

SUBSTATION ERGONOMICS

MOVEMENT OF TRANSFORMERS INTO AND OUT OF SUBSTATIONS



It has been brought to the attention of the ETU that some Electrical Distribution Companies and associated contractors are utilising methods of installation that place employees at significant risk of a musculoskeletal injury. This alert has been developed to ensure that all of the hazards with this system are recognised.

The ETU has the opinion that all works associated with the installation of new and upgraded substations be thoroughly documented by way of individual SWMS, to control the risks of all operational activities.

This includes but is not limited to the following:

- Ergonomic assessment of all activities
- Licensing of tradesman (e.g. High Risk Licences)
- Set-up of ramps
- Unloading and movement of transformers

- Shifting transformers into final position
- Certification of Lifting Points, and rigging points

One method of assessment is by use of the NIOSH lifting equations. The NIOSH equation is a particular risk assessment method that may be used in the context of the Victorian OH&S Regulations 2007 and Codes of Practice.

The Victorian Code of Practice for Manual Handling provides practical guidance on how to comply with the OH&S Regulations. This must be adhered to in order to meet the provisions of Section 3.1.1 of the Victorian OH&S Regulations 2007 and Section 21 of the Victorian OH&S Act 2004.

It is the recommendation of the ETU that if any of the above items are not controlled the work **should cease**. Contact your designated Health & Safety Representative, your local organiser or alternatively your Union OH&S Officer.