

23 December 2019

To the electrical installation industry and all licensed electrical inspectors

## **ELECTRICITY SAFETY (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 2019 – INFORMATION TO INDUSTRY**

Recently the Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Responsible Minister, Lily D'Ambrosio, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, made the new *Electricity Safety (General) Regulations 2019*. The *General Regulations* came into operation on 6 December 2019, and replace the *Electricity Safety (Installations) Regulations 2009*.

Energy Safe Victoria (ESV) has consulted and engaged with representatives from all areas of the electrical industry as well as other affected stakeholders on the making of these new *General Regulations*. These include NECA, ETU, Institute of Electrical Inspectors, Master Electricians, the Victorian Electricity Distributors and WorkSafe Victoria.

The *General Regulations* contain changes from the previous *Installations Regulations* and include a number of new requirements and obligations. Electricians, employers of electricians, registered electrical contractors (REC) and licensed electrical inspectors all need to become familiar with the new *General Regulations*.

The *General Regulations* are enforceable from the date they came into operation (6 December 2019). However, ESV acknowledges that it may take the industry a short while to adapt to a number of the regulations and some electrical installation work may have started before the date the regulations came into operation. Consequently ESV may, exercise its discretion when enforcing new obligations for a short period. Although there are a number of new obligations within the *General Regulations* (such as requirements for the supervision of apprentices, and testing of certain types of electrical installations to specific Australian standards), these obligations have existed in other instruments such as ESV guides to industry, codes of practice, occupational health and safety legislation and Australian standards. Therefore, ESV sees that the implementation of the *General Regulation* should not be overly difficult for industry, and expects that all aspects of the new regulations should be complied with before mid-2020.

In some circumstances, projects may be underway that, due to their size and nature, may be unable to comply with all aspects of the new *General Regulations* by mid-2020. Such cases should be discussed with ESV as soon as possible

The *Electricity Safety (General) Regulations 2019* can be found at the Victorian Law Today Library <http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/> and at ESV's website [https://esv.vic.gov.au/about-esv/energy\\_regulatory\\_framework/legislation-and-regulations/](https://esv.vic.gov.au/about-esv/energy_regulatory_framework/legislation-and-regulations/)



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**ELECTRICITY SAFETY AND TECHNICAL REGULATION**