

Electricity Safety (Electricity Line Clearance) Regulations 2026

S.R. No [number]/[year]

Draft Version 2

STATUTORY RULES 2026

Electricity Safety Act 1998

**Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance)
Regulations 2026**

The Governor in Council makes the following Regulations:

Dated:

Responsible Minister:

LILY D'AMBROSIO

Minister for Energy and Resources

Clerk of the Executive Council

Part 1—Preliminary

1 Objectives

The objectives of these Regulations are—

- (a) to prescribe the Code of Practice for Electric Line Clearance; and
 - (b) to prescribe—
 - (i) standards and practices to be adopted and observed in tree pruning or removal in the vicinity of electric lines and the keeping of the whole or any part of a tree clear of electric lines; and
 - (ii) standards and practices to protect the health of trees that require pruning in accordance with the Code of Practice for Electric Line Clearance; and
 - (iii) a requirement that certain responsible persons prepare management procedures to minimise the danger of trees contacting electric lines and causing fire or electrocution; and
 - (iv) other matters for or with respect to the maintenance of electric lines; and
 - (c) to provide for management plans relating to compliance with the Code of Practice for Electric Line Clearance; and
 - (d) to provide for other matters authorised under the **Electricity Safety Act 1998** relating to electric line clearance; and
 - (e) to make a consequential amendment to the Electricity Safety (Bushfire Mitigation) Regulations 2023.
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2 Authorising provisions

These Regulations are made under sections 151, 151A and 157 of the **Electricity Safety Act 1998**.

3 Commencement

These Regulations come into operation on 24 June 2026.

4 Revocation

The Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Interim Regulations 2025¹ are **revoked**.

5 Definitions

In these Regulations—

approval for an alternative compliance

mechanism means an approval granted by Energy Safe Victoria under clause 33 of the Code;

AS 4373 means AS 4373, "Pruning of amenity trees", as published or amended from time to time;

low bushfire risk area means an area that is not a hazardous bushfire risk area;

Note

hazardous bushfire risk area is defined in section 3 of the Act.

prune, in relation to a tree—

- (a) includes cutting a part of the tree; and
- (b) does not include removing the tree;

remove, in relation to a tree, means to remove the whole of a tree above ground level;

the Act means the **Electricity Safety Act 1998**;

threatened fauna means a taxon of fauna that is specified in the Threatened List;

Threatened List has the same meaning as in the
Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988;

tree for which a person has clearance responsibilities has the meaning given in regulation 6;

tree of cultural or environmental significance means a tree that is—

- (a) included in the Victorian Heritage Register established under Division 1 of Part 3 of the **Heritage Act 2017**; or
- (b) included in the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register established under section 144 of the **Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006**; or
- (c) flora that is specified in the Threatened List; or
- (d) a habitat of threatened fauna;

trial means a program that trials the use of a minimum clearance space distance for the purpose of collecting information and data on the effectiveness of that minimum clearance space;

trial approval means an approval to participate in a trial granted by Energy Safe Victoria under clause 39 of the Code.

6 Meaning of *tree for which a person has clearance responsibilities*

If, under Subdivision 1 of Division 2 of Part 8 of the Act, a person is responsible for keeping the whole or any part of a tree clear of an electric line, that tree is a ***tree for which the person has clearance responsibilities***.

Part 2—Prescribed Code of Practice and related provisions

7 Prescribed Code of Practice

- (1) For the purposes of Part 8 of the Act, Schedules 1 and 2 are together prescribed as the Code.
- (2) In these Regulations, a reference to a numbered clause of the Code is a reference to the clause of Schedule 1 with that number.

8 Prescribed penalty provisions

For the purposes of section 90 of the Act, clauses 3(1), 8(1) and (2), 14(2), 15(2), 16(2), 17(2), 18(2), 19(2), 20(2), 21(2) and 22(2) and (3) of the Code are each a prescribed provision of the Code.

9 Preparation and submission of management plans

- (1) This regulation does not apply to a responsible person referred to in section 84A or 84B of the Act.
- (2) A responsible person, other than a person who becomes a responsible person after 30 June 2026, must prepare a management plan relating to compliance with the Code—
 - (a) for the period from 30 June 2027 to 30 June 2032; and
 - (b) for the period from 30 June 2032 to 30 June 2037.

Penalty: 20 penalty units.

- (3) A responsible person who became a responsible person after 30 June 2026 and before 1 July 2031 must prepare a management plan relating to compliance with the Code—
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- (a) for the period between the date on which the responsible person became a responsible person and 30 June 2032; and
- (b) for the period from 30 June 2032 to 30 June 2037.

Penalty: 20 penalty units.

- (4) A responsible person who became a responsible person after 30 June 2031 and before 1 July 2036 must prepare a management plan relating to compliance with the Code for the period between the date on which the responsible person became a responsible person and 30 June 2037.

Penalty: 20 penalty units.

- (5) A responsible person who is a major electricity company and who is required to prepare a management plan under this regulation, must submit the management plan to Energy Safe Victoria for approval at least 90 days prior to the beginning of the period for which the management plan is required to be in effect.

Penalty: 20 penalty units.

Note

major electricity company is defined in section 3 of the Act.

- (6) A responsible person who prepares a management plan under this regulation must ensure that the management plan specifies the following—
 - (a) the name, address, email address and telephone number of the responsible person;

- (b) the name, position, address, email address and telephone number of the persons who are responsible for carrying out the management plan;
 - (c) the telephone number of a person who can be contacted in an emergency that requires the pruning or removal of a tree for which the responsible person has clearance responsibilities;
 - (d) the objectives of the management plan;
 - (e) the land to which the management plan applies (as indicated on a map);
 - (f) any hazardous bushfire risk areas and low bushfire risk areas in the land to which the management plan applies;
 - (g) each area that the responsible person knows contains a tree that the responsible person may need to prune or remove to ensure compliance with the Code and that is—
 - (i) indigenous to Victoria; or
 - (ii) listed in a planning scheme to be of ecological, historical or aesthetic significance; or
 - (iii) a tree of cultural or environmental significance;
 - (h) the means which the responsible person will use to identify a tree of a kind specified in paragraph (g)(i), (ii) or (iii);
 - (i) the management procedures and methods that the responsible person will adopt to—
 - (i) ensure compliance with the Code for managing any trees; and
 - (ii) maintain a minimum clearance space in accordance with Division 1 of Part 3 of
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the Code, including specifying the method for determining an additional distance that allows for conductor sag and sway;

- (j) the procedures to be adopted if it is not practicable to comply with the requirements of AS 4373 while pruning a tree in accordance with the Code;

Note

Clause 10 of the Code requires a responsible person who is pruning a tree that the person is required or authorised to prune under Division 1 of Part 2 of the Code to prune the tree, as far as practicable, in accordance with AS 4373.

- (k) if the responsible person has applied or proposes to apply under clause 31 of the Code for an approval for an alternative compliance mechanism, a description of that alternative compliance mechanism;
 - (l) the details of each approval for an alternative compliance mechanism that—
 - (i) the responsible person holds; and
 - (ii) is in effect;
 - (m) the details of each trial approval that the responsible person holds (if any), including a copy of the approval;
 - (n) a description of the key performance indicators that are to be used to assess the responsible person's compliance with the management plan and the Code;
 - (o) the process to be adopted to review the responsible person's performance in relation to the key performance indicators and to ensure that appropriate action is taken, if required, to improve the responsible person's
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compliance with the management plan and the Code;

- (p) the necessary qualifications, skills