

4 September 2009

EXPOSURE DRAFT - ELECTRICITY (SAFETY) REGULATIONS 2009

BACKGROUND

1. In 2006 significant amendments were made to the Electricity Act 1992. Changes to the Electricity Regulations 1997 are required as a consequence of those amendments and the opportunity has been taken to update the regulations to improve the overall clarity and to strengthen the focus on public safety and the avoidance of property damage.
2. This document guides you through some of the key aspects of the proposed Electricity (Safety) Regulations and explains the exposure draft process.
3. The regulations have been drafted following Cabinet decisions in 2008 and 2009, subsequent to the 2007 Discussion Paper on the Proposed Electricity (Safety) Regulations.
4. The regulations have been fully rewritten using more user-friendly wording and have also been rearranged to group together the regulations for appliances, installations, supply systems and works.
5. The scope of Prescribed Electrical Work (PEW) has been moved into a schedule to the regulations (Schedule 1)
6. The listing of all standards and codes of practices that are relevant to the regulations have also been moved into schedules (Schedules 2 and 4)
7. More than 50 per cent of the current technical and administrative provisions have been retained. The critical drivers of the majority of actual changes include changes to the applicable standards, removal of the technical requirements that have been transferred to AS/NZS 3000 and providing for Safety Management Systems (SMS).
8. The requirements supporting safety have been retained and reinforced where appropriate. Risk management principles have been utilised to require higher levels of initial and ongoing safety verification in circumstances of higher safety risk.

EXPOSURE DRAFT PROCESS

9. The exposure draft process provides an opportunity for key members of the electricity industry to comment on the technical nature of the regulations and to