

ASP Safety Alert Electrical Safety & Compliance

Alert Number: SA14_19

28 October 2019

Subject: Live work Pause for Safety – Update

Dear ASP/1s and ASP/2s,

As you are aware, Ausgrid has implemented a Pause on Live Work following a safety incident earlier this year, where one of our line workers received a fatal electric shock conducting live low voltage overhead works.

Since then, our Live Work Project Team has been working hard to conduct a detailed review of all live work tasks to assess the appropriate use and application of the safety controls required to be in place for live work to be performed.

Given that we have identified over 200 live work tasks that need to be reviewed, any return to live work will occur progressively, over a number of stages.

We have identified the following 5 live low voltage work tasks which we are proposing to recommence in the first stage **(Stage 1 Tasks)**:

1. Application and removal of temporary insulation to low voltage exposed conductors
2. Connection and disconnection of service connectors
3. Connection and disconnection of bolted conductor connections
4. Maintenance and replacement of street lighting
5. Work on or near extra low voltage exposed conductors

Importantly, all other live work tasks will continue to remain paused at this time.

New Safety Controls

Further to our review, we have identified additional controls that add to or increase the effectiveness of existing safety controls for performing live low voltage work tasks. These will be outlined in our changes to our Electrical Safety Rules (ESRs).

Changes to the ESRs in relation to live low voltage work will include:

- the introduction of a new planning process;
- strengthened and clearer responsibilities for the observer; and
- clearer information about the critical controls for workers when performing live low voltage work.

What's next for ASPs?

While we have come a long way, there's still a lot to do. We anticipate a progressive resumption of Stage 1 Tasks during November 2019, subject to the completion of the following two steps.

Step 1

Before returning to live work on Stage 1 Tasks, all Level 1 and Level 2 ASP companies must update their safety systems for consistency with the updated ESRs and have discussions with their teams about how any changes apply to their work.

This step can only occur once the updated ESRs are finalised and we have provided them to you. We anticipate the updated ESRs will be communicated in November.

We will also provide you with supporting material (e.g. Q&As) to assist you in updating your safety systems and having discussions with your teams.

Step 2

Before returning to live work on Stage 1 Tasks, all Level 1 and Level 2 ASP companies are required to confirm that they have reviewed all of the information by returning a signed acknowledgement confirming that the ASP:

1. Has safety systems in place that align with Ausgrid's safety management system, including the updated ESRs.
2. Has retrained its authorised workers in its safety management system for undertaking work on or near the network (in accordance with the updated ESRs).
3. Has verified the competency of its authorised workers in the appropriate use and application of the safety controls required to be in place for the live work to be performed.
4. Has ensured that workers have been provided with access to and/or obtained copies of the relevant safety management systems and the updated ESRs.
5. Provided its workers with all necessary safety equipment and personal protective equipment and ensures that at all times, all workers use that equipment as required.

ASPs must update their safety systems to align with the updated ESRs and return the signed acknowledgement within two months of the updated ESRs and supporting material being provided to the ASP. For the avoidance of doubt, ASPs are not permitted to commence Stage 1 Tasks until the signed acknowledgement has been received by Ausgrid.

We understand it has been a difficult time for everyone and thank you for your collaboration, patience and support to achieve the safest possible work environment for all Ausgrid employees, contractors and ASPs.

If you have any questions for the Live Work Project Team, I encourage you to send them through to livework@ausgrid.com.au.

Electrical Safety & Compliance

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