



Victorian Electricity Distributors

Service & Installation Rules 2005

These Service & Installation Rules form the following Distributors "Reasonable Technical Requirements" for the connection of electrical installations to their Victorian electricity networks:

- AGL Electricity Ltd
- CitiPower Pty
- Powercor Australia Ltd
- TXU
- United Energy Distribution

Foreword

The Service & Installation Rules (SIR) 2005, have been consolidated by the Victorian Electricity Distributors SIR Management Committee and supersede the 1999 edition and subsequent July 2001 and September 2003 amendments.

The Rules are applicable from 1 September 2005 and apply to all connections to the electricity supply networks operated by Electricity Distributors AGL Electricity, CitiPower, Powercor Australia Ltd, TXU and United Energy Distribution within Victoria.

They form the major part of these Distributors “reasonable technical requirements” referred to in the Electricity Distribution Code. The Electricity Distribution Code is applied under the Electricity Industry Act and is administered by the Essential Services Commission Victoria.

The revised Rules have been subject to extensive industry consultation during their development.

A purpose of the Rules is to provide its users with industry agreed specifications to assist distributors, retailers, customers and customers’ agents to comply with their regulatory and electricity supply obligations, and to limit the need to reference the complex, extensive and expanding range of regulations and documentation relating to connection of installations to Victorian electricity networks.

AGL Electricity, CitiPower, Powercor Australia, TXU and United Energy Distribution require all installations connected or to be connected to their electricity networks within Victoria to comply with these Rules as a condition for providing and maintaining electricity supply.

However, there may be situations the Rules do not cover. These may include unusual connections, situations that have been inadvertently omitted, and alterations to legislation and codes. The management committee does not accept responsibility where these situations occur.

The relevant electricity distributor must be consulted where these situations are encountered.

Ken Greenway

CHAIRMAN

**VICTORIAN SERVICE & INSTALLATION RULES
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

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General

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1.2 References

This list of references has been made as comprehensive as possible at the time of publication. However, other references may have been applicable at the time but inadvertently omitted, and the references listed may have been amended or made obsolete and new references may be applicable. The user is responsible to ensure correct references are applied.

Acts include:

- Office of the Regulator-General Act 1994
- Electricity Industry Act 2000
- Electricity Safety Act 1998
- Essential Services Commission Act 2001
- National Electricity (Victoria) Act 1997
- Occupational Health & Safety Act 1985
- Trade Practices Act 1974 (Cth)

Regulations include:

- Electricity Safety:
 - (Network Assets) Regulations 1999
 - (Installations) Regulations 1999
 - (Bushfire Mitigation) Regulations 2003
 - (Stray Current Corrosion) Regulations 1999

Orders and licences provided by the regulators under the Acts include:

- Orders in Council made under the Acts
- Licences issued to Distributors and Retailers by the ESC under the Electricity Industry Act

Statements, Codes and Guidelines published by Regulators under the Acts include:

- National Electricity Code
- Electricity Distribution Code
- Electricity System Code
- Electricity Retail Code
- Electricity Customer Metering Code
- Public Lighting Code
- VESI Metrology Procedure
- Guidelines published by the ESC
- Electricity Safety (Network Assets) Regulations 1999 Guidelines
- Framework for Undertaking Work Near Overhead and Underground Assets (No Go Zone)
- Code of Practice:
 - for Electric Line Clearance (1999)
 - for Safe Electrical Work Low Voltage Electrical Installations
 - Prevention of Falls:
 - in Housing Construction
 - in General Construction

Other references include:

- Distribution Company's List Of Approved Charges
- Specification for Indoor Substation on Customers Property
- Guide to the Permanent Earthing of Distribution System Assets
- Australian/New Zealand Standards
- Code of Practice:
 - for Overhead Power and Telecommunications In-span Crossings
 - on Electrical Safety in the Victorian Electricity Supply Industry (Blue Book)
 - Shared Use of Poles Code
 - for Low Voltage Fuse Removal and Reinsertion

References Administrators and their Contact Details include:

Australian Standards	www.standards.com.au
Electricity Retailers	www.esc.vic.gov.au – Licences Issued
Essential Services Commission	www.esc.vic.gov.au
National Electricity Code Administrator	www.neca.com.au
National Electricity Marketing Management Company	www.nemmco.com.au
Office of the Chief Electrical Inspector	www.ocei.vic.gov.au
Victorian Electricity Distributors	– See Section 3 of these Rules.
Victorian Workcover Authority	www.workcover.vic.gov.au

1.3 Definitions

The definitions contained herein apply to these Service & Installation Rules and may vary from definitions contained in other documents.

Authorised Person – the person in charge of the premises, or the registered electrical contractor or licensed electrical installation worker or other person appointed or selected by the person in charge of the premises, to perform certain duties associated with the electrical installation on the premises.

