

Electrical supply and use of electrical appliances and equipment on construction sites



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Electrical accidents are often fatal. No device that will provide 100% protection

- Use heavy duty well maintained equipment, understand it's intended use and undertake the training to operate it safely
- Carry out forward planning (TASK ANALYSIS) to avoid tragedy

Temporary Supply Switchboards should

- Be designed in such a manner that they are weather proof and accidental access to wiring cannot be made
- Have door and locking facilities provided with a sign stating "Keep Closed – Leads Through Bottom"
- Have an insulated slot in the bottom for the passage of leads
- Be locked where practicable
- Have signage displayed to indicate that any work or alteration to the switchboard should only be carried out by a registered Electrician

Residual Current Devices, other electrical appliances leads and tools

- A residual current device (RCD) should be in place at all source points of mains power and temporary supply switchboards. If practicable the RCD should be incorporated into the temporary supply
- Only heavy duty, commercial quality electrical appliances, leads and tools should be used
- Never use piggy back plugs or domestic multi-boxes
- Keep leads away from water
- Don't let leads become trip hazards, keep them tidy

Inspection

- All electrical appliances, tools and leads should undergo three monthly testing and tagging
- RCD's should be tested manually before use utilising the inbuilt testing button
- All electrical appliances tools and leads should be checked for damage or faults by the operator prior to use
- Where faults are detected, the appliance tool or lead should immediately be "out of action" and repairs carried out by a Registered Electrician before use

Clearance from power lines

- An absolute minimum working clearance of 4 metres is required
- For distances closer than 4 metres, written authority is required from the electricity line owner

Location of Underground Services

- Prior to any excavation the location of any underground electrical services should be identified and clearly marked

Demolition

- Prior to any demolition work all electrical hazards should be identified and eliminated, e.g. mains power sources, old wiring, underground and overhead power
- Any previously unidentified electrical hazards identified during the course of demolition should be isolated until they can be eliminated by a Registered Electrician

Repairs

- Electrical repairs or modification of appliances or tools should only be carried out by a person holding a Current Practicing License issued by the Electrical Workers Licensing Group

The supply of power and use of electrical appliances and equipment should comply with the following:

Electricity Act 1992

Electricity Regulations Compilation 2003

Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992

Health and Safety in Employment

AS/NZS 3760:2003 In-service Safety Inspection
& Testing of Electrical Equipment

Regulations 1995

AS/NZS 3012:2003 Electrical Installations

Construction & Demolition Sites

OSH Approved Code of Practice for Demolition 1994

OSH Guidelines for the Provision of Facilities and General Safety in Construction 1995

For more information refer to:

www.osh.dol.govt.nz

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