

Section 2

Introduction

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2.1 Disclaimer

These Rules have been published by AGL Electricity, CitiPower, Powercor Australia, TXU and United Energy Distribution. The document has been compiled using drawings, guidelines and information that comply with the relevant acts and regulations of the State of Victoria at the date of publication. It is the responsibility of the end user to determine the suitability of material contained herein to the particular application or purpose of which it is used. Electricity supply publications are revised when necessary by the issue of either revised pages or complete new editions. It is important that users of such publications ascertain they are in possession of the latest issue.

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2.2 Copyright

COPYRIGHT © 2005 AGL Electricity, CitiPower, Powercor Australia, TXU and United Energy Distribution.

All rights are reserved, although the above Distributors will not object to the reproduction or copying of this document or sections of the document for the purpose of education or enhancing the Rules application.

However, no part of this document may be reproduced or copied for financial gain in any form without first obtaining the express written permission of the Service and Installation Rules Management Committee on behalf of AGL Electricity, CitiPower, Powercor Australia, TXU and United Energy Distribution.

Inquiries concerning copyright should be directed to the Rules Management Committee.

2.3 Innovation

These Rules do not preclude other methods, innovation, or technology that achieves the same outcomes as the specifications detailed in this document. Any such proposal should be put to the relevant Distributor or the Rules Management Committee for acceptance prior to commencement of work.

2.4 Objective

The objective of these Rules is to provide Victorian electricity customers with industry agreed Distributor reasonable technical requirements (Rules) that meet all legislative and code requirements for the supply and metering related aspects of any connection to the Victorian electricity supply networks.

This is intended to result in significant economies of scale and industry efficiencies due to relatively consistent application of common electricity supply Rules across Victoria.

2.5 Users

The main users of this document are distributors and retailers, their customers, the customer's agents, and associated industry parties and personnel.

These include registered electrical contractors, licensed electrical workers, licensed electrical inspectors, consulting engineers, architects, electricity distributor's personnel, electricity retailer's personnel, meter providers, equipment manufacturers, representative

organisations such as unions, associations, training providers and students, the industry ombudsman, and other persons associated with the connection of customer electrical installations to electricity supply networks.

2.6 Publication and Revision

2.6.1 Administration

The revision, development and publication of these Rules is administered by the Victorian Service and Installation Rules Management Committee. The committee comprises of representatives from AGL Electricity, CitiPower, Powercor Australia, TXU and United Energy Distribution.

Committee advisers at the time of publication include representatives from the Office of the Chief Electrical Inspector and the National Electrical and Communications Association.

2.6.2 Publication

The Victorian Service and Installation Rules were first published in 1987 by the SECV and Local Government Electricity Suppliers. Amended rules were published in 1988, 1991 and 1994. Additional amendments were made in 1996, 1999, 2001 and 2003 by the SECV and Local Government Electricity Suppliers distribution network successors. This edition is applicable from 1 September 2005.

The document is currently available in hardcopy or compact disk format from Information Victoria, most electrical wholesalers, electrical contracting organisations and electrical inspection companies. It may also be referenced and downloaded from the website detailed in clause 2.7 (SIR Management Committee Contact) and most Distributor websites that are detailed in Section 3 (Distributor Areas and Contact Details).

2.6.3 Revision

Although changes to regulations are usually the catalyst for revisions, users and interested parties are invited to provide comment and suggestions to assist further development of the Rules at any time. Correspondence for this purpose should be forwarded to the Service & Installation Rules Management Committee in accordance with clause 2.7 (SIR Management Committee Contact).

