

ENA NENS 04—2006

NATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR SAFE APPROACH DISTANCES TO ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL APPARATUS



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**NATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR SAFE APPROACH
DISTANCES TO ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL
APPARATUS**



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Energy Networks Association

National guidelines for safe approach distances to electrical and mechanical apparatus

1 PREFACE

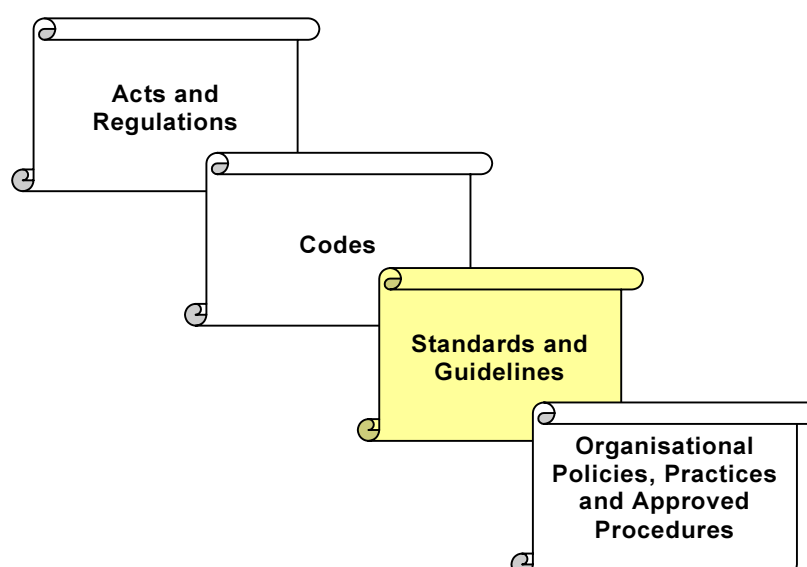
This Guideline is identical to the publication previously issued by the Electricity Supply Association of Australia (ESAA) as ESAA NENS 04—2003 and has been redesignated and reissued by Energy Networks Association (ENA) as ENA NENS 04—2006. A number of other ESAA documents have been reissued by the Energy Networks Association.

Restructuring of the electricity supply industry throughout Australia and New Zealand has removed traditional geographical boundaries and greatly increased the likelihood that employees and service providers move between organisations, States and Countries.

The Electricity Supply Association of Australia (ESAA) has produced a National Electricity Network Safety Code as the peak hierarchical document on electricity industry safety in Australia with the objectives to:

- promote safety as a priority for customers, the public and industry workers;
- promote nationally consistent practices;
- promote economic efficiencies through standardisation; and
- simplify the interpretation of regulatory requirements.

These Guidelines were developed jointly by representatives of the Australian generation, transmission and distribution electricity supply industry and the Electricity Supply Association of Australia to support the objectives of the National Electricity Network Safety Code and fit into the following framework.



These Guidelines have been produced to assist in the development and application of standards for *Safe Approach Distances* to apparatus in the electricity supply industry.

Safety will be further enhanced by nationally consistent *safe* approach guidelines, as increasing network contestability results in *Network Operator* staff and contractors regularly crossing State and network boundaries in the course of their work. It is recommended that the *Safe Approach Distances* within these Guidelines are not altered on a local basis without consideration of the desirability of achieving uniformity across the electricity supply Industry.

These Guidelines set out minimum industry standards. These Guidelines are advisory only and do not substitute for, or override, any legislation, regulation or safety rules implemented by jurisdictional Regulators or *Network Operators*.

These Guidelines include terminology that could appear unfamiliar to some sectors of the electricity supply industry, however, the terms adopted have been selected on their general usage and acceptability.

The Guidelines include mandatory and advisory provisions and are formulated in such a way that, depending on statutory requirements, sections that use the word '*shall*' provide mandatory provisions and sections that use the word '*should*' provide advisory or discretionary provisions.

The use of italics indicates the word or words are as defined in these Guidelines.

2 OBJECTIVES

These Guidelines are intended to—

- (a) Support the Electricity Supply Industry in ensuring the safety of electrical and other workers and the general public by the development of appropriate *Safe Approach Distances* to *electrical apparatus* for various classes of persons, and *mobile plant* and equipment.
- (b) Provide the basic technical material necessary for *Network Operators* to develop work practice, and related training and awareness programs.
- (c) Provide recommendations for appropriate *Safe Approach Distances* for members of the general public.
- (d) Provide the Electricity Supply Industry with a sound basis for controlling activities, where possible, of the general public *near* network assets.

3 SCOPE

These Guidelines apply to all work on or *near electrical apparatus* managed by *Network Operators*, but excluding:

- (a) high voltage live work;
- (b) work on electrical apparatus which is isolated and earthed and covered by a Network Operator's Access Authority;
- (c) work on electrical installations complying with AS/NZS 3000; and
- (d) extra low voltage work.

These Guidelines *should* be applied in the context that—

- (i) Appropriate workplace hazard and risk assessments are carried out as required.
- (ii) The *Safe Approach Distances* used are appropriate for the type of person, training and work to be performed.
- (iii) Other Guidelines applicable to particular work processes such as vegetation management are to be used.



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