



Connection and reconnection of high voltage installations

This information sheet gives practical advice and information about legislative requirements for owners of high voltage installations. To determine the actual legislative provisions, please refer to the *Electrical Safety Act 2002* and the *Electrical Safety Regulation 2002*.

What is a high voltage installation?

A high voltage installation is a group of items of electrical equipment permanently connected together and supplied with electricity at voltages greater than 1000VAC RMS or 1500V ripple-free DC.

Examples of high voltage installations

Businesses that take electricity supply greater than 1000VAC RMS or 1500V ripple free DC direct from the electricity distributor, or have portions of their electrical installation operating at such voltages, have high voltage installations – for example shopping centres or large manufacturing sites that have a high voltage transformer and associated switchgear.

Penalties and offences

Failure to comply with the obligations under Section 27 of the *Electrical Safety Act 2002* may result in legal proceedings that could include penalties up to \$1,000,000 (\$200,000 for an individual) or three years imprisonment.

Under Section 153 of the *Electrical Safety Regulation 2002*, a person must not connect or reconnect a high voltage electrical installation to a source of electricity, after electrical work has been performed on the installation, unless the electrical work has been inspected by an accredited auditor and found to be electrically safe and compliant with the Wiring Rules (AS/NZS 3000) and other relevant Australian standards, such as AS 2067 (*Substations and high voltage installations exceeding 1 kV a.c.*).

Obligations and responsibilities

The owner of the high voltage installation must ensure that:

- the installation is inspected, tested and found to be electrically safe by an accredited auditor before the installation is connected or reconnect to the electricity supply; and
- all requirements, as stipulated by the accredited auditor, are met and are maintained during the life of the installation.

The owner has the responsibility to:

- accept or reject the design and equipment used in the installation, ensuring compliance with legislative and Australian standard requirements; and

- accept the use of any particular equipment or method of installation in accordance with, and ensuring compliance with, legislative and Australian standard requirements, and to obtain advice on this from people competent to provide such advice.
- provide written notification to the owner / occupier or to their representative detailing the outcome of the inspection; and
- the auditor, or the employer of the accredited auditor, must make and keep a copy of the inspection report for at least five years.

What must your accredited auditor do?

- inspect the high voltage electrical installation, confirm the installation has been tested to ensure it is electrically safe and is in accordance with the Wiring Rules and other relevant Australian standards; and

Further information

For further details on accredited auditors and a list of accredited auditors please go to the Electrical Safety Office internet site – www.electricalsafety.qld.gov.au or contact Infoline on 1300 650 662.