

# Electrical Focus

## Mandatory use of eNotice

Since its launch, eNotice has been widely accepted and acknowledged by industry for its efficiencies and overall effectiveness. With the majority of notices now being completed in eNotice, Building and Energy has made the decision to make lodgement of Preliminary Notices and Notices of Completion using eNotice mandatory.

As of **1 July 2019** it became mandatory to lodge all electrical Preliminary Notices using eNotice.

As of **1 October 2019** it became mandatory to lodge all gas and electrical Notices of Completion using eNotice.

Network Operators will no longer accept paper forms beyond these dates and no exemptions will be provided.

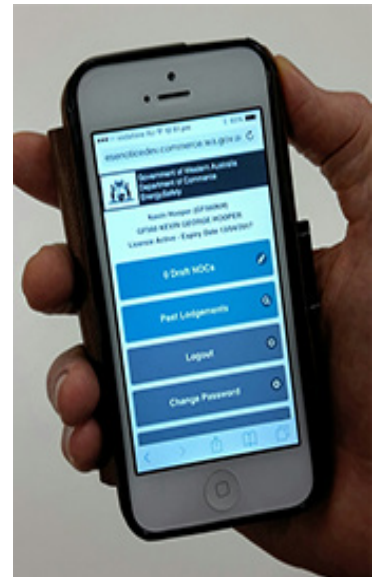
Electrical Safety Certificates can still be issued using either eNotice or paper forms. However, paper books of the safety certificates will no longer be reprinted and when our stocks are exhausted they must be obtained and issued using eNotice.

### Registration

If you have not registered to use eNotice, you can do so on the [eNotice webpage](#).

### Further information

For general use and registration assistance please visit the [eNotice webpage](#).



For further assistance, please contact us on 08 6251 1900 or email [be.info@dmirs.wa.gov.au](mailto:be.info@dmirs.wa.gov.au)

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Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety**  
**Building and Energy**

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This publication is available in other formats on request for people with special needs

## New DMIRS postal address

As of 1 July 2019, a new postal address came into effect for the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety.

The new address is:

**Department of Mines, Industry Regulation  
and Safety**

**Locked Bag 100  
EAST PERTH, WA 6892**

Mail sent to the previous postal address will be redirected for 12 months to allow for the transition.

## Licensing update

To ensure consistency in delivering a fairer service and ensuring that licences are issued in accordance with the relevant legislation and delegation, Licensing Services will no longer be fast tracking any applications when submitted in person at our office. These include applications for electrician's licences on completion of apprenticeships.

Licensing Services will still continue to assess applications for completeness when submitted in person and take the required fee, however all applications submitted to the office, in person or via mail, will join the processing queue whereby they will be processed in the order of submission.

## Regional Services Review – Consultation Paper

The Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety is seeking your feedback on how we can improve customer service at our regional offices and online. The Regional Services Review Consultation Paper is now available for your comments.

Download the consultation paper from:  
[www.dmirs.wa.gov.au/consultations](http://www.dmirs.wa.gov.au/consultations)

For a printed copy, please call 9222 3333 or email: [customerservice@dmirs.wa.gov.au](mailto:customerservice@dmirs.wa.gov.au)

The deadline for submissions is: **5pm Monday  
28 October 2019**

## RCD regulations after 1 January 2019

### Properties for sale rent or hire.

Under the Electricity Regulations 1947 all residential premises sold, rented or hired must have all socket outlets and lighting final sub-circuits protected by at least 2 RCDs. It is also essential to ensure that there are no more than 3 final sub-circuits per RCD and the lighting circuits (if 2 or more) are separated over the RCDs. Further details appear in the Electricity Regulations 1947, Regulations 12 to 16 which can be downloaded at [www.legislation.wa.gov.au](http://www.legislation.wa.gov.au).

The new 2018 edition of AS/NZS 3000:2018, Wiring Rules requires all circuits in residential premises to be RCD protected but this does not apply to existing residences. It only applies to residences constructed after 1 January 2019. There has been no change to the rules applying to RCDs required in residences being sold, rented or hired.

It is strongly recommended that owners fit RCDs to existing residences constructed prior to 1 January 2019 to protect all the final sub-circuits. However, this is optional and not mandatory.

