



No Go Zones

Working Near Overhead and Underground Assets

Do you undertake work in the vicinity of electrical Transmission, Distribution or Traction Company assets using large vehicles, plant and or equipment including scaffolds? If the answer is **YES**, then the question is; Are you using the “**No Go Zone Rules**”?

WorkSafe Victoria in conjunction with Energy Safe Victoria (formerly the Office of the Chief Electrical Inspector (OCEI)), other Safety Regulators peak industry bodies and unions, recently expanded the ESV ‘No Go Zone Rules’ to cover all transmission and distribution assets which include electricity, communications, water, gas and petroleum pipelines.

These revised Rules encapsulate safe work practices for all work involving the operation of vehicles, plant and equipment in the vicinity of those transmission and distribution assets located in public areas, or on easements held over private land.

From an electrical perspective, where you are using plant and equipment, including cranes, excavators, elevating work platforms (EWP), concrete pumping booms, scissor lifts, forklifts, tipping trucks etc. in the vicinity of overhead traction or electrical assets, then appropriate safe work processes and procedures including Safe Work Method Statements (SWMS) and the use of other preliminary planning techniques must be implemented prior to the commencement of any work.

To assist in this planning process, WorkSafe Victoria has developed several brochures and booklets called;

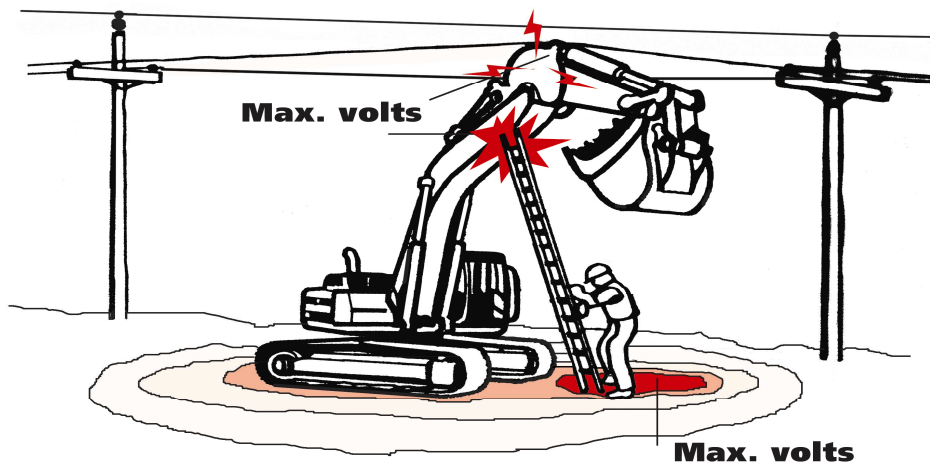
1. “Framework for Undertaking Work Near Overhead and Underground Assets”
2. “Guide for Undertaking Work Near Underground Assets” and
3. ”Using earthmoving equipment near overhead electrical assets”

all of which are available on the WorkSafe web site.

This information may also be accessed through the ESV web site on www.esv.vic.gov.au and click on the WorkSafe link.

To ensure your safety and the safety of other workers on the work site, always maintain the appropriate clearances from any overhead electrical towers, poles and wires as outlined in the No Go Zones information. Use a trained Spotter (Safety Observer) to ensure that your plant and equipment does not approach the electrical assets closer than the designated clearance distances as indicated in the No Go Zone

brochures or your Permit to Work that is issued by the Electrical Transmission, Distribution or Traction Business.



FAQs

- **Where can a person obtain information regarding Spotters Registration requirements and Registered Training Providers which Spotter courses?**

This information is accessed through the No Go Zone section of the Energy Safe Victoria web site on www.esv.vic.gov.au .
Check under 'General Requirements to act as a Spotter' and the current list of Registered Training Providers.

- **Does a Spotter have to be trained and registered?**

Industry has considered that it is appropriate for all Spotters to receive training and have an awareness of the hazards associated with working near overhead electrical assets with plant and equipment including large vehicles etc.

Spotters for overhead electrical assets shall have completed an endorsed Spotter training program. Persons undertaking Spotter duties for underground assets do not have to be a registered Spotter, but must be competent to undertake the work

Trained Spotters are registered with Energy Safe Victoria to ensure any changes in the No Go Zone procedures (such as the WorkSafe "Framework for Undertaking Work Near Overhead and Underground Assets") are passed onto the Spotter during the refresher training which is undertaken at the expiry of each three year registration period.

➤ **What competencies must a Spotter hold?**

A person, who has undertaken an approved Spotter training course, is ESV registered and holds a Dogging / Rigging competency, may act as a Spotter for any type of plant or equipment.

For all other items of plant and equipment, a person must hold a Competency or WorkSafe ticket for that item of plant the person will be spotting for.

For items of plant such as an EWP <11Metres or a Vehicle Mounted Crane<10Tonne / Metres or other plant where there is no formal operating competency, some evidence of training, competency and or experience must be demonstrated to the Registered Training Organization (RTO) to obtain a Spotters Certificate Registration.

➤ **If a number of items of plant are operating on a work site near overhead electrical assets, is a Spotter permitted to observe for more than one item of plant at a time?**

No! Because of the high degree of risk associated with plant working near overhead electrical lines and the speed that plant can traverse into danger, it is not considered appropriate that a Spotter observe for more than one item of plant.

