white Clipsal branded C2015D4s (four gang powerpoint in white only) have been distributed with the red and green terminal identification markers incorrectly placed on the back of the powerpoint during the marking process. (The terminals may have been incorrectly colour marked.)

These powerpoints were distributed to electrical wholesalers throughout Australia since July 27, 2006.

### What to do – electrical contractors:

If you have:

- a. stocks of these powerpoints, purchased since July 27, 2006 please ensure that the terminals are correctly coloured. If the terminals are incorrectly coloured please do not install them. Contact Clipsal to organise free replacement stock

- b. installed the affected powerpoints since July 27, 2006, please notify us immediately with the details of these installations on the **CLIPSAL TRADE HOTLINE on 1800 800 876** between 6am-10pm AEST

EVEN IF YOU INSTALLED THE POWERPOINT CORRECTLY, WE NEED TO REPLACE IT IN CASE FUTURE REWIRING OCCURS.

**NO OTHER CLIPSAL ITEMS ARE AFFECTED.**