Common Property – is all that part of a subdivided site that is not within the lots or reserves on the plan of subdivision. The common property is owned by the registered proprietors of the lots on the plan of subdivision as noted as tenants in common in shares proportional to their “lot entitlement”.

Consumer Mains – Those conductors between the point of supply/consumer terminals and the main switchboard.

Consumer’s Terminals – the junction at which the consumer mains connects to the Distributor’s service cable or supply main conductors. Refer to Clause 6.3 (Consumer Terminals).

Customer – means the person or body which requires electricity to be made available to an electrical installation on a property, and includes the owner, occupier or tenant as the case may require or a group of bodies acting as one in the provision of electricity to their property.

Refer to clause 2.15.2 for Electricity Metering Code Definition of Customer.

Customer Agent/s – Customer agents are parties representing the customers. Such parties may include registered electrical contractors, licensed electrical workers, licenced electrical inspectors, consulting engineers, architects, and equipment manufacturers.

Determined Maximum Demand – means the demand imposed on the Distributor’s supply system as assessed by the Responsible Officer.

Distributor – means a person who holds a Distribution Licence, or who is exempted from holding a licence of the Electricity Industry Act.

- A “Distributor” is also known as the Local Network Service Provider (LNSP).
- A “relevant Distributor” is the Distributor who operates the Network in the area associated with an electrical installation.

Distribution Licence – means a licence to distribute and supply electricity granted under the Electricity Industry Act .

Electricity Distribution Code– means the Electricity Distribution Code administered by the Essential Services Commission.

Electrical Installation – The consumer terminals, their enclosure, and all wiring and equipment downstream and supplied from those terminals, except for the Distributor’s network assets and where applicable, the metering assets.

An electrical installation does not include Distributors network assets including:

- Meter equipment within an electrical installation, the service and distribution equipment upstream of the consumer terminals.
- Network assets on land occupied by a Distributor that is not used for the consumption of electricity on that land or incidental to that consumption.
- Fuse cartridges for a Service Protection Device and/or Supply Disconnection Device

LEIW – means Licensed Electrical Installation Worker.

Meter Provider – The person who installs and maintains the metering – Refer to clause 2.15 for Electricity Metering Code Definition of Meter Provider.

Must – is to be understood as mandatory.

Occupancy – means an electrical installation or part thereof, which is supplied with electricity through a specific meter or meters and for which an individual electricity consumption account is rendered.

Occupancies Multiple or Multiple Occupancies – means more than one Occupancy connected to the same electrical installation.

Point of Attachment – The point at which an overhead aerial service cable is attached.

Point of Supply – the point at which the electricity Distributors service cable or supply main connects to the consumer terminals. Refer to clause 6.2 (Point of Supplies). (The Electricity Safety Act 1998 regulates Points of Supply locations)

Private Electric Line – any electric line that conducts electricity within an electrical installation from the Point of Supply.

Private Overhead Electric Line (POEL) – all components of any private electric line that is constructed as an aerial wiring system.

Property – “Property” is defined in clause 6.2 (Point of Supplies).

Public Land – “Public Land” is defined in clause 7.8.4 (Private Electric Lines in Public Land)

REC – means Registered Electrical Contractor.

Responsible Officer – means the officer appointed by the relevant Distributor to be responsible for the administration of these Rules.

Dependent on a Distributor’s structure, there may be multiple Responsible Officers with specific responsibilities, eg, negotiation for supply, provision of substations, specification of points of supply, types of supply, servicing and metering etc.

Retailer – means a holder of a Retail Licence, or a person who has been exempted from the requirement to obtain a Retail Licence under the Electricity Industry Act.

Retail Licence – means a licence to sell electricity otherwise than through the Pool granted under the Electricity Industry Act .

Service Cable / Line – the final span or section of a Distributor’s low voltage aerial or underground network asset that is connected to the consumer terminals.

Service Equipment – means equipment owned by the Distributor and used to connect supply to an Electrical Installation

Service Protection Device – A device required by the Electricity Safety Act and clause 7.4 (Service Protection) of these Rules.

Shall – is to be understood as mandatory.

Should – is to be understood as non-mandatory, i.e. advisory or recommended.

Subdivision – means the division of land into two or more parts which can be disposed of separately.

Suitable (or suitably) – means to the satisfaction of the Distributor’s Responsible Officer.

Supply Connection Facility – A facility containing consumer terminals, eg, pillar, cubicle, switchboard or CT enclosure.

Supply Disconnection Device – A supply disconnection and reconnection device as required by clause 7.5 (Supply Disconnection Devices).

Underground Reticulated Distribution (URD) – is defined as an underground cable network used in areas where no electrical protective device is provided at the origin of the individual service cable.

Un-metered Supply – A supply that is not metered

Wiring Rules – means the Wiring Rules published by Standards Australia as applied under the Electricity Safety Act and Regulations.

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