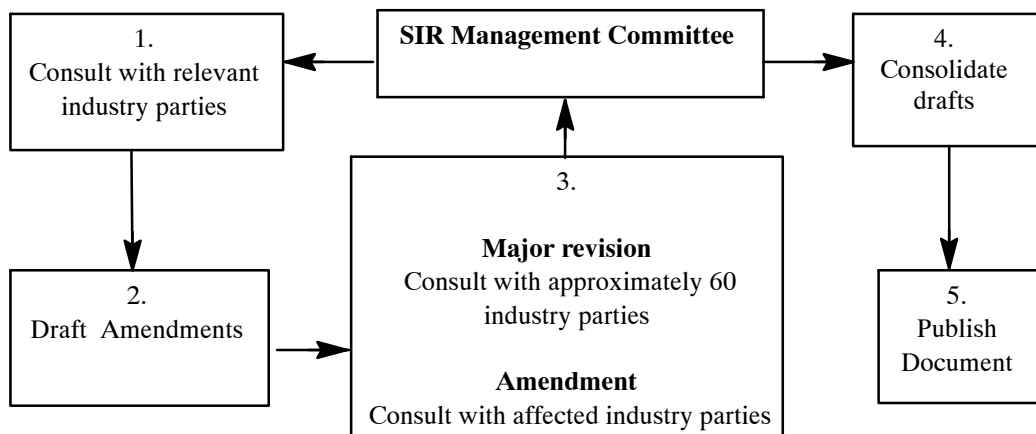


Figure 2.1 Revision Process

2.7 SIR Management Committee Contact

Contact for any matter related to these Rules may be made through correspondence to the SIR Management Committee’s web site www.victoriansir.org.au

Alternatively, contact may be made through the relevant Distributor.

2.8 Dispute Resolution

Where a customer has a complaint involving these Rules they should firstly contact the relevant Distributor's Responsible Officer and register their concern.

If not resolved, the complaint may be referred to a higher level person than the Responsible Officer within the Distributor's management structure. Where this does not result in a resolution, the complaint will be resolved in accordance with the Distributor's complaints and dispute resolution procedure as detailed within the individual company's charter.

2.9 Scope

These Service and Installation Rules form the major part of AGL Electricity, CitiPower, Powercor Australia, TXU and United Energy Distribution "reasonable technical requirements" referred to in the Electricity Distribution Code.

The Rules apply in respect to all electrical installations that are connected or that are to be connected to AGL Electricity, CitiPower, Powercor Australia, TXU and United Energy Distribution Victorian electricity supply networks.

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 relevant Distributor must be consulted where these situations are encountered.

These Rules do not apply to customers of embedded networks. A proposed embedded network operator must contact the relevant Distributor for connection of an embedded network. Customers connected to an embedded network must liaise with their embedded network operator for their conditions for connection of supply.

2.10 Application & Application Responsibilities

These Rules are applicable from 1 September 2005.

Transitional arrangements or exemptions may be able to be made with the relevant Distributor where it is deemed necessary to do so.

The relevant Distributor is responsible to administer all supply and metering related rules for connections to their electricity network.

Meter Providers are responsible for compliance with the metering requirements contained within these Rules.

Each Customer has an initial and ongoing responsibility to ensure their electrical installation complies with these Rules and any other conditions for supply. This is normally accomplished through their agents, eg, their Registered Electrical Contractor..

2.11 Failure to Comply with These Rules

Should the installation not satisfy these Rules, connection of electricity supply may be delayed, and installations on supply may be disconnected until such time as the non-compliance/s have been rectified

Re-inspection due to a failure to comply with these Rules may be undertaken by the Distributor and an Approved Charge for this service may apply.

Refer to the relevant Distributor for current fees.

2.12 Exceptional Circumstances

In exceptional circumstances the stated requirements contained in these Rules may be waived or modified by submission of a written request.

The written request shall be accompanied by:

- i) a detailed statement of the reasons why non-compliance with these Rules is sought:
and
- ii) a Statement of Consent' from the owner or controlling body of the installation.

No action should be taken until a written reply to such a request has been received.