➤ **Why do a Job Safety Analysis (JSA) (SWMS)?**

A Risk or Job Safety Analysis (JSA) or what is now known as a 'Safe Work Method Statement' (SWMS) is the process whereby any hazards on the work site can be identified at an early stage and then documents how the risks associated with those hazards can be successfully managed.

The JSA or SWMS is now a standard work place documented process and control measure to assist and ensure as far as practicable, work on the site be undertaken safely.

➤ **If work is being proposed on an electrical transmission tower line easement, or in the vicinity of a tower line, who should I talk to for assistance and approval?**

In Victoria, the electrical transmission tower lines are owned by SP AusNet (formerly SPI PowerNet), Alcoa Australia and BassLink.

To undertake any work on a tower line easement, it is a requirement that the tower line owner be consulted and agreement on working parameters reached prior to any work being commenced.

A 'Permit to Work' may be provided to you by the Transmission line owner which will generally outline all the safety precautions taken by the company to assist you in your work. The 'Permit' will also stipulate any requirements (Special Provisions) that you may have to

implement to assist in the safe completion of your work near the electrical lines.

To obtain any assistance and information regarding transmission tower lines call SP AusNet on telephone 03 8635 7333.

➤ **When does a ‘Permit to Work’ from either the electrical distribution or traction (tram or train) company need to be obtained?**

A ‘Permit to Work’ may be provided to you by either the traction or electrical distribution company when work is to be undertaken within three (3) metres of any overhead electrical asset. The Permit will generally outline all the safety precautions taken by the company to assist you in your work. The Permit will also stipulate any requirements (Special Provisions) that may have to be implemented to assist in the safe completion of your work near the electrical lines.

Where work is to be undertaken between 3 and 6.4 metres from the electrical line and a safety concern is evident, the electrical or tram company should be contacted for assistance.

Following an inspection and possible negotiations, the issue of a ‘Permit to Work’ may be considered appropriate to assist in declaring required safety clearances and safety related matters and any precautions taken.

➤ **Is it necessary to contact or make a ‘Dial Before You Dig’ 1100 or ‘MOCS’ inquiry prior to excavating deeper than 300mm on public, private land, and easements or reserves?**

The Electricity Safety Act 1998 and Regulations require that a person must not make any excavation deeper than 300mm on public or private land including easements and reserves unless the register of the relevant transmission, distribution or traction company has been inspected and all underground electrical lines in the vicinity of the excavation are located.

Further, the Pipelines Act requires that no work be undertaken within 3000mm of any underground transmission gas, petroleum, or telecom asset or an electrical cable with a voltage greater than 66,000volts that is registered under the Act

It is considered that, where a person requests information using the ‘Dial Before you Dig’ referral process, the statutory obligations outlined in the Electricity Safety Act 1998 and Regulations are considered to have been satisfied.

➤ **When using the information contained in the WorkSafe ‘Framework for Undertaking Work Near Overhead and Underground Assets’ document, can the clearances outlined in either Table A be used as a minimum clearance for the operation of plant and equipment near overhead or underground lines?**

The **Table A** measurements should only be used in conjunction with the **'Deemed to Comply'** process and procedures, and are not intended to be used in isolation.

The **'Deemed to Comply'** process is outlined in the Framework for Undertaking Work Near Overhead and Underground Assets document. The process has a number of conditions which are applicable before it can be utilized. This process initially requires substantial input of information to determine and establish plant and equipment design and operating envelopes, electric line depth or height above ground, development and documentation of safe work procedures and training of the equipment operators in those procedures.

Where the conditions in the 'Deemed to Comply' process cannot be met, then the No Go Zone 'Permit to Work' procedure must be used.

- **Some underground cables are not located where the Dial Before You Dig plans indicate, or are not shown on the plans at all. Who is responsible?**

It is acknowledged that plans and drawings may not always or clearly indicate where an underground asset is buried. Where there is a discrepancy between the 'as laid' plan and the actual position, or an asset is not shown on the plan, the referring authority should be notified immediately so that the information may be correctly updated. However, where a discrepancy exists and the work is continued without communication to or advice from the referring body, and the asset is subsequently interfered with, then that person or company may be held accountable for any damage caused.

**Spotters Registration Certificate Classes
17/10/2008**

<u>Competency Class</u>	<u>Certificate notation</u>
Basic Rigging	RB
Intermediate Rigging	RI
Advanced Rigging	RA
Dogging	DG
Forklift Trucks (8A1)	LF
Excavator	LE
Backhoe	LB
Front End Loader (7B)	LL
Skid Steer Loader	LS
Tipping Trucks	TT
Elevating Work Platform (Longer than 11 Metres)	WP>11m
Elevating Work Platform (Less than 11 Metres)	WP<11m
Vehicle Loading Cranes (Greater than 10metre/tonnes)	CV>10m/t
Vehicle Loading Cranes (Less than 10metre/tonnes)	CV<10m/t
Cranes Tower	CT
Cranes Derrick	CD
Cranes Portal Boom	CP
Cranes Bridge & Gantry	CB
Cranes Non Slewing	CN
Cranes Mobile Slewing (up to 20 Tonnes)	C2
Cranes Mobile Slewing (up to 60 Tonnes)	C6
Cranes Mobile Slewing (up to 100 Tonnes)	C1
Cranes Mobile Slewing (Open/Over 100 Tonnes)	CO
Crane Chaser	CC
Concrete Placing Booms	PB
Drilling Rigs (7E)	DR