



Department of Consumer
and Employment Protection

Government of Western Australia

EnergySafety

Important notice to owners of dwellings and buildings constructed during the 1970s and early 80s

Unenclosed joints in electrical cables in ceiling spaces – Rectification requirements

The Problem

During the 1970s and early 80s, joints in electrical cables in ceiling spaces of dwellings and buildings were often only wrapped in insulating tape. It has since been found that the insulating tape may come off over time, causing an electric shock risk to persons entering the ceiling space.

Rectification Requirements

EnergySafety, Western Australia's electrical industry technical and safety regulator, has introduced a policy for dealing with this risk. Where a dwelling/building is identified as containing accessible unenclosed joints, the owner must have remedial work carried out, using a licensed electrical contractor. The remedial action can be either:

- a) Fitting appropriate joint enclosures where joints are exposed; or
- b) Installing total safety switch (residual current device, or RCD) protection – protecting both power and lighting circuits (through two or more safety switches).

From 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2009 – a premises owner who has been advised of the need for remedial work will be required to have the work carried out within 12 months.

From 1 January 2010 – a premises owner who has been advised of the need for remedial work will be required to have the work carried out within 28 days.

If you are an owner/occupier of such a premises, it is likely that an electrical contractor carrying out work at the premises may have noticed this problem. EnergySafety has requested electrical contractors, in the interest of public safety, to point out where unenclosed joints exist and hand this leaflet to the owner/occupier. The electrical contractor is to advise the network operator of the situation.

A copy of this leaflet, the advice to the electrical industry and other safety information is available on EnergySafety's website at www.energysafety.wa.gov.au.

Thank you for your cooperation in making your electrical installation safe.

Albert Koenig
DIRECTOR OF ENERGY SAFETY

1 July 2008

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