

22 November 2019

[REDACTED]
Master Electricians Australia
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By email: [REDACTED]@mea.asn.au

Dear [REDACTED]

PROPOSED ELECTRICITY SAFETY (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 2019

Thank you for reviewing and commenting on the proposed Electricity Safety (General) Regulations 2019. The following are our responses to your comments.

Safety Switches

Energy Safe Victoria (ESV) acknowledges the significant contribution safety switches provide with respect to electrical safety and notes that the Victorian Government is currently in the process of mandating safety switch installation in residential rental properties. ESV supports this initiative and more information is available from the following website:

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/rentingregulations>

Any further initiatives with respect to the installation of safety switches in public housing or on the sale of private housing are beyond the scope of the proposed Regulations. Submissions in relation to such proposals should be addressed to the Ministers' responsible for public housing and sale of land legislation.

Notwithstanding the above, ESV is a strong advocate for the installation safety switches in both residential and commercial premises and has recently launched a community education campaign which encourages the use and testing of safety switches in the home. Further information is available at the ESV website: <https://esv.vic.gov.au/campaigns/household-wiring/>

Underground consumer's mains

The proposed Regulations have been amended to allow exiting consumer's mains to have a minimum insulation resistance of 1 megohm when reconnected to electricity supply.

Service and installation rules

ESV agrees that terms used in the Service and Installation rules should be consistent with the Wiring Rules and the proposed Regulations wherever possible. ESV encourages Master Electrician's Australia to bring this issue to the attention of the electricity distributors' SIR Management Committee which can be contacted via the following website:

<http://www.victoriansir.org.au/>

Patient areas

There have been some changes to these provisions to assist in making obligations clearer. However, it is intended that the obligation to comply with the standards applying to patient areas be a shared obligation between electrician/electrical contractor and the person who commissions the work.

The provisions require the person who commissions work in a patient area to inform the electrical contractor and/or electrician of the location of the patient area and its use or intended use. Once the contractor/electrician is informed of this the electrician and contractor are taken to have knowledge of the patient area and, therefore, must wire it according to the appropriate standard.

Multiple occupancy buildings and subdivisions

These provisions have been revised to address this issue and make clearer what is permitted with respect to existing installations.

Prescribed electrical installation work


The reference to fixed electrical equipment has been removed. The regulations now refers to work on all or any part of any *electrical installation* operated at any voltage installed in a patient area (other than communication equipment operated at extra-low voltage).

Emergency restoration of private electric lines in high bushfire risk areas

Unfortunately drafting conventions generally do not permit this kind of information to be placed in regulations. However, ESV is working on an information brochure related to private aerial lines and will be able to include information on how to get an emergency restoration reference code within this brochure.

We appreciate the time you have taken to review and comment on the proposed Regulations.

Yours sincerely



Neil Fraser
GENERAL MANAGER LICENSING TRAINING AND STANDARDS