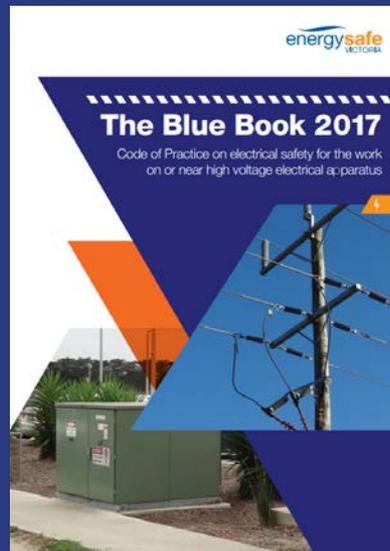


The Blue Book 2017

An introduction to the new changes



Purpose

This presentation will provide you with an understanding of the changes made to the 2012 edition of The Blue Book.

Pre-requisites

- Familiarity with the 2012 Blue Book.

Background

- ‘The Code of Practice on Electrical Safety for Work On or Near High Voltage Electrical Apparatus’ is known as ‘The Blue Book’ in Victoria.
- The Blue book is revised and republished every five years to ensure that the safety standards of work on or near high voltage electrical apparatus are fit for purpose, reflect industry best practice and are improved, where possible.
- The 2017 Blue Book has been revised by the Electrical Safety Committee, established under Section 8 of the Energy Safety Victoria Act 2015.

What changes were made, and why?

Below is a summary of 18 changes, other than typographical error and formatting changes, to the Blue Book from 2012 edition.

1. Definitions of 'Operating Authority' and 'Station' changed to improve clarity.
2. Wording of some sections changed to better reflect and improve clarity.
3. New subsection 3.14 provides guidance on victim's rescue.
4. Principles of section 4 'Training and Authorisation' applies to not only high voltage (HV) apparatus, but also low voltage apparatus.
5. New paragraph in subsection 4.1 to cover workers under a new training program.

Summary of changes (cont'd)

6. Subsections of Section 5, re-arranged into operational order.
7. Subsection 6.1 was rewritten, and Figure 2 replaced with Figures 2A and 2B to show SAD–Beyond reach concept, and SAD–expected reach concept, respectively.
8. New paragraph in subsection 6.2.2 defines ‘safe approach distance–special’.
9. Safe approach distance (SAD) for 132kV, 220kv and 275kV in Table 5 slightly increased to remain consistent with Australian Standards.
10. Two new notes added to Table 5 to better reflect intention and ensure consistency. Refer section 9.6 for alternative Live work minimum approach distances and requirement for posting a safety observer.

Summary of changes (cont'd)

11. New subsection 7.2 requires written HV switching instructions, wherever practicable.
12. Principles of Section 9 changed to better reflect the intention and prove clarity.
13. Subsections of Section 9 re-arranged to reflect the operational order of work.
14. New subsection 9.2.4.4 clarifies that HV live work and work under access authority, shall not be performed concurrently on the same structure.
15. New subsection 9.2.9.2 reinforces good working practice to record earths on electrical access permits, or to document them in accordance with organisational procedures.

Summary of changes (cont'd)

16. New subsection 9.3.2 'Planning for testing of high voltage apparatus' created as result of re-arranging Section 9.
17. Subsection 9.3.4 modified to better reflect the intention and improve clarity.
18. New paragraph in subsection 9.7.1 requires that insulation should be tagged, whenever practicable. This reinforces the recognised safe work practice.

Ongoing review

As part of the ongoing review, ESV is seeking comments and suggestions for improvement on the 2017 edition of The Blue Book.

Download The Blue Book 2017 – [here](#).

Download Comment form on The Blue Book 2017 – [here](#).

Submit completed forms to:

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Any questions?

- Please send any questions, comments or suggestions to Loc Vuong, Senior Network Safety Engineer
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