If an electrical contractor is engaged to verify that RCDs are fitted to a residence, subject to sale, rent or hire, he/she needs to ensure that at a minimum, RCDs are fitted to all circuits as required by the Electricity Regulation 1947 and not to AS/NZS 3000:2018, Wiring Rules.

## Notice of Completion for large electrical installation projects

### Modified procedure now available

The Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1991 (ELR) have been amended to provide for a modified procedure to reduce the volume of Notices of Completion (notices) required for large electrical installation projects.

Electrical Contractors involved with large projects may elect to use the modified system or continue to use the general notice system applicable to all electrical installing work.

The amended Regulations include criteria that must be satisfied before the modified procedure can be used. Large projects are those expected to:

- take 12 months or more to complete;
- have a maximum demand or increase in demand exceeding 1.0 MVA; and
- otherwise require at least 20 notices.

Contractors opting to use the modified procedure need to:

1. familiarise themselves with the new Regulations, which can be viewed at [www.legislation.wa.gov.au](http://www.legislation.wa.gov.au);
2. contact the relevant network operator inspectorate before submitting the Preliminary Notice to:
  - inform them that they propose to use the modified notice procedure;
  - discuss and agree on the IT system

- and format to be used for the electronic log book; and
  - agree on the proposed stages for the project.
3. include the following wording in the 'Comments' section of the Preliminary Notice for the project:

“It is intended to use the provisions of Regulations 52BB, 52BC, 52BD and 52BE of the Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1991 for the notifiable electrical work on this project.”

If an electrical contractor's electronic record system complies with Regulations in all other respects, the contractor is not required to obtain formal approval for the system from the Director of Energy Safety.

The network operator inspectorate contact emails are:

Western Power: [waei@waei.com.au](mailto:waei@waei.com.au)

Horizon Power: [electricalnotices@horizonpower.com.au](mailto:electricalnotices@horizonpower.com.au)

BHP Billiton: [supplyauthority@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:supplyauthority@bhpbilliton.com)

Rio Tinto: [electrical.inspectors@riotinto.com](mailto:electrical.inspectors@riotinto.com)

Indian Ocean Territories Power Service: [iotpowerservice@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:iotpowerservice@infrastructure.gov.au)

Building and Energy (where there is no network operator): [be.info@dmirs.wa.gov.au](mailto:be.info@dmirs.wa.gov.au)

## Notices – Address Details

Regulation 52 of the Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1991 requires electrical contractors to submit **duly completed** Notices of Completion within three days of finishing any notifiable work.

The Electricity Compliance Directorate is still receiving notices with insufficient or incorrect address details which do not identify the correct location of the job completed.

Often the notice does not produce any results when searching Landgate, Google Maps or Whereis.

It is not acceptable to rely on the local knowledge of the network operator or Building and Energy staff.

Rural property address numbers are a national standard applied across Australia.

A rural property address number is allocated to every land parcel (farming, commercial, industrial, residential or otherwise) with a substantial building.

Once the rural road number is determined for a property the local Shire will notify Landgate to include the rural property address in the State Addresses database. Once this occurs the Lot number is no longer the searchable identifier on Landgate.

For this reason, if the street number is not available when a notice is submitted, GPS coordinates for the location of the actual electrical installation (building) or driveway access would be acceptable.

eNotice allows for the current GPS coordinates (when taken at the site of the electrical installation) to be captured and automatically populated into the notice.

Alternatively, this is easily accomplished by opening Google Maps, locating the property concerned, “right-click” on the property and select “What’s Here”.

## Notices to Unknown, no network connection (Building and Energy)

Unknown, no network connection (Building and Energy) is only to be assigned if a network operator cannot be identified and does not/will not exist for the installation.

Electrical contractors are expected to make a reasonable attempt to identify the relevant network operator to which an installation is, or is to be connected. Unknown, no network connection (Building and Energy) shall only be selected for an electrical installation **that is not, and is not to be**, supplied with electricity by a network operator.

The following examples are not sufficient reasons to assign Unknown, no network connection (Building and Energy) as the

relevant Network Operator:

- an unreadable meter;
- no access to the meter or meter location;
- a temporary generator connection awaiting a network connection;
- no electricity connection available at the time of the installation;
- a separate stand-alone generation system is installed at a property which already has a network operator supply;
- the electrical installing work is carried out on a transportable structure/vehicle that is at a site which has a network operator supply; or
- the electrical installing work is carried out on a transportable structure/vehicle that is at a site for the purposes of its construction.

