

Bulletin

Relocatable dwellings – electrical safety

This information bulletin has been developed to assist electrical contractors, electrical workers, owners and operators of relocatable dwellings in understanding the electrical safety issues associated with the transport and connection to low voltage electricity supply of such structures to sites in the Northern Territory.

This bulletin applies to:

- Aboriginal Communities
- Mine Sites
- Domestic Installations
- Commercial Installations
- Temporary Installations including work camps and construction sites.



Caption: View of external switchboard on relocatable dwelling



Caption: Junction box for a mains connection on a relocatable dwelling

Legislation

Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act

The NT WorkSafe information bulletin *Understanding Primary Duty of Care* provides a guide to the duties of care for employers and workers to themselves and others.

Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Regulations

Regulation 147 *Risk management* states that a person conducting a business or undertaking at a workplace must manage risks to health and safety associated with electrical risks at the workplace.

If the relocatable dwellings are intended to be used on construction sites then compliance with Regulation 163 of the WHS (NUL) Regulations and it is also mandatory to comply with:

- **AS/NZS 3012:2010 *Electrical installations – Construction and demolition sites***

Electricity Reform (Safety and Technical) Regulations

Refer to Regulation 5 Electricity Reform (Safety and Technical) Regulations for the correct procedure for the issuing of Certificates of Compliance in the Northern Territory.

- **Certificates of Compliance (CoC)**

Electricity Reform Act (Northern Territory)

Under Clause 67 and 68 the Owner or Operator of the relocatable dwelling and their Electrical Contractor have a responsibility to ensure the relocatable dwelling complies with:

- **AS/NZS 3000:2007 *Wiring Rules***

prior to connection to a low voltage power source.

Standards

AS/NZS 3001:2008 *Electrical installations*

– ***Transportable Structures and Vehicles Including Their Site Supplies***

If the relocatable dwellings are intended to be relocated frequently and are connected via a plug and socket then compliance with AS/NZS 3001:2008 *Electrical installations – Transportable Structures and Vehicles Including Their Site Supplies* is mandatory.

AS/NZS 3012:2010 *Electrical installations*

– ***Construction and demolition sites***

If the relocatable dwellings are intended to be used on construction sites then compliance with AS/NZS 3012:2010 *Electrical installations – Construction and demolition sites* is also mandatory.

AS/NZS 3000:2007 *Wiring Rules*

Relocatable dwellings manufactured overseas may not be compliant with AS/NZS 3000:2007 *Wiring Rules*.

The manufacturers Electrical Safety Certificate or similar issued at the time of construction cannot be relied upon once the relocatable dwelling has been transported to site, as damage may have occurred during transportation.

It is vital that the Electrical Contractor who connects the relocatable dwelling to a low voltage electricity supply carry out a full inspection of the dwelling as per Section 8 of AS/NZS 3000:2007 *Wiring Rules*, which includes removing socket outlets and light switches to ensure that the accessory type and installation methods comply with standards.

A *Certificate of Compliance* must be submitted which accounts for the entire installation i.e. relocatable dwelling manufactured by XYZ Corporation was tested for compliance with AS/NZS 3000:2007 *Wiring Rules* following transportation to site, and found to be compliant.

Definitions

Low Voltage is defined by AS/NZS 3000:2007 *Wiring Rules* as:

- 50 < 1000 Volts AC, or
- 120 < 1500 Volts ripple free DC

A low voltage electricity supply is defined as:

- Mains supply from a supply authority.
- Generator supply, either site power generation or portable generator.
- Inverter Supply from a solar photovoltaic / storage battery system.
- Other alternative energy sources, including wind power, fuel cells, etc.

If you have any doubts about the quality of the electrical installation or connection methods of relocatable dwellings and would like to make a complaint or verify that your intended actions will be correct, please do not hesitate to contact the NT WorkSafe – Electrical Safety Work Unit.

Contact us

For further information please contact us on 1800 019 115, via email at ntworksafe@nt.gov.au or go to the NT WorkSafe website at www.worksafe.nt.gov.au