



### **Electrical Focus 5**

#### ***Amendment No 2/96 to WA Electrical Requirements***

Section 2.1.12 of the WA Electrical Requirements specifies that underground consumers mains must be identified by the use of orange marker tape.

Marker tape is no longer required for the identification of underground consumers mains. This acknowledges the practice of installing conduits by directional drilling as opposed to trenching. In these instances, it is not practicable to use marker tape.

Marker tape must still be used for other underground cabling as required by AS 3000.

The current edition of the WA Electrical Requirements (issued as SECWA Electrical Requirements, January 1993) is therefore amended by deleting Section 2.1.12.

**Holders of a "WA Electrical Requirements" should ensure that this amendment is incorporated into their manual.**

#### **Selling Used Electrical Appliances/Equipment**

It is a requirement that persons who sell used electrical appliances/equipment are responsible to ensure that it is in a safe condition. This provides protection for both the customer and the person selling the electrical appliances/equipment.

We are often asked "What is safe?" with reference to used electrical equipment.

The Office of Energy recently produced guidelines for determining if used electrical appliances and equipment are safe. The guidelines have been circulated to organisations conducting weekend "swap meets" to assist buyers and sellers in determining the level of safety that should be achieved.

A copy of the guidelines is included as "Electrical Safety News" with this Energy Bulletin.

#### **Electrical Contractor Prosecuted for Certifying Defective Electrical Installing Work**

On the 26 March 1996, electrical contractor Mark Edward Harper, trading as Contract Electrical, was found guilty in the Court of Petty Sessions of Western Australia for sending a Notice of Completion to the electricity supply authority without ensuring that the electrical installing work had been adequately checked and tested. The Court found that, because the electrical installing work carried out by an employee was defective, the Notice of Completion was not duly completed and a breach of Regulation 52 of the Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1991 was therefore proven. He was fined \$500.00 and ordered to pay costs of \$536.10.

Section 10 "Certification - EC/IH Licence Holder or Nominated Electrical Worker to Complete" of the Notice of Completion requires the Electrical Contractor (or the nominee on his/her behalf) to certify that:

- the notice has been duly completed;
- the electrical installing work the subject of this notice has been completed; and
- any such electrical installing work carried out by an electrical worker or workers complies with the Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1991.

Basically, this is a guarantee given by the electrical contractor for the electrical installing work. It must not be given lightly.

Since this case, a number of electrical contractors have sought advice from the Chief Electrical Inspector regarding the signing of Notices of Completion. The Chief Electrical Inspector advises that if the electrical contractor or his/her nominee do not check and test the work themselves before signing the Notice of Completion, then they must establish a *reasonable and honest* belief that the electrical installing work is complete, meets the relevant standards and is safe to connect to the electricity supply. It is not sufficient for the electrical contractor to rely just on the fact that the electrical worker holds an electrical mechanics licence.

An electrical contractor may form a reasonable and honest belief that the electrical work has been carried out correctly if:

- a management system is in place that provides assurances to the electrical contractor that the electrical installing work carried out by all his/her electrical workers has been carried out correctly and has been checked and tested;
- an assessment of each electrical worker's performance is carried out at the commencement of employment and at regular intervals to ensure that the electrical worker is capable of carrying out electrical work correctly and safely; and
- regular training and assessment of electrical workers, installation methods and the correct checking and testing procedures is carried out.

For example, electrical workers who have carried out defective work (eg. received an Inspectors' Order) should have their work checked and tested by another competent electrical worker until they have demonstrated that they can carry out electrical work competently.

A list of persons who have been prosecuted in the last financial year for breaches of the Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1991 is shown on page 4 of this Electrical Focus.

*Further advice on the above matter may be obtained by contacting an Electrical Inspector at the Office of Energy on (09) 422 5261.*

## **SmartPower**

On 28 August 1996, Western Power announced the introduction of a new residential time-of-use metering system, called SmartPower.

SmartPower utilises a solid state metering unit capable of registering electricity consumption across four time periods (off-peak, low shoulder, high shoulder and peak) and two seasons (summer and winter).

The meter's internal clock may be used to operate an internal relay (nominal rating 31.5 amps) to energise/de-energise a controlled single phase circuit which will only be energised during the off-peak period. It is intended that this circuit will be connected to the water heating unit. It can, however, be used for any appliance as long as the following criteria apply:

- the load does not exceed 30 amps single phase; and
- there is only one appliance connected to the circuit.

SmartPower may only be installed in a domestic installation which qualifies for A1 or B1 tariff.

### **Electrical contractors need to be aware that:**

when connecting an appliance to the controlled circuit, they will need to record the following information in the "Comments" field of the Notice of Completion certificate:

- the type of appliance being connected; and
- the rating (in amps) of the appliance.

*For further enquiries about SmartPower or any other tariff related matters, please contact your nearest Western Power commercial centre.*

## **Dowerin Field Days**

The Dowerin Field Days is an annual event for primary producers and support industries to display machinery, equipment and methods to promote improved efficiencies in the farming industry. The event, which attracts people from all over Australia, has enjoyed continuing success for 31 years.

This year was no exception and some 51,000 people attended the two day event.

The Office of Energy was pleased to exhibit at this year's Field Days. The Office's combined electricity and gas display focussed on the hazards of people doing their own electrical work and the potential dangers of using gas in cars and caravans.

The Office's stand was well attended. Staff were kept busy answering many electricity and gas related enquiries, which showed that people in the rural communities are not as well serviced with information as those who live in major regional centres.