



Electrical work

Compliance and enforcement priority 2022–23

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Why is electrical work compliance a priority?	<p>Electrical work that is not carried out safely in line with applicable Australian Standards can cause injury, death or fires.</p> <p>Maintaining compliance among licensed electrical workers, registered electrical contractors and licensed electrical inspectors ensures the safety of the Victorian community and electrical workers.</p> <p>In early 2022, ESV upgraded its approach to the certificate of electrical safety (COES) audits of electrical installation works to increase community assurance of safe electrical work and compliance, and to improve data collection and analysis so we can identify areas to support industry compliance.</p>
Who has the compliance obligation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Registered electrical contractors (RECs).• Licensed electrical workers (LEWs) such as A Grade electricians, switchgear and supervised workers.• Licensed Electrical Inspectors (LEIs).
How does the risk or non-compliance occur?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RECs failing to comply with statutory duties, including appointing appropriate technical and business supervisors.• Electrical workers failing to install and test electrical installations to minimum safety and technical standards.• LEIs failing to inspect appropriately.• LEWs, including apprentices, are not properly supervised.
What compliance action will ESV take?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Auditing electrical installations on residential and commercial construction sites.• Auditing certificates of electrical safety.• Conducting field-based licence checks.
What enforcement action may ESV take?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Directing RECs to carry out rectification works at their expense and within an appropriate timeframe.• Issuing infringement notices to LEWs and/or RECs when we identify and substantiate prescribed offences.• Taking disciplinary action to restrict, suspend or cancel registration for RECS where proper cause exists.• Taking disciplinary action to restrict, suspend or cancel licences for LEWs where proper cause exists.• Prosecuting unlicensed and unregistered workers.• Prosecuting LEWs and/or RECS for statutory breaches, which give rise to serious safety risks. This includes reckless conduct or where the nature, severity and gravity of the offence warrants judicial action.
What are the targets?	<p>Conduct:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12,000 certificate of electrical safety (COES) audits• 450 field-based licence checks, including solar installations• 20 LEI licence audits• 1,000 electrical installation compliance spot inspections.

What will be measured?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of audits performed.• Number of non-compliant audits (non-compliances monitored as a percentage).• Number of incidences of ineffective supervision of electrical workers (including apprentices) and related enforcement action.• Number of unlicensed and unregistered workers identified and related enforcement action.• Number of enforcement actions undertaken including:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– number of rectification notices (section 45AB)– number of improvement notices issued– infringement notices– disciplinary action.
What do we want to achieve?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improved regulatory activities (informed by data, and the themes and trends from identified non-compliances), which increase compliance levels and reduce safety issues and risks.
Who will ESV work with?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).• Industrial organisations, including unions.• Industry bodies and representatives.• Community members who make complaints about electrical work.• The Victorian community.