

1999

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

**ELECTRICITY ACT 1971
ELECTRICITY REGULATIONS (AMENDMENT)**

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Circulated by authority of

Brendan Smyth MLA
Minister for Urban Services

ELECTRICITY REGULATIONS (AMENDMENT)

Outline

These are amending regulations. They amend the Electricity Regulations (referred to as the Principal Regulations). The *Electricity (Amendment) Act 1998* (referred to as the Amending Act) was passed by the Legislative Assembly on 29 October 1998. The Amending Act modifies the approval scheme that applies to electrical installations by licensed electricians and electrical contractors. Section 33 of the *Electricity Act 1971* (the Principal Act) requires installations to be successfully inspected and tested after electrical wiring work has been carried out before they are connected to the electricity distributor's supply main. The Amending Act modifies that requirement so that it applies only to new installations and adds two new sections. Section 33A requires electrical wiring work to be carried out in accordance with Australian Standard 3000, and section 33B requires it to be tested in accordance with Australian Standard 3017 and reported to the administrative unit administering the Act. The Amending Act allows for the making of regulations that give exemptions from the requirements of the two new sections.

Regulation 7A of the Principal Regulations contains exemptions from the requirements of section 33 of the Principal Act if an installation is carried out by the electricity distributor on or in connection with its distribution network or is work on lifts. The amending regulations extend these exemptions to the requirements of sections 33A and 33B.

The amending regulations limit the need to comply with the changed requirements of a new edition of Australian Standard 3000 during a transitional period. The current edition and earlier editions of the standard contain a recommendation that it should not be mandatory for six months after publication and a statement that the inspecting authority may grant permission for an installation to be carried out in accordance with the superseded edition if work commenced before the publication date of the new edition. The regulations implement these provisions of the standard.

REGULATION NOTES

Formal Regulations

Regulations 1 and 2 are formal regulations. They deal with the commencement of the amending regulations and the meaning of references to the Principal Regulations.

Exemption from inspection etc. under section 33

Regulation 3 amends Regulation 7A of the Principal Regulations by omitting paragraphs (b), (c) and (e) of subregulation (1) and the whole of subregulations (2) and (4).

Paragraphs 7A (1) (b) and (c) are similar in effect to subsection 33A (2) added to the Principal Act by the Amending Act and are no longer required. Paragraph 7A (1) (e) has provisions that are subsumed by subsection 33B (1), which was added to the Principal Act by the Amending Act, and is no longer required. Subregulation 7A (2) contains conditions relating to certain exemptions under Subregulation 7A (1). These exemptions are now to be managed as a matter of inspection strategy. Subregulation 7 (4) contains definitions. One of them applies to provisions that are now omitted and the others are replaced by the additions to Regulation 1A of the Principal Regulations made by Regulation 3 of the amending regulations.

Insertion

Regulation 4 inserts *new Regulations 7B and 7C* in the Principal Regulations.

Exemption from Australian Standard 3000

Paragraph 33A (2) (b) of the Principal Act allows regulations to set out circumstances in which electrical wiring work does not have to comply with the current version of Australian Standard 3000. **New regulation 7B** states that work carried out within six months of the publication of a revised edition of the standard may comply with the previous edition. So may work completed longer than six months after publication of a revised edition, if the work began before the publication of the new edition. The person responsible can be required to show that the work did begin before the publication of the new edition.

Exemption from section 33A and 33B

Section 33C of the Principal Act allows regulations to exempt electrical wiring work from the requirements of sections 33A and 33B. **New regulation 7C** describes the exemptions. They are for work by ACTEW on or in connection with its distribution system and for work on a lift and are similar to the exemptions in regulation 7A of the principal regulations as changed by Regulation 5. Australian Standard 3000 is not intended to apply to electricity distribution systems.