Any request in this regard shall be addressed to the Nominated Officer of the relevant Distributor responsible for supply to the particular installation as follows:

AGL Electricity	Installations Inspection Co-ordinator AGL Electricity Ltd 30-40 King William Street Broadmeadows 3047
CitiPower	Connection Services Manager CitiPower Locked Bag 14031 Melbourne 8001
Powercor Australia	Manager Connection Standards Locked Bag 14090 Melbourne 8001
TXU	Network Safety Scheme Officer TXU Locked Bag 14060 Melbourne 8001
United Energy Distribution C/O	Alinta Network Services Field Practices & Compliance Officer Locked Bag 4001 Moorabbin Victoria 3189

2.13 Offences

The Electricity Safety Act and Electricity Industry Act and regulations, codes and guidelines enabled under those Acts include regulation for protection of Distributor assets and qualification of persons who may work on those assets. Offences under these regulations include:

- Any work on a Distributor's network assets unless authorised by the relevant Distributor
- Unauthorised interference with any Network Asset:
 - Fuse link removal or insertion
 - Make or break of a connection, seal or lock
 - Dismantle or detach any Distributor's cables or equipment
 - Interference with electricity meters, time switches, equipment and/or service cables
 - Obtaining electricity by fraud
- Unauthorised access
 - to a Distributor's sub-station
 - to any Distributor's assets

If a person is found guilty of an offence, it could result in the imposition of substantial fines together with an order for damages to compensate the Distributor for any loss and court costs. It may also cause that person to have a criminal record.

2.14 Necessity for Employing a Licensed Person

In Victoria, regulations only permit suitably licensed and/or qualified persons to work on electrical installations. In addition, conditions apply to the actual undertaking, or contracting to perform such work.

Inquiries regarding licensing, the qualifications to work, to undertake work, and/or to contract to perform electrical work on electrical installations should be referred to the Manager, Electrical Licensing, Office of the Chief Electrical Inspector, Level 3, Building 2, 4 Riverside Quay, Southbank, 3006. Telephone 03 92039700. Facsimile (03) 9686 2197.

2.15 Basic Industry Relationship

2.15.1 Scope

This section is intended to provide an understanding of the basic relationships of industry stakeholders, (regulators and distributors, retailers, meter providers, customers and their agents), in respect to connection of installations to Victorian electricity networks.

