



# ETU OHS REPS NEWSLETTER

## PORTABLE SOCKET-OUTLET ASSEMBLIES (PSOAS)

Portable socket-outlet assemblies (PSOAs) used on building and construction sites shall comply with the requirements of AS/NZS 3012 Electrical installations—Construction and demolition sites.

*Specifically Clause 2.6.10 provides that - Portable socket-outlet assemblies shall comply with the requirements of a Class H portable residual current device to AS/NZS 3190 or those of a socket-outlet assembly to AS 3439.4 and include, where not specifically stated as requirements of the above-mentioned Class H portable residual current devices or socket-outlet assemblies, the following:*

*(a) The enclosure shall be constructed of a suitable impact resistant and durable material and shall be of Class II (double insulated) construction.*

*(b) Socket-outlets mounted on the assembly shall comply with AS/NZS 3112, AS/NZS 3123 or IEC 60309, shall be protected against damage by suitable means such as covers or extended sides and shall have an IP rating appropriate for the environment.*

*(c) The flexible cord supplying the assembly shall be of the heavy duty sheathed type complying with AS/NZS 3191, shall be of a maximum length of 1.8 m and shall be fitted with a plug complying with AS/NZS 3112, AS/NZS 3123 or IEC 60309.*

*(d) The assembly shall incorporate overload protection with a rating no greater than the rating of the flexible cord supplying the assembly. Where three or more socket-outlets are fitted to the assembly, overload protection shall be provided by a miniature overcurrent circuit-breaker complying with AS 3111 or AS/NZS 4898.*

*(e) All socket-outlets mounted on these assemblies shall be protected by a residual current device with a maximum rated residual current of 30 mA, which operates in all live (active and neutral) conductors.*

**NOTES:**

- 1 Electrical portable outlet devices to AS/NZS 3105 do not comply with these requirements.
- 2 These assemblies may be single-phase or three-phase.
- 3 For the purpose of calculating the maximum allowable length of flexible cord to Table 1, the length of the supply flexible cord to the portable socket-outlet assembly should be taken into account.

The above information comes from AS/NZS 3012 Clause 2.6.10. There have been occasions where persons have purchased portable socket outlet assemblies that don't comply with the above clause but look similar to those that do comply.

One such item that found its way onto a construction site but didn't comply was a Arlec Power Block Model PB94. It is unknown whether this model has since been modified to comply or not. Certainly there is nothing unsafe about the equipment, it just cannot be used on a construction site.

It is incumbent on the person performing the testing and tagging to ensure that the equipment does meet the standards.



**NEWS**

A ban on smoking in motor vehicles if a person under 18 is present has come into force as of 1 January 2010.

**Q1 What does this ban mean?** A person must not smoke in a motor vehicle if a person under 18 is present. This ban includes whether the car is moving or not, whether the windows are open or closed, and whether the roof is down or not. It also means that a person under 18 may not smoke in a motor vehicle if another person under 18 is present.

**Q2 Who will be fined?** The person smoking will be fined.

**Q3 Who will enforce this law?** Victoria Police will enforce this law as part of their every day monitoring of road users.

**Q4 What is the penalty?**

The maximum penalty for an individual breaching this law will be 5 penalty units ( a penalty unit for 2009/10 is \$116.82, indexed annually), with an infringement penalty of 2 penalty units.

**Q5 Why is this ban being introduced?** This ban will reduce children’s exposure to second-hand smoke and encourage adults not to smoke around them.

There is no risk-free level of second-hand smoke in confined areas such as cars. Research shows that air quality in a car with a window partially or wholly down while a person smokes

is similar to that found in a smoky pub (Edwards et al., 2006).

Even brief periods of exposure to second-hand smoke can be harmful to children, because they are especially vulnerable to its effects (US Department of Health and Human Services, 2006). Scientific studies consistently demonstrate that children exposed to second-hand smoke are at an increased risk of premature death and disease, including reduced lung function, increased number and severity of asthma episodes and increased risk of lower respiratory tract infections (Wipfli et al., 2008).

Public consultation found overwhelming support for a ban on smoking in cars carrying children.

**Q6 Why is the age limit 18?** The Victorian Government recognises the importance of protecting all children from the harms of second hand smoke exposure and that many of them are unable to request that smoking does not occur around them.

This law will reinforce the message to parents and adults that it is not acceptable to smoke around children, particularly in confined spaces such as cars.

For further information go to:  
<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/tobaccoreforms/>

**2010 Calendar**

**EEIT OHS MEETING DATES**

10AM –12PM

Melbourne –

21st April

23rd June

25th August

20th October

**Held at:**

ETU Office

200 Arden Street  
 North Melbourne

**OHS REP TRAINING**

Contact Tanya—0393269377 to book into the courses below.

Initial 5 Day OHS REPS Course

July 7, 8, 13, 14, 15

October 6, 7, 12, 13, 14

1 Day Refresher OHS Rep Course

Melbourne

July 21

October 27

Country

May 26 Morwell

July 28 Portland

September 22 Shepparton

November 24 Mildura