If notifiable work is carried out on a property which has a network supply available, the notice shall go to that network operator **regardless** of whether or not an individual part of an electrical installation is connected to the network.

This allows the network operator to inspect the installation to ensure it has no electrical connection to the existing network connection and causes no interference with the electricity supply.

Please refer to the Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1991 concerning the use, requirement, delivery and exemptions for delivery of notices. The regulations include a glossary of definitions for terms used in the regulations. (eg. Electrical Installation, Notifiable Work, Electrical Work)

Incorrect notices may lead to avoidable delay in the required inspection and connection to supply. Inevitably this will inconvenience your customer and may increase your costs.

Information on how to amend a notice can be found on the [eNotice frequently asked questions webpage](#).

## Importance of a MEN connection

A multiple earthed neutral (MEN) is an essential part of an installation's safety system. Without it, an earth fault in the installation could result in all the earthed components – including the metallic main switchboard enclosure, pole and appliance enclosures – becoming 'live' and dangerous. A person who has contact with these components could receive a fatal electric shock.

In February, a Mandurah electrician pleaded guilty to breaching electricity regulations by failing to install a MEN connection at a building site, which could have resulted in a fatal electric shock.

The Mandurah Magistrates Court fined the electrician \$4,500 and the electrical contracting company \$15,000 for offences under the Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1991. They also had to pay \$881 in costs.

The court heard that the electrician failed to install a MEN connection in a builder's temporary supply switchboard at a Wannanup property in 2017.

The electrical contractor was also charged after

certifying that the electrical work was checked and tested, safe and found to comply with the Regulations. However, the absence of a MEN connection meant the work was not completed in accordance with the Regulations and the installation was unsafe.

This is a significant fine that reflects the seriousness of the missing MEN connection, which could have resulted in a serious electrical accident or death if a fault had occurred.

## Consultation - Electricity (Network Safety) Amendment Regulations 2019

Building and Energy proposes to amend the Electricity (Network Safety) Regulations 2015.

You are invited to review and comment on the text of the proposed amendments.

The proposed amendments are shown in two forms:

- [in context](#), which shows how the proposals will appear in the amended text of the regulations; and
- as an [explanatory memorandum](#), which shows each proposed amendment followed by the reason why the amendment has been proposed.

Access to the proposed amendments is available on the [Building and Energy website](#).

Please send any comments you have regarding the proposed amendments by email to [ENSR@dmins.wa.gov.au](mailto:ENSR@dmins.wa.gov.au) by **5pm on Friday 4 October 2019**.

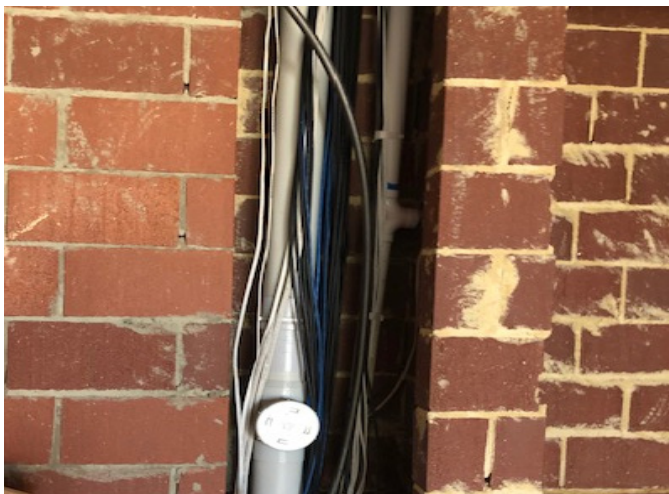
## Separation from non-electrical services

Electrical installations must comply with Clauses 3.9.8.4 and 3.11.5 of AS/NZS 3000:2018 (Wiring Rules), dealing respectively with proximity to non-electrical services and spacing from other underground services.

Cables must not be in contact with hot water piping or at risk of interference if pipes have to be changed or moved at some stage after initial installation.

Electrical contractors should liaise appropriately with other trades on construction projects to ensure separation requirements are met and maintained as work proceeds.

Building and Energy has become aware of several instances where electrical wiring has been installed in immediate contact, or is supported by, adjacent pipework. Examples of these non-complying practices are below.