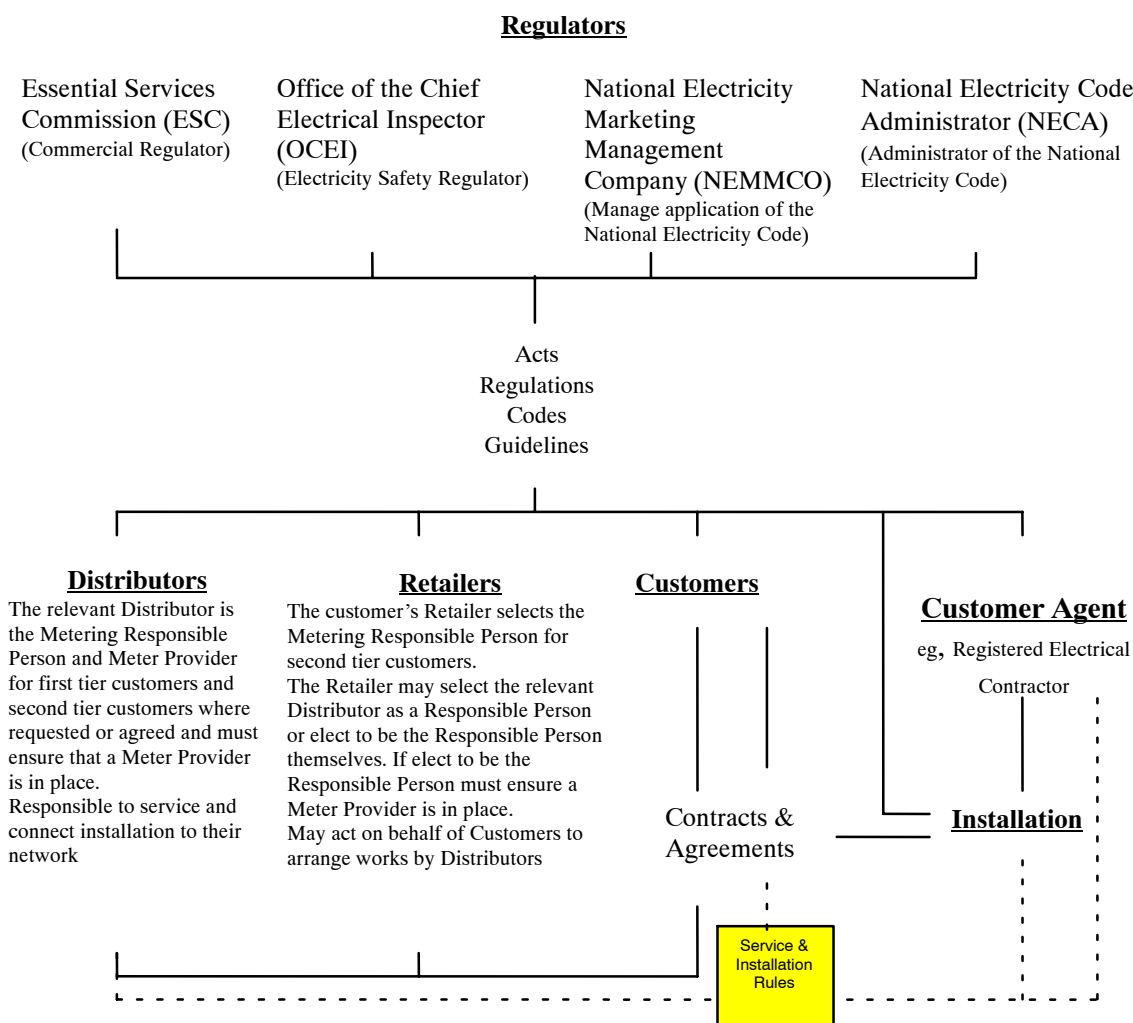


Figure 2.2 Stakeholders

2.15.2 Electricity Customer Metering Code Definitions

At the time of publication the Electricity Customer Metering Code contained the following definitions:

Customer – Means a *first tier customer*, a *second tier customer* or a person connected to an *embedded network*.

First Tier Customer – Means a person who buys electricity from its *local retailer* or from an unlicensed *retailer*. To avoid doubt, a *first tier customer* includes a former franchise customer with annual consumption of less than 40MWh per annum until such customer exercises its right to choose a new *retailer* after 1 January 2002.

Second Tier Customers – A *customer* who purchases electricity in its entirety from a person other than its *local retailer*.

Responsible Person – Means in relation to *second tier customers*, the person who has the responsibility for a *metering installation* for a particular *connection point*, being either the *distributor* or the “market participant” as described in chapter 7 of the *NEC*.

Meter Provider – Means a person who is engaged by the *responsible person* where the *responsible person* is not the relevant *metering provider* who is registered by, and accredited with, *NEMMCO* as a *metering provider*.

2.15.3 Responsibilities

2.15.3.1 Distributors

- Negotiate provision of supply directly with customers
- Transport and deliver electricity purchased by retailers and sold to customers.
- Connect customer installations to distributor supply mains, administer technical supply aspects of the connection.
- Are the Meter Provider for first tier customers, and second tier customers where requested or agreed for second tier customers.
- A distributor cannot energise a customer’s installation unless the customer has selected a retailer, and the retailer has requested the distributor to connect the customer.
- Are responsible for matters such as electricity supply quality and reliability.

2.15.3.2 Retailers

- Purchase electricity and retail the electricity (transported by distributors) to customers.
- Nominate tariffs and arrange customers contract for the purchase of electricity
- Provides the Distributor with details of the Meter Provider where the Distributor is not responsible for the metering.
- Request distributors to connect or disconnect the customer installations to the distributor’s network in accordance with the customer’s contract with the retailer.

2.15.3.3 Customer Agents

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.