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OH&S SAFETY ALERT

ESSENTIAL ELECTRICAL SITE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

Due to the inherent risks associated with electrical installation on Construction Site in Victoria, the following principles are to be established at the site safety committee and adhered to at all times.

Note: Any variation to these agreed 'Site Electrical Rules' is to be undertaken through consultation with the elected Health & Safety Representative and agreed prior to implementation.

Site Energisation Procedure:

- An energisation procedure is to be developed to provide a framework for a safe work environment during isolation and energisation of an electrical installation and electrical equipment forming part of such electrical installation.
- The procedure is to be used for works on isolating and energising/de-energising electrical installations. This includes the Temporary Installation
- This procedure will cover:
  1. Company 'Live Work' statement
  2. Prior to Energising
  3. Energising Procedure – Main Switchboards
  4. Energising Procedure – Sub-Boards
  5. Energising Procedure – Mechanical/ Services Switchboard
  6. Danger Tag Isolation Procedure
  7. Procedure for Switching On Circuits at Sub-Boards
  8. Working in A 'LIVE' Ceiling Space / Wall Cavity Permit System

Testing and Maintaining of Electrical Equipment:

- All Plant, including portable electrical equipment and flexible electrical cords, shall be visually inspected for wear and mechanical damage, and tested in accordance with AS/NZS 3760 for earth continuity and insulation resistance.
- Due to the risks associated with equipment use in the construction industry, this shall be done by an 'A Grade' Electrical licence holder that has completed the Construction Wiring Course.
- These control measures need to be detailed in the SWMS.

Standby Electricians:

- Standby electrician's onsite are able to oversee and ensure that protection of electrical assets is maintained whilst works are undertaken by other trades.
- The employees must be nominated site employees (engaged by the REC in control of the installation) that has completed the Construction Wiring Course.
- This enables:
  - Initial investigations to occur after an electrical incident to identify faulty electrical equipment or damaged electrical services. i.e shock, RCD fault, damaged cables.
  - Isolations for work in the vicinity of electrical assets, and verification for other trades.
  - Prevent unauthorised access to temporary switchboards
  - Ensures that there is someone present whilst works are occurring, with the appropriate training and knowledge of the site and its construction wiring, to quickly and effectively isolate live services in the event of an emergency, or conduct rectification works.
  - Enables portable equipment to be tagged prior to use after hours.

Authorised by Troy Gray, State Secretary, ETU Victoria

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