



ESR Amendment Advice 2026/1

April 2026

**TO: Ausgrid employees,
contractors to Ausgrid, and Accredited Service Providers.**

Amendment of the Ausgrid Electrical Safety Rules

The following amendments have been made in the 2026/1 edition of the Electrical Safety Rules (ESR).

Modifications from the previous ESR edition are shaded in grey in the document.

Darren Jenkins
Electrical Safety Manager

Clause	Subject	Change
	Access Permit for Work	There are minor changes to the layout, content, (and paper colour/weight) of the Access Permit for Work form.
	Access Permit for Test	There are minor changes to the layout, content, (and paper colour/weight) of the Access Permit for Test form.
	Equipping Permit	The role title of "Installation Inspector" has been updated to the new title of "Network Connections Inspector"
	Permit Folder	There are minor changes to the layout and content of the Permit Folder form to align with the above changes to the access permit forms.
	Images within the document	Images, that do not explain the application of controls required by the relevant clause, have been removed.
Page 2	Control Room Phone Numbers	The Low Voltage Control Room (Sydney North and Sydney South) phone numbers have been corrected.
2.1.14	Emergencies – Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)	This is a new Clause which outlines the required approach to emergency situations involving Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS).
3.2.5	Authorisation - interpreters	This is a new clause to state the requirements for workers who require an interpreter.
3.4.4	Operating authorities	The (cp) subscript has been removed from Class 5F & Class 5P operating authorities.
3.4.4	Operating authorities	Minor changes for clarity to the scope of Class 2D operating authority.
5.3.6	Responsibilities prior to accepting an access permit	Minor changes for clarity.

5.6.14	Cancellation of an access permit	The requirements for the return of cancelled access permits that were issued under an Isolation Folder have been added.
5.7.4	Cancellation of a Clearance to Work	The requirement to return a cancelled Clearance to Work to the relevant Permit Folder have been added.
5.11.8	Recovering a Permit Folder	Minor changes for clarity.
5.12.5	Isolation Folders – Class 1 Operator	Minor changes for clarity.
6.2.8	Face shields	Subheadings added to the clause for clarity.
6.4.2	LV detectors	“Low impedance” added to the specification for dual-probe contact-type meters used to prove mains and apparatus are de-energised.
7.4	Fixed clearances	Minor changes for clarity.
7.4.1 Table 15	Minimum fixed clearances	The wording in the note within the table has been strengthened.
7.5.7	Mobile plant - Earthing and equipotential bonding requirements	Equipotential bonding requirements for insulated mobile plant have been added to this clause.
8.1.3	Taping principles	Minor change for clarity.
9.2.7	Overhead link boxes as a point of LV isolation	This is a new clause to include the additional controls that are required, by the Safety Alert for EHS Incident No. 44480 on 10/07/25, for work on isolated LV where a three-phase overhead link box forms a point of isolation. (Workers must wear LV insulating gloves if the LV mains and apparatus do not have LV shorts applied).
9.3.6	HDPE insulated cables	Minor change to clarify that gumboots are only required where a worker is in contact with the ground.
9.3.12	Excavation of faulted underground cables	Minor changes to clarify when workers are required to sign onto an access permit for the excavation of a faulted underground cable.
9.4.1	Connecting and disconnecting LV mains and apparatus	Strengthening of wording to prevent the energisation of LV mains and apparatus that have a phase-to-phase, or phase-to-neutral/earth, short-circuit. Minor clarification of the “first on, last off” requirements for the connection/disconnection of neutral conductors.
9.5.3	Operating, testing/measurement, and inspection	An exemption to the need for an arc rated face shield has been included, where a worker is wearing a full-face respirator as a control for working with asbestos containing materials. An Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) is now required to be available when a safety observer is required for the scope of work covered by this clause.

9.5.4	Controls for work on or near live exposed LV	An exemption to the need for an arc rated face shield has been included, where a worker is wearing a full-face respirator as a control for working with asbestos containing materials.
9.6.1	Isolating HV mains and apparatus	Minor changes for clarity.
9.9.6	Excavation of faulted underground cables	Minor changes to clarify when workers are required to sign onto an access permit for the excavation of a faulted underground cable.
18	Glossary - general	Definition of "catenary wire" amended for clarity.
18	Glossary - general	Definition of "equipotential bonding" amended for clarity.
18	Glossary - general	Definition of "hoarding" amended for clarity.
18	Glossary - general	Definition of "switchyard" amended for clarity.
19.1	Abbreviations and acronyms	Acronym added for BESS
19.1	Abbreviations and acronyms	Acronym added for HDPE
19.1.1	Ausgrid System Terminology	The clause and Figure 112 has been removed.