



Victoria Government Gazette

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VICTORIAN WORKCOVER AUTHORITY EXEMPTION

Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017
Exemption Number H17/00702

1. I, Marnie Williams, acting under regulation 538 of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017 (Regulations) exempt the employers listed in Item 5 of this Exemption (Listed Employers) from the requirement in 129 of the Regulations that an employer must not allow unlicensed employees to do any high risk work, subject to the conditions contained in this Exemption.

Application of exemption

2. This Exemption only applies in relation to Lineworkers who would otherwise be required to hold a Basic, Intermediate or Advanced Rigging Licence, for the type of work listed in Item 6 of this Exemption, and subject to the conditions described in Item 7 of this Exemption.
3. I am satisfied that the type of work described in Item 6 of this Exemption can be performed as safely by a person who do not hold a Basic, Intermediate or Advanced Rigging Licence as it could be performed by a person who holds such a licence, provided that the Listed Employers and Lineworkers comply with the conditions contained in this Exemption.

Term of exemption

4. This Exemption will come into effect on 18 August 2017 and will expire at midnight on 18 August 2022, unless it is revoked, amended or extended by WorkSafe.

Listed Employers

5. This Exemption applies to the employers listed in the following table:

Employer	ACN
Ausnet Electricity Services Pty Ltd	064 651 118
Ausnet Transmission Group Pty Ltd	079 798 173
Ched Services Pty Ltd	112 304 622
Citipower Pty Ltd	064 651 056
Energy Solutions Pty Ltd	610 914 059
Jemena Asset Management Pty Ltd	086 013 461
Jemena Electricity Networks (Vic) Ltd	064 651 083
Jemena Limited	052 167 405
Powercor Australia Ltd	064 651 109
Powercor Network Services Pty Ltd	123 230 240
United Energy Distribution Pty Limited	064 651 029

Type of work

6. This Exemption is restricted to Lineworkers undertaking rigging work that requires a High Risk Work Licence, when undertaking rigging activities associated with the use of mechanical load-shifting equipment and associated gear for:
 - (a) movement of plant and equipment where that plant and equipment is being used for the erection or maintenance of a powerline; but not a powerline associated with a tower;
 - (b) erecting and removing distribution pole type substations;

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- (c) pole erection into, or removal from, conductors whether the line be live or isolated;
- (d) installation, straining, removal and maintenance of overhead conductors and cables;
- (e) steel erection and removal where the steel components are prefabricated cross arms, brackets, braces, equipment and platforms fitted to a distribution powerline structure;
- (f) erection, installation and removal of electrical plant and equipment;
- (g) crossarm installation, removal or replacement; and
- (h) erecting, dismantling and maintaining stays and guys for distribution electrical structures.

Conditions

7. This Exemption is subject to the following conditions:

- (a) Lineworkers performing dogging work must hold:
 - (i) a dogging licence as described in Item 4 of Schedule 3 of the Regulations; or
 - (ii) a high risk work licence issued by an interstate authority that is recognised as equivalent to a dogging licence issued under the Regulations, in accordance with regulation 131.
- (b) A Lineworker covered by this Exemption must be:
 - (i) an apprentice working under appropriate supervision; or
 - (ii) a qualified Distribution Lineworker or Transmission Lineworker who has been trained and undergone written and practical assessment, and is deemed to be competent to all of the following national competency standards by a Registered Training Organisation whose scope of registration includes these matters:
 - i. UETTDNIS41A – Install network infrastructure electrical equipment;
 - ii. UETTDNIS52A – Install and maintain poles, structures and associated hardware; and
 - iii. UETTDNIS54A – Install and maintain poles, structures and overhead conductors and cables; or
 - (iii) hold an equivalent historical qualification/certificate of proficiency as a Linesman, Distribution Lineworker or a Transmission Lineworker.
- (c) Satisfactory completion of the three training units UETTDNIS41A, UETTDNIS52A and UETTDNIS54A, or verification of an equivalent historical qualification/certificate of proficiency must be clearly recorded in either the Lineworker's ESI passport or other readily identified means. If a Lineworker has not completed the three training units referred to in this Item and is unable to provide verification of an equivalent historical qualification/certificate of proficiency, they must provide documentary evidence of that historical qualification/certificate of proficiency, for example by way of a statutory declaration identifying the historical qualification/certificate of proficiency and when it was obtained. The Lineworker must carry the ESI passport, or other means, at all times while working under this Exemption. This identification shall be readily available to a WorkSafe Inspector upon request.
- (d) Re-assessments for each of the categories of lineworker, apprentice, intermediate and experienced, are to be carried out in accordance with the implementation plans provided as part of the exemption application dated 7 August 2017 or within 18 months, whichever is the earliest.
- (e) The Listed Employers must provide each Lineworker working under this Exemption with a copy of the document 'VESI Fieldworkers Handbook June 2006, updated November 2008'.
- (f) Training material or any applicable module must be reviewed and/or amended after any serious incident or where a near miss occurs which may affect the training in that module.

- (g) The training and assessment records referred to in Items 7(b), 7(c) and 7(d) of this Exemption must be:
 - (i) retained by the Listed Employers or the contractors or subcontractors engaged to perform work for a Listed Employer/s; and
 - (ii) readily available to WorkSafe, which will conduct audits of these records from time to time at its discretion to ensure that the conditions in this Exemption Notice are observed.
- (h) Each Listed Employer undertakes to:
 - (i) cooperate with WorkSafe to readily enable the audit of the rigging assessment processes within the above training units delivered by a Registered Training Organisation; and
 - (ii) advise WorkSafe of any legal entity name and/or ACN changes within seven (7) days of such change occurring.

Definitions

8. Unless otherwise indicated, all terms have the same meaning as in the **Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004** or the Regulations.

Apprentice Lineworker means a lineworker undertaking an apprenticeship who is in the first two years of their apprenticeship.

Distribution Lineworker means a lineworker engaged in working on distribution and sub transmission assets up to and including 66 kV.

Experienced Lineworker means a lineworker who is trade qualified with more than five years' work experience in ESI, or holds a HRW Rigging Licence (Basic or Intermediate).

Intermediate Lineworker means a lineworker who is either:

- (a) an apprentice in their third or fourth year of their apprenticeship; or
- (b) a Trade Qualified Lineworker with less than three years' work experience in the Electrical Services Industry; or
- (c) a Trade Qualified Lineworker with between three and five years' work experience in the Electrical Services Industry.

Lineworker means a Linesman, Distribution Lineworker or a Transmission Lineworker who:

- (a) has met the qualification requirements detailed under the condition described in Item 7(b) of this Exemption; and
- (b) is either:
 - (i) an employee of a Listed Employer; or
 - (ii) a contractor or subcontractor engaged to perform work for a Listed Employer; or
 - (iii) an employee of a contractor or subcontractor engaged to perform work for a Listed Employer.

Listed Employer means an employer listed in Item 5 of this Exemption.

Transmission Lineworker means a lineworker engaged in working on transmission assets above 66kV.

WorkSafe means the Victorian WorkCover Authority.

Dated 16 August 2017

MARNIE WILLIAMS
Executive Director, Health and Safety
WorkSafe Victoria

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