

Regulation of stray current minimisation

Requirements relating to new electrified rail project delivery

Policy

Principle

ESV is a proactive regulator that aims to minimise the need for regulatory action due to non-compliance. This is particularly relevant to stray current minimisation. Electrolysis mitigation can be a minor project design consideration in a major infrastructure project, and should never delay a project if at all possible.

This principle applies to any electrified tramway, light railway, or heavy rail network.

Role

ESV's role as the Victorian safety regulator is to:

- assess compliance outcomes and take regulatory action where appropriate
- provide feedback on a process designed to deliver compliance where, in ESV's view, identified gaps or risks may jeopardise that compliance.

It is not ESV's role to provide assurance that a specific design will deliver a compliant outcome.

Requirements

ESV's requirements relating to new electrified rail project delivery include the following:

1. Clear project requirements involving the project scope and standards required to minimise stray current.
2. Design reviews undertaken by suitably qualified personnel who:
 - a. understand the project scope and standards
 - b. can identify potential system-wide impacts (even if outside the project scope).
3. A rail operator project acceptance process that includes criteria that reflect:
 - c. the scope and standards required to minimise stray current
 - d. any issues identified as part of the design review (including any potential system-wide issues that may have been outside the original project scope).

ESV will not:

1. review engineering designs
2. provide assurance of compliance or a limit to action it may take to achieve compliance (at project commissioning or subsequently).

Who we are

We are Victoria's safety regulator for electricity, gas and pipelines.

Our role is to ensure that Victorian gas and electricity industries are safe and meet community expectations. We are also responsible for licensing and registering electricians, and educating the community about energy safety.

More information is available on the Energy Safe Victoria website: www.esv.vic.gov.au