



Reporting defects in electrical installations and equipment

The community as a whole relies upon licensed electrical workers to provide expert advice in relation to the safety of electrical installations and equipment. This guidance note provides advice to electrical workers on what to do when they encounter an unsafe electrical installation or equipment.

If in the course of your electrical work you come across a defect in an electrical installation or equipment that poses a risk of shock or fire, you have an obligation under the Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1991, regulation 62(1), to report it as soon as practicable.

Such defects include, but are not limited to:

- unenclosed electrical joints in ceiling spaces;
- degraded wiring insulation; and
- recessed light fittings that are not installed to prevent excessive temperature rise of the light fitting or its auxiliary equipment.

The fitting of an RCD, is not acceptable (on its own) as an effective remedial action for such defects.

Failure to report any defect that renders the electrical installation or equipment as being unsafe is a breach of the Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1991, Regulation 62(1).

If you are carrying out work on behalf of your employer, such as an electrical contractor or in-house licence holder, your employer must also be made aware of the defect.

What to do

- Report the defect to the owner/occupier.
- Let the owner/occupier know that the defect is required to be reported to the network operator.
- Report the defect to your relevant network operator. Where the network operator cannot be identified, the relevant network operator is Building and Energy.
- Where occurrences of unenclosed joints or degraded wiring insulation have already been rectified no reporting is required to the relevant network operator.

- Any unsafe and dangerous defects must be reported to the Network Operator.

It is not the responsibility of the electrical worker to inspect parts of the electrical installation parts that they are not working on, however this can be done with permission of the owner.

The contact telephone numbers for the relevant network operators are:

Western Power: 13 13 51

Horizon Power: 13 23 51

Rio Tinto: 1800 992 777

BHP Iron Ore: 1300 632 483 – Select option 4

Peel Renewable Energy: 1800 571 211

Indian Ocean Territories Power Service (IOTPS); and Christmas and Cocos (Keeling) Islands: 9164 7111

Network operator contact details can also be found using Building and Energy's [Report an electrical accident](#) website page.

Disclaimer – The information contained in this fact sheet is provided as general information and a guide only. It should not be relied upon as legal advice or as an accurate statement of the relevant legislation provisions. If you are uncertain as to your legal obligations, you should obtain independent legal advice.

Building and Energy

Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety
08 6251 1900

8.30am – 4.30pm

Level 1 Mason Bird Building

303 Sevenoaks Street (entrance Grose Avenue)

Cannington Western Australia 6107

M: **Locked Bag 100, East Perth WA 6892**

W: www.dmirs.wa.gov.au/building-and-energy

E: be.energy@dmirs.wa.gov.au

National Relay Service: 13 36 77

Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS): 13 14 50

This publication is available in other formats on request to assist people with special needs.