



December 2003

The Electricity Amendment Regulations 2003

Introduction

An amendment to the Electricity Regulations 1997 is effective from 9 January 2004.

Changes

The amendment:

- ⊙ reinstates the exemption for the certification of metering and load control equipment in regulation 39 (certification of prescribed electrical work)
- ⊙ recognises the latest amendments to AS/NZS 3000
- ⊙ revises the cited Standards for medical electrical safety by:
 - updating the citation of the Standards to the latest versions of:
 - AS/NZS 2500 Amendment A
 - AS/NZS 3003
 - AS/NZS 3551 Amendment A, and
 - introducing recognition of NZS 3003.1 for the inspection of medical electrical installations
- ⊙ revises the cited Standard for electric fences by:
 - updating the citation of AS/NZS 3016 (Security Fences) to the latest version, and
 - introducing recognition of AS/NZS 3014 (Agricultural Fences)
- ⊙ revises the cited Standard applying to Construction and Demolition sites (AS/NZS 3012), and
- ⊙ removes an incorrect reference to a subclause in regulation 90 (damp situations).

Wiring Rules

The amendment formally recognises the latest amendment (Amendment 3) to AS/NZS 3000.

The focus of Amendment 3 to AS/NZS 3000 is to further refine the damp zone requirements by reinstating the height above the floor to 2.25 metres and setting the zones for showers from the fixed plumbing connection.

To obtain a free copy of the amendments to the Wiring Rules, AS/NZS 3000 (Amendment 3 and Amendment A), visit the 'Shop' section of the Standards New Zealand website at www.standards.co.nz.

Follow these instructions to download the amendments (you will need Adobe Acrobat Reader and WinZip or equivalent to access the files):

- ⦿ select www.standards.co.nz
- ⦿ select the 'Shop' button at the bottom of the page
- ⦿ type in '3000' in the 'Quick Search' and hit 'Go'
- ⦿ scroll down the page to number 9 or 10
- ⦿ select 'Free Download – Download Now!'
- ⦿ select either 'Open' or 'Save' in the 'File Download' box
- ⦿ double-click on the 'password.txt' file from the WinZip file menu and copy the eight-digit password then close the 'password.txt' Notepad box which takes you back to the WinZip file menu
- ⦿ double-click on the PDF file at the bottom of the file list and paste the password into the box and click on 'OK'
- ⦿ the amended Standard will appear for you to print off.

Medical Electrical Standards

The revised Standards cited by the regulations have been extensively reviewed and incorporate more detail, in particular for the safe use of electricity in patient care, (AS/NZS 2500).

AS/NZS 3003 updates requirements in relation to medical electrical locations.

The latest version of AS/NZS 3551 updates the technical management programmes for medical devices.

The recognition of NZS 3003.1 reinstates the criteria for the inspection and ongoing safety verification of medical electrical installations previously contained in ECP 12, that had not been previously transferred into joint Standards.

Electric Fences

The latest version of AS/NZS 3016 updates the requirements for the safety of security fences, the main change being a reduction of the height of the physical barrier to 1.5 metres.

The introduction of AS/NZS 3014 provides formal guidance for the first time for the safe use of agricultural electrical fences. This Standard, which was previously only an Australian Standard (AS), now contains recommendations for communications interference control and specific requirements for fences on rural/urban boundaries.

Construction and Demolition Sites

The amendment formally recognises the latest version of AS/NZS 3012.

For more information

These Business Notes outline the significant changes to the Electricity Regulations 1997. They are merely a guide and not intended to be complete or authoritative explanations of the changes.

Details of all new provisions are contained in the Electricity Amendment Regulations 2003, which are available on the Energy Safety Service (ESS) website - www.ess.govt.nz or available from bookshops selling government legislation.

The amendment has been incorporated into the 'Integrated Electricity Regulations 1997 and Amendments (Nov 2003)' found on the ESS website at www.ess.govt.nz.