

Safety Alert

To: All EGT Apprentices and Supervising Electrical Workers
From: Paul Laycock, OSH Advisor
CC: Field Officers
Date: 26 March 2009
Re: **General Supervision**

SA 14

There recently had been some misunderstanding over EGT's requirements when apprentices are working under General supervision. In order to clarify EGT's position I have made reference to the *Safety Guidelines for Electrical workers* published by *Energy Safety*. This information is EGT'S minimum requirements and should be adhered to.

LEVELS OF SUPERVISION

Regulation 50 of the Electricity (Licensing) regulations 1991 states that electrical work must be effectively supervised for the purpose of preventing danger to life and property

The following guidelines are provided to assist those in industry to determine the appropriate levels of supervision.

Two levels of supervision may be applied:

- **Direct constant supervision** - The personal supervision of a worker, at all times, on a direct, constant basis, by a person licensed to carry out all the work without supervision
- **General Supervision** - General supervision does not require constant attendance of the supervisor. General supervision must be given by a person licensed to carry out the work without supervision. The nature of the work and competence of the person undertaking the work needs to be considered, to ensure safe and satisfactory work practices and that the work standards are maintained.

Under the principal of general supervision, the supervising electrical worker should attend the workplace, explain the task ensure the worker understands the task and **carry out any isolation** that may be required. The supervising electrical worker should return the work place as often as considered necessary to ensure effective supervision is maintained.

Note: under the Guidelines EGT Apprentices are not permitted to isolate circuits without the presence of a supervising electrical worker. EGT require that a supervising electrical worker attends site at the start of each working day to ensure compliance to the above Guidelines.

Another concern arising from apprentices working on site under general supervision is the re-energizing of electrical circuits that have been altered or had additions carried out.

AS/NZS 3000:2007 wiring rules (Section 8 Verification)

8.1.2 Requirements states that prior to placing an electrical installation, or any part thereof, in service following construction, alterations, additions or repairs thereof, it shall be verified, as far as practicable, that the installation is safe to energize and will operate correctly in the accordance with

the requirements of AS/NZS 3000:2007. To confirm that the requirements of this standard have been met after completion and before being placed back in service, the installation shall be-

- (a) Inspected as far as practicable; and
- (b) Tested in accordance with clause 8.3

Under the terms of General supervision EGT apprentices are not allowed to isolate circuits and distribution boards without a tradesperson present. This isolation is required in order to carry out the tests that are required to be conducted to comply with clause 8.3. Without these tests energizing or reenergizing a circuit may be a breach of statutory requirements. Please ensure that apprentices are not required to energize circuits unless a supervising electrical worker is present to test the installation.

A copy of the Safety Guidelines for Electrical workers *is available form EGT on request.*