



Battery energy storage systems (utility scale)

Compliance and enforcement priority 2022–23

<p>Why are battery storage systems a priority?</p>	<p>There have been recent instances of fire caused by battery energy storage (BES) systems in Victoria, and in other jurisdictions. ESV has investigated the Victorian incidents and taken action to ensure the safety of batteries. The increased uptake of BES systems means developing further safety insights, and ongoing regulatory vigilance, is required.</p>
<p>Who has the compliance obligation?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owners and operators of commercial BES systems. • Licensed electrical workers and registered electrical contractors. • Suppliers of BES systems equipment and components.
<p>How does the hazard or non-compliance occur?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasonable care is not taken to ensure that the whole of system is safe and operated safely. • The BES systems that are supplied are not safe to be connected to an electricity supply, or do not comply with prescribed Standard (AS/NZS 3820). • Non-compliant installation or maintenance work.
<p>What compliance action will ESV take?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performing audits of utility scale BES systems. • Developing compliance guidance for BES systems. • Auditing compliance documentation. • Responding to and investigating incidents.
<p>What enforcement action may ESV take?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issuing improvement notices. • Issuing infringements. • Issuing directions. • Recalling and prohibiting. • Prosecuting.
<p>What are the targets?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit two large scale BES systems. • Produce guidance on ESV's expectations, and what compliance looks like.
<p>What will be measured?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of audits performed. • Non-compliances identified (monitored as a percentage). • Number and type of enforcement actions taken.
<p>What do we want to achieve?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved regulatory activities, informed by data, themes and trends from identified non-compliances, to increase compliance levels and reduce safety issues and risks.
<p>Who will ESV work with?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP). • WorkSafe. • Solar Victoria. • IEC and AUS/NZ standards committees. • The Victorian community.