

The Blue Book 2022

What's changed from 2017

Background

The Code of Practice on electrical safety for the work on or near high voltage electrical apparatus is known as 'The Blue Book' in Victoria.

The Blue book is revised and republished every five years to ensure the safety standards of work on or near high voltage electrical apparatus are fit for purpose, reflect industry best practice and are improved, where possible.

The 2022 Blue Book has been revised by the Victorian Electrical Safety Committee (VESC), established under Section 8 of the *Energy Safe Victoria Act 2005* (the Act).

What changes were made, and why?

Below is a summary of all major changes, other than typographical errors and formatting changes, to the Blue Book from the 2017 edition.

Section 2

- **2.1 Scope** has been restructured to provide clarity for industry on where and when the Blue Book shall be used.
- **2.2 Referenced documents** identify only those Australian Standards or industry guidelines that are directly referenced in the text of the Blue Book.

A bibliography is provided at the end of the Book for all other Australian Standards or industry guidelines that were considered during the rewrite, to inform the contents of the revised Blue Book.

- **2.3 Definitions** for 'Complex installation', 'Enclosure', 'Electrical installation', 'Major Electricity Company' and 'Work' have been added to provide clarity around these terms.

Section 3

- **3.9 Personal protective equipment** has been enhanced with respect to arc flash hazard management.
- **3.13 Work within electric and magnetic fields** has been updated to reflect other standards and guidelines updates.
- **3.15 Arc flash hazard management** is a new section that outlines the requirements for improved industry safety outcomes.

Section 4

- **4.1 General** has been revised to clarify that persons holding authorisations shall be assessed at no more than a three-yearly interval.

Section 5

- **5 Entry to enclosures or work in the vicinity of electrical apparatus** has been extensively rewritten to clarify requirements and provide greater guidance to improve industry understanding and promote safer outcomes.

Section 8

- **8.1 Earthing of apparatus** provides improved information and clearer requirements in sections 8.1.2 and 8.1.3 for earthing devices and applying these devices safely.

Section 9

- **9.2.5 Persons permitted to sign onto electrical access permits** provides increased clarity on the requirements for instructed persons signing onto access permits.
- **9.2.14.3 Absence of a recipient at relinquishment** further provides for improved requirements to assist organisations where a recipient(s) cannot be located for sign off.
- **9.2.14.4 Recipient in charge (RIC) replacement during permit on issue** provides clearer requirements for changing the recipient-in-charge during an active access permit.
- **9.7.3 Use of a statement of condition of apparatus or plant (SCAP)** provides separate requirements for written and verbal SCAPs, to clarify the individual requirements for each and also provides improved information to enable clearer understanding of the written SCAP process in the field.

9.7.3 Also introduces additional requirements of the operating authority for work in an electrical installation.

Section 11

- All clauses have been updated to improve clarity of requirements.

General updates

- A number of sections and clauses now also highlight the legislative requirements for electrical installations. For example, section **9.6.1(b)**.
- **Appendix B** – re-insertion of the example forms for industry. Many of these example forms can also be located and downloaded from the [VESI website](#).

Who we are

Energy Safe Victoria is 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 our website esv.vic.gov.au