## Switchboard fire protection sealing

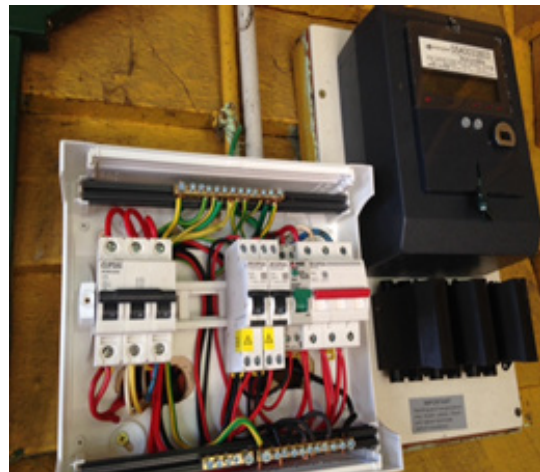
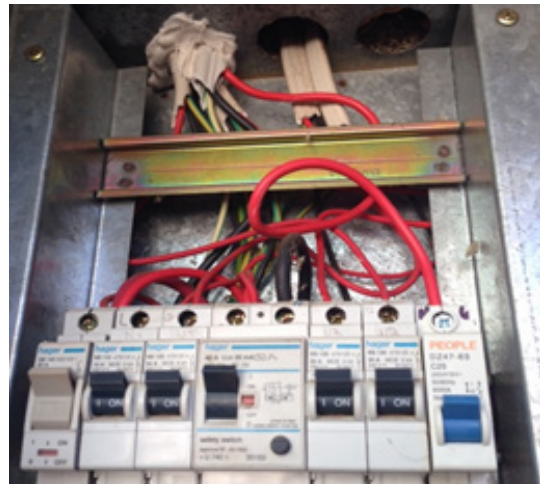
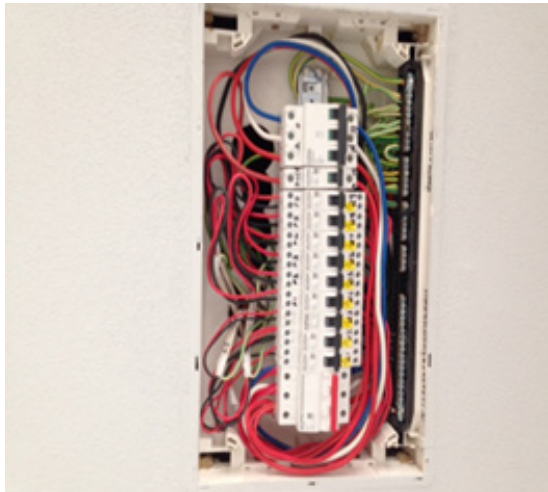
Electrical installations must comply with clause 2.10.7 of AS/NZS 3000:2018, which states:

### 2.10.7 Fire-protection measures

*Wiring associated with switchboards shall be installed in such a manner that, in the event of fire originating at the switchboard, the spread of fire will be kept to a minimum.*

An unacceptable high proportion of Clause 2.10.7 breaches persist. These breaches continue to be found during installation inspections despite repeated efforts by network operators to encourage compliance.

The following photographs are examples illustrating typical compliance failures found often during inspections.



*Examples of typical compliance failures often found during inspections*

While there are no specific standards for switchboard fire-sealing, acceptable methods are available to achieve the objectives of Clause 2.10.7, such as using fire-rated materials.

Simply replacing older switchboard panels with a DIN Kit, leaving the back of a switchboard open to the wall cavity is unacceptable. The board must be properly sealed.

The most effective approach to fire sealing will depend on the type and location of the switchboards and the number and sizes of cable entries involved. Contractors and their employed electricians are expected to assess these and select the most appropriate sealing method for the situation at hand.

Failure to comply with Clause 2.10.7 is a serious defect, regarded as such by network operators and Building and Energy.

## **Fine increase for electrical firm after appeal**

A Perth business that failed to provide documents to State Government electrical safety inspectors has been fined \$25,000 on appeal after the Supreme Court ruled that the original \$3,000 penalty was manifestly inadequate.

The Willetton based business, was resentenced for breaching the Energy Coordination Act by not providing records requested by EnergySafety (now Building and Energy) in 2016. The maximum penalty for this offence is \$250,000 for a corporation.

During the original court case in July 2018, the business and an Electrical Contracting company, were each fined \$3,000 after both failed to provide the same requested documents to Building and Energy.

