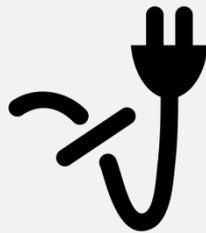


# Compliance with the Electricity Safety Act 1998

Information for program participants



**7 February 2019**



Accredited persons (APs) cannot create VEECs if the activity is not undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the Electricity Safety Act 1998, the Gas Safety Act 1997, the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004, or the Building Act 1993 or the regulations under any of those Acts.

We will refer suspected breaches of the Electricity Safety Act 1998 and the Australian/New Zealand Wiring Rules (AS/NZS 3000:2018 Electrical installations) to Energy Safe Victoria (ESV) for investigation.<sup>1</sup>

APs must amend their building based lighting upgrade (activity 34) VEEC assignment form to incorporate the changes by 7 March 2019. Assignment of rights by consumers for installations undertaken after this date must be made on the updated assignment form.

## Overview

Regulation 15(c) of the Victorian Energy Efficiency Target Regulations 2018 stipulates that VEECs cannot be created if the activity is not undertaken in accordance with the provisions of:

- the Electricity Safety Act 1998
- the Gas Safety Act 1997
- the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
- the Building Act 1993

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<sup>1</sup> The Australian/New Zealand Wiring Rules (AS/NZS 3000:2018 Electrical installations) specify the electrical installation safety requirements for all premises in Australia and New Zealand. Through the Electricity Safety (Installations) Regulations 2009 they sit under the Electricity Safety Act 1998.



- or the regulations under any of those Acts.

An activity under building based lighting upgrades (activity 34) of the Victorian Energy Upgrades (VEU) program must also comply with the Australian/New Zealand Wiring Rules (AS/NZS 3000:2018 Electrical installations).

## The issue

As part of our audit program, we have identified electrical installation work at a number of building based lighting upgrades (activity 34) sites that do not comply with the Electricity Safety Act 1998 and/or the Australian/New Zealand Wiring Rules (AS/NZS 3000:2018 Electrical installations). In particular, we have found improper use of double adaptors and domestic extension leads (longer than 2.5m).

## Our response

### Changes to the building based lighting upgrade (activity 34) VEEC assignment form template:

We have made two key changes to the building based lighting upgrade (activity 34) VEEC assignment form template:

- The form has been updated to include a new declaration (Section 3, Part A) which must be completed and signed by the electrician responsible for the electrical work at upgrade sites when a Certificate of Electrical Safety is not required for the upgrade.
- The upgrade manager declaration on the form has been updated to include a statement that the installation has been undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the Electricity Safety Act 1998, the Gas Safety Act 1997, the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004, the Building Act 1993, or the regulations under any of those Acts.

APs must amend their VEEC assignment forms for building based lighting upgrades (activity 34) by **7 March 2019** to incorporate the above changes.

Assignment of rights by consumers for installations undertaken after this date must be made on the updated VEEC assignment forms. Failure to use the updated VEEC assignment form for activities undertaken after 7 March 2019 may result in compliance action.

### We will refer potential non-compliance to Energy Safe Victoria (or other relevant bodies as required)

In the event that our site inspections identify that activities have not been undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the Electricity Safety Act 1998, the Gas Safety Act 1997, the



Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004, the Building Act 1993, or the regulations under any of those Acts, we will refer the activity details to the relevant safety regulator.

If we become aware that the electrical work of activities may not comply with the Australian/New Zealand Wiring Rules (AS/NZS 3000:2018 Electrical installations), we will refer the activity details to Energy Safe Victoria for investigation, listing the electrician's details from the VEEC assignment form as the person responsible for the compliance and/or safety concerns at the site.

## Who is impacted

Stakeholders which are affected by this update include:

- APs participating (or intending to participate) in building based lighting upgrades (activity 34)
- Electricians undertaking building based lighting upgrades (activity 34).

## Where to get help

If you have any questions about matters set out in this document, please contact VEU Support on (03) 9032 1310 or [veu@esc.vic.gov.au](mailto:veu@esc.vic.gov.au).