



Renewable Energy and New Technology

Compliance and enforcement priority 2021/22

<p>Why is this a priority?</p>	<p>Victoria's energy landscape is changing and renewable energy lies at the heart of the Victorian Government's emissions reductions plan. ESV must be able to respond to the increasing use of renewable energy in its various forms to ensure it continues to be safely generated and delivered to Victorians.</p> <p>We are working with Government to enable the renewable energy programs – including Solar Homes, Solar for Business, energy efficient heating and cooling, energy generation from wind, big battery storage, renewable energy zones and the Victorian Hydrogen Investment Program.</p>
<p>Who has compliance obligation?</p>	<p>Electricity generation, transmission and distribution licensees, renewable energy complex installations and Specified Operators, electrical workers, and suppliers of electricity and renewable energy equipment, components and appliances.</p> <p>Gas companies and Pipeline Licensees for transmission and distribution pipelines, licensed gasfitters for gas installations and suppliers of Type A and B gas appliances.</p>
<p>How does the hazard or non-compliance occur?</p>	<p>The evolution and increasing introduction of electricity renewable energy solutions, including complex installations and network connections give rise to new and unforeseen risks, which if not managed may result in an increase in harms to people and/or property.</p> <p>The blending of hydrogen or biogas into the existing gas network can result in the failure of infrastructure resulting in either fatality or injury if risks are not managed.</p>
<p>What compliance action will ESV take?</p>	<p>We will ensure that Major Electricity Companies (MECs), renewable energy complex installations and Specified Operators have approved Safety Management Schemes and Bushfire Mitigation Plans as applicable, and will operate and maintain their networks and assets in accordance with the approved plans and safety obligations.</p> <p>We will ensure the safe and compliant supply of current and emerging technologies relating to electrical equipment used in renewable energy, by ensuring relevant standards are adequate and initiating certification requirements where appropriate.</p> <p>We will ensure that gas companies and pipeline licensees have approved Safety Cases and Safety Management Plans and will operate and maintain their facilities in accordance with the approved plans and licence conditions. We will require an application for acceptance of Type B appliances where a change in operating conditions warrants modifications. Type A appliances will need to meet the compliance requirements of relevant product standards.</p>
<p>What enforcement action may ESV take?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct and/or prosecute under the Electricity Safety Act if electricity and renewable energy companies do not comply with their general duty obligations. • Prohibit or recall unsafe or non-compliant electrical and gas equipment used for renewable energy. • Direct and/or prosecute under the Gas Safety Act and the Pipelines Act if gas companies and pipeline licensees do not comply with their general duty obligations.

What are the targets?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop an electricity renewable energy briefing paper that outlines the electricity safety jurisdiction, potential gaps and implications for safety and regulatory compliance and enforcement.• Table key matters of interest in relation to hydrogen as a fuel for agendas of the Future Fuels Cooperative Research Centre (CRC), and for the Gas Technical Regulators Committee (GTRC).• Actively participate in ISO and AUS/NZ Standards Committees – ME093.
How will ESV measure?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number and type of incidents within or caused by electrical renewable energy installations (wind, solar, battery), including those at domestic (low energy), commercial & industrial, and high energy density (complex installations).• Number and type of incidents with pipelines and gas installations as a result of hydrogen or biogas (biomethane) blending.
Who will ESV work with?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Electrical – WorkSafe, Essential Services Commission (ESC), Australian Energy Regulator (AER), Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), Standards Australia, Clean Energy Council.• Gas – Commonwealth Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (DISER), DELWP, Future Fuels CRC, Standards Australia, certification bodies, Master Plumbers, Australian Hydrogen Council.