

# TRAINING APPROVAL STATEMENT

## “COURSE IN VEGETATION MANAGEMENT”

**Issue date – 16 September 2013**

### Introduction

In accordance with Regulation 319, tree clearing, of the Electricity Safety (Installations) Regulations 2009 an Authorised Person means a person who holds a current certificate specifying satisfactory completion of a training course in tree clearing, approved by Energy Safe Victoria (ESV).

An Authorised Person in the context of this training approval statement means a Vegetation Management Worker as prescribed on the ESV website in the procedure - ESV Electrical Safety Rules for Vegetation Management Work Near Overhead Powerlines by Non Electrical Workers.

The training course that ESV approves is the National UET20312 Certificate II in ESI Powerline Vegetation Control and the ESV prescribed refresher training.

### Who does this training approval statement apply to?

This approval statement applies to vegetation management work where the workers:

- are not working for or under the control of an electricity asset owner; **and**
- may cause any part of a tree that is pruned or cleared to fall closer to an overhead line than—
  - (a) 2 metres in all directions for low voltage and high voltage not exceeding 66,000 volts (1,500 volts dc)
  - (c) 6 metres in all directions for high voltage greater than 66,000 volts (1,500 volts dc);**and**
- body, tools, equipment, or vehicle, may be required to come closer to an aerial line than—
  - (a) 100 mm in all directions for insulated low voltage conductors
  - (b) 1,500 mm in all directions for bare or covered low voltage conductors
  - (c) 2,000 mm in all directions for high voltage conductors not exceeding 66,000 volts.

### National UET20312 Certificate II in ESI Powerline Vegetation Control

Where a person has attained the above certificate in another state or territory, the employer shall ensure that gap training in unit UETTDREL14A, Working Safely Near Live Electrical Apparatus as a Non-Electrical Worker, is delivered to workers by a registered training

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organisation (RTO) to ensure that these workers understand the requirements of Victorian, Acts, Regulations, Codes of practice, Safety Rules, and Industry Guidelines.

The employer shall ensure that the training electives chosen are appropriate to the tasks that the workers shall be carrying out. The employees shall only undertake work that they have received a statement of attainment for and are appropriately certified. The employer must authorise the workers for the required tasks.

## Annual Refresher Training

ESV requires these Authorised Persons undertake an annual refresher training that is delivered by a Certificate IV Trainer/Assessor that covers at a minimum the three key areas that follow. The refresher training shall be based on compliance with Victorian Acts, Regulations, Codes of Practice and company specific policy, rules and procedures.

### 1. General Safety Requirements

- *The requirements and application of Hazard & Risk Assessment*
- *Application of First Aid “CPR, Shock, Burns, Incident Assessment & Management”*
- *Understanding of insulated equipment checks and use of approved equipment only, e.g. not used after “marked date”*
- *Use of mandatory PPE*
- *Understanding of the Roles & Responsibilities of Safety Observers*

### 2. Work In the Vicinity of electrical apparatus

- *Use of control measures to mitigate electrical risk*
- *How to comply with Safe Approach Distances (SAD) when handling loads, using tools & equipment*
- *Safe use of mobile plant near electrical apparatus*

### 3. Approach to Electrical Apparatus in accordance with ESV Rules

- *Understanding of the relationship between Green Book, Blue book and ESV rules and how they are applied*
- *Understanding of the exclusion zone principle in relation to SAD*
- *Consideration of sag, sway and other environmental conditions*
- *Understanding the definitions of, Safe Approach Distance, Vicinity, Near*
- *Use and application of SAD tables in relation to Persons, Mobile Plant & Vegetation*
- *Understanding of Blue Book Section 12 “Work by Persons not under the control of the asset owner”*
- *Utilising procedures and controls for work near, within SAD, and Vicinity*
- *Identification of the electrical hazards and the controls (including Protective equipment, Voltage Identification)*
- *Understanding of the Permit To Work (PTW) process/requirements*
- *Understanding why contact with network owners before work proceeds is necessary*

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## Organisation authorisations

Companies undertaking vegetation management work have the responsibility to ensure that their employees are suitably trained, assessed as competent, and authorised for the work that they are undertaking.

All relevant company authorisations must be reviewed to verify the individual workers competence. This review and re-authorisation shall occur at intervals not exceeding a 3 year period.

## Transitional Arrangements

1. All vegetation management workers undertaking vegetation management work after 1 April 2015 must have attained UET20312 Certificate II in ESI Powerline Vegetation Control and undertake the annual refresher training. Previously trained employees may be taken through a recognition of prior learning (RPL) process and have an assessment completed that then allows a competent employee to be issued with a qualification to UET20312 Certificate II in ESI Powerline Vegetation Control.
2. From 1 September 2013 until 1 April 2015, existing vegetation management workers who have been trained to NUE 260 are required to annually undertake refresher training as detailed above.
3. From the issue date of this document all prospective (new) vegetation management workers shall complete at a minimum, training to the three national training units, UETTDREL14A, UETTDRVC23A and UETTDRVC27A (see below) and then undertake the annual refresher training.

## NUE260 and its Equivalent

NUE 260 was the approved training course that ESV's predecessor, the OCEI, approved. NUE260 is no longer available; however specific national training core units can be packaged to obtain an equivalent outcome.

Therefore, until the new training requirement (UET20312 Certificate II in ESI Powerline Vegetation Control) is achieved, ESV's approved minimum training requirement is the completion of the three following national training units.(core training units of UET20312)

1. UETTDREL14A "Working safely near Live electrical apparatus as a non-electrical worker"
2. UETTDRVC23A "Plan the removal of vegetation up to vegetation exclusion zone near live electrical apparatus"
3. UETTDRVC27A "Monitor safety compliance of vegetation control work in an ESI environment"

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