



# ETU OHS NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2005

## IN THIS ISSUE

OHS PERSON IN FOCUS— 2

IVAN BALTA

DOCUMENT IN REVIEW— 2

CODES OF PRACTICE

OHS REP TRAINING 2

## MAIN STORY—VISUAL INSPECTION AND TESTING OF WIRING

Recently a second year apprentice received an electric shock while working on the job that luckily was not fatal but left him in hospital under observation.

The incident occurred while the apprentice was connecting a light fitting to a plug base in a ceiling space.

The apprentice was at the time working off a stepladder and had positioned the fitting on the top step of the ladder, he then proceeded to plug the lead of the fitting into the plug base. When the apprentice grabbed the fitting he received an electric shock that threw him from the ladder.

This incident occurred due the lack of not following procedures, guidelines, and not following the AS/NZS 3000:2000 regarding visual inspection and testing.

The reason he received a shock was, the active on the plug base was wired into the earth terminal, and he was working on the sub circuit live at the time.

A lack of adequate job instruction and supervision of the apprentice contributed to the incident.

AS/NZS 3000:2000 section 6.2.1 states,

*A visual inspection shall be made when work on an electrical installation has been completed in order to verify that the work complies with the requirements of this standard.*

*The visual inspection shall be carried out before, or in the association with testing, and should where practicable be*

*made before the relevant part of the electrical installation is placed in service.*

Section 6.2.2 of AS/NZS 3000:2000 provides a guide to the matters to be checked during the visual inspection to assess that the relevant requirements of the standard are satisfied.

The AS/NZS 3000:2000 under section 6.3.2 provides for a testing sequence to be followed upon completion of the electrical installation.

It is the responsibility of the licensed electrician on the job to ensure that the wiring is inspected and tested in accordance with the standards.

## OHS Reps Meetings 2005 10am—12pm

24th February - Melbourne

24th March—Geelong Trades Hall

28th April—Melbourne

19th May—ETU Morwell

30th June—Melbourne

21st July—Portland Trades Hall

25th August—Melbourne

22nd September—Sheparton Trades Hall

27th October—Melbourne

17th November—Geelong ETU Office

8th December—Melbourne

## A NEW CONCEPT IN EYE CORRECTION

### NEW CONTACT LENSES - A GOOD SOLUTION FOR DUSTY, DIRTY ENVIRONMENTS

A new technological breakthrough has enabled Australian scientists to come up with a technique for correcting a person's vision without having to wear glasses or contact lenses during the day. This may be the ideal solution for those working in dirty, dry, dusty or windy

conditions.

All you need to do is to wear a special high tech contact lens during sleep only. They work by using a person's own tears to reshape the epithelium (skin) of the eye and make a temporary virtual correcting lens. During the day, no glasses or contact lenses are required at all. The Dream

Lens procedure is flexible and reversible, unlike invasive surgery, and the treatment can last for years.

The technique is practiced by members of the Orthokeratology Society of Australia. For further Information, visit the website [www.dreamlenses.com.au](http://www.dreamlenses.com.au) or telephone 9820 1688.

## OHS PERSON IN FOCUS—IVAN BALTA

I have been an OH&S Rep for the past 10 years on and off representing ETU members.

The passion for taking on this role is due to the fact that as an apprentice I had witnessed too many unsafe acts, and started to become a little more vocal. So when the opportunity presented itself I put my hand up to represent my fellow workmates.

I did an OH&S course at Trades Hall and haven't looked back. I have worked in the Construction

Industry for approximately 18 years, and over that time have seen the OH&S evolve from being a wimp if you bought up any issues to people starting to actually listen and develop OH&S practices.

The thing about the Electrical Industry is that it is very unforgiving so you might end up with burns to your body or even dead.

I remember a time when no money was allocated to

construction wiring and it was seen as a liability for electrical contractors who would do the work for nothing and want you to spend as little time as possible on it.

I think the next frontier will be to educate the rest of the industry (non-electrical) about electrical safety.

On a parting note don't ever compromise safety because you're no good to anyone DEAD.



Photo Ivan Balta

ETU Safety Committee Member

## DOCUMENT IN REVIEW—CODES OF PRACTICE

An approved code of practice gives practical guidance in how to comply with a general duty under the Act or a specific duty under the regulations.

Compliance with the provisions of an approved code of practice, when relevant, may constitute compliance with the provisions of the Act or Regulations on which the code is giving practical guidance.

Generally, an approved code of practice contains various

courses of action which are designed to achieve Health and Safety standards required by the Act or Regulations.

The provisions in a code are not mandatory. A person may choose to comply with the relevant provisions of the Act or Regulations in some other way provided the method used also fulfils the requirements of the Act or Regulation. A failure to

observe relevant approved codes of practice can be used as evidence that a person or company has contravened or failed to comply with the provisions of the Act or Regulations.

The full list of codes of practice, and the codes themselves, can be downloaded from the work cover website.

[www.workcover.vic.gov.au](http://www.workcover.vic.gov.au)

## OHS REPRESENTATIVE TRAINING

Under the current and future legislation elected OHS reps and their deputies are entitled to attend an approved 5-day training course on paid leave.

After July 2005 the employer must provide refresher training every twelve months there on. Reps may have been just elected, or maybe have been the rep for a while.

It's important that reps attend a course as soon as possible, so that they understand their role and how the legislation in Victoria works. Next year it will be vital that all OH&S Reps upgrade their knowledge of the new legislation at a refresher course.

The ETU runs an approved

course for OH&S Reps on various workplace hazards in the Melbourne office and will be running courses in country Victoria in 2005.

Portland has already been booked for the first week in May 2005, if you are in country Victoria and are interested in doing an OHS reps course contact Tanya

at the ETU on 83415555 for course details and enrolment forms.

With the upcoming new OHS Act it is vitally important that OHS Reps have an understanding of the new arrangements. Whilst it has been touched on in this article there are many new changes to the Act which impact on reps including the new provision for 3 year terms.