The business was also fined \$8,000 for operating as an electrical contractor without a licence for two months in 2014. The firm has other previous convictions for licensing issues and not providing records to electrical and gas inspectors.

Building and Energy appealed the \$3,000 penalty, arguing that the fine was extremely lenient for the seriousness of the offending.

The Supreme Court appeal proceedings concluded on 16 May 2019 with Justice Jeremy Allanson imposing a new fine of \$25,000 plus more than \$7,000 in costs.

His Honour described the original 2018 sentence as “manifestly inadequate” given the firm’s deliberate non-compliance, which hampered an investigation, as well as past convictions and the significant maximum fine available for the offence.

Non-compliance with any aspect of WA’s electricity legislation can ultimately put people’s safety at risk. The significant fine should serve as a reminder that anyone participating in a regulated industry will face consequences if they don’t meet their obligations and responsibilities.

## Product Recall

Residual Current Device (RCD) Dielle, Model YK78, approval mark N.21905

### Defect

RCD may fail product standard test requirements. Approval mark N.21905 is not valid.

### Identification

RCD product marked with 'Dielle', 'YK78' and 'N.21905'. See images. Product sold from 2006 onwards.

### Hazard

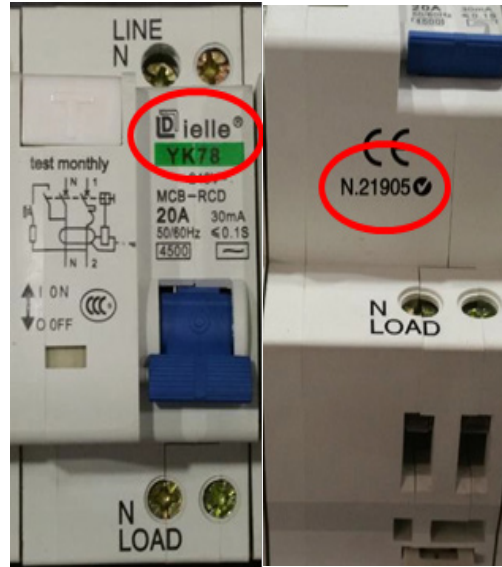
Potential risk to persons or property of electric shock or fire.

### Action required

Recalled product needs to be replaced with an alternative RCD that has a valid Australian approval mark.

## Contact details

For further information please direct any queries concerning this recall to Dielle Electrical Distributors Pty Ltd via email at [dielle.electrical@bigpond.com](mailto:dielle.electrical@bigpond.com) or by post (addressed to Dielle Electrical Distributors Pty Ltd, C/-78 Grange Road, Wellard SA 5007).



RCD marked Dielle YK78 and N.21905

# Prosecutions and Infringements

## Prosecutions between 1 October 2018 and 30 June 2019

Name and suburb of residence at time of offence	Licence number	Legislation and Breach	Offence	Date of offence	Fine (\$)	Court cost (\$)
Dale Subke (Wannanup)	EW159776	Regulation 49(1) E(L)R 1991	Carrying out, or causing or permitting to be carried out, electrical work contrary to AS/NZS 3000:2007	Between 14 February and 16 February 2017	4,500	881.60
Subke Pty Ltd (Wannanup)	EC9256	Regulation. 52(3) E(L)R 1991	Sending a notice of completion of notifiable work in relation to uncompleted and unsafe work	17 February 2017	15,000	
Pascoes Electrical Contracting Pty Ltd (Willetton)	EC11253	Section 20(2) Energy Coordination Act 1994	Failing to provide information, records or documents when requested	1 July 2016	4,000	1,744.35
Jason Aaron Nominees Pty Ltd (Willetton)	NLH	Section 20(2) Energy Coordination Act 1994	Failing to provide information, records or documents when requested	20 September 2016	25,000	7,124
Jason Aaron Nominees Pty Ltd (Willetton)	NLH	Regulation 33(1) E(L)R 1991	Carrying on business as an electrical contractor	28 August 2014	8,000	7237.90

# Prosecutions and Infringements

## Infringements between 1 October 2018 and 30 June 2019

Legislation and breach	Offence	Number of infringements	Fine (\$)
s. 33B(2)	Selling or hiring, or exposing or advertising for sale or hire, prescribed appliance without approval	1	1,250