



Electricity Safety Regulations 2026

Tasmania

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Master Electricians Australia (MEA) is a peak industry association representing electrical contractors across Australia, majority of which are small and medium sized businesses. We are recognised by industry, government and the community as a leading business partner, knowledge source and advocate. You can visit our website at www.masterelectricians.com.au

MEA, in consultation with ENTATAS, has reviewed the draft copy of the –

- *Electricity Safety Regulations 2026* (the Regulations)
- *Electricity Safety (Access and Maintenance) Code of Practice 2026* (the Code)
- *Electricity Safety (Safety and Operational Area) Determination 2026* (the Determination)

While MEA supports the intent of improving safety outcomes across both electricity network infrastructure and private electrical installations, it is important that the framework remains proportionate to risk and does not unintentionally restrict routine electrical work undertaken by licensed practitioners on private assets.

MEA's submission focuses on maintaining clear demarcation between network and private asset work, preserving existing authorisation pathways (including Point of Supply access), and ensuring safety measures operate as intended without impacting established operational arrangements.

Electricity and Safety Access and Maintenance Code of Practice 2026 (the Code)

No Go Zone

Clause 3.2 of the Code establishes a “no-go zone”. Clause 3.3 requires that a documented risk assessment be completed for any work undertaken within that zone.

These provisions operate alongside s 37 of the *Electricity Safety Act 2022*, which already requires seven days' notice, written authority, and a written risk assessment for work within the safe envelope clearance of electricity infrastructure or an electrical

installation. The Determination further extends the application of safety and operational areas to wiring systems that may form part of either the electricity network or an electrical installation, including systems that are isolated but capable of being energised.

MEA is concerned these requirements in combination may impede cost effective and timely routine electrical work being conducted on private assets merely because that work occurs in proximity to Electricity Entity infrastructure. While such controls are appropriate where work involves interaction with, alteration of, or reliance on network assets, their application to routine private asset work may not be proportionate to the level of risk.

MEA seeks demarcation between work that directly impacts Electricity Entity infrastructure and work on private assets that does not, to ensure regulatory controls remain targeted and proportionate without impeding productivity on private work.

Point of Supply Authorisation Pathways

Electricity Entities currently provide training and authorisation pathways that allow qualified electricians to access and operate certain Point of Supply (POS) assets. Once an electrician has completed this training and is approved, they are permitted to carry out routine work at these connection points without requiring Electricity Entity attendance or separate approval for each job.

MEA is concerned part 3 of The Code risks eroding these authorisation pathways by imposing duplicative approval processes, which may add cost and delay while undermining the intent of the existing training and authorisation framework without clear improvement in safety outcomes.

MEA considers that where a licensed electrical practitioner holds current Electricity Entity authorisation to access and operate POS assets, that authorisation should be recognised as sufficient for routine work within its scope. Additional approval requirements listed under part 3 should only apply where the work involves higher-risk

activities, including switching operations, outage coordination, alteration of network assets, or work outside the scope of the existing authorisation.

Clause 3.4 – Requirements to Work in Authorised Safety Observer Zone

MEA seeks further guidance on types of risk assessment documentation that would be deemed “adequate risk mitigation” for an authorised person to work in the Authorised Observer Zone without a supervisor.

Draft Determination

Part 2 – Safety and Operational Area

Clause 2.1 – Application

The Safety and Operational Area (SOA) provides a clear framework for minimum approach distances across both network and private wiring systems. To avoid ambiguity, MEA seeks clarification that the SOA is a safety measure only and does not override established authorisations that allow qualified electricians to access and operate POS equipment for routine, in-scope work.

Clause 2.2 – Aerial Wiring System

To avoid risk of misinterpretation the stated distances are presenting safety distances as opposed to operational or ownership boundaries at the POS, the determination or supporting guidance should clarify that SOA distances do not alter asset ownership, isolation rights, or the scope of work ordinarily undertaken by licensed electricians on private assets. This will ensure the provisions support safety outcomes without unintentionally impacting established operational arrangements.

Conclusion

MEA considers that targeted refinements are required to ensure the framework is practical, proportionate, and aligned with existing industry practices.

In particular, MEA is concerned that the current interaction between the proposed provisions and existing obligations under the *Electricity Safety Act 2022* may result in duplication, increased administrative burden, and delays to routine electrical work—

especially where that work is undertaken on private assets and does not directly involve Electricity Entity infrastructure.

MEA therefore recommends:

- Differing requirements for work on Electricity Entity infrastructure and private asset work;
- Recognition of existing Electricity Entity authorisation pathways, including Point of Supply access, as sufficient for routine, in-scope work for no-go-zones on private assets;
- Clarification that “no-go zone” and Safety and Operational Area provisions operate as safety measures only and do not alter asset ownership, access rights, or scope of work; and
- Additional guidance on what constitutes adequate risk assessment and mitigation, particularly for lower-risk activities.

MEA welcomes continued engagement with government and industry stakeholders to support a final framework that delivers strong safety outcomes without unintended impacts on productivity or the efficient delivery of electrical services.