

To the owner/resident

NEW SAFETY REGULATIONS FOR WORKERS CARRYING OUT WORK IN OR ENTERING YOUR ROOF SPACE

The Electrical Safety Office (ESO) takes great care in helping to protect the health and safety of all workers in Queensland. As the electrical safety regulator, the ESO have produced this letter to inform residents of the requirement to switch-off all electricity before a worker enters a roof space.

Amendments to the Electrical Safety Regulations 2013 commenced on 1 January 2025. It is now mandatory for a worker to turn off (de-energise) the main electrical switch(es) before entering the roof space of your home. The power must not be turned on again until the worker has completed their work and exited the roof space.

All workers in Queensland must comply with these safety requirements when carrying out any work or entry within the roof space of domestic or residential premises, including carports and sheds.

Examples of work that might be done in the roof space include:

- electrical work (including cabling);
- plumbing and gasfitting;
- installation, upgrade or removal of insulation;
- building security, structural and vermin inspections;
- roof and ceiling repair;
- any other activity in the roof space.

These requirements also apply to work carried out on top of the roof of a property that involves placing a body part in the roof space.

Electricians may need to perform electrical work where there is no other practical way the work can be conducted without power, such as testing, commissioning and fault-finding. Under these circumstances the electrician is required to prepare, prior to commencing the work and entering the roof space, a detailed risk assessment and statement for the work.

If a worker is not able to switch-off all electricity, for whatever reason, or be satisfied that either of the two exemptions (prescribed circumstances) under the Regulation apply, the work or entry into the roof space **must not proceed**. Leaving the electricity turned on for convenience would fail to meet either of the exemptions.

Serious electric shocks and fatalities have occurred in Australia due to damaged electrical wiring in roof spaces. I trust you agree that safety takes first priority and understand why workers must switch off the electricity before entering the roof space. With sufficient planning, there is no reason the power cannot be turned off while work is conducted in your roof space.

Yours sincerely

Robert Wicks
A/Executive Director
Electrical Safety Office
Office of Industrial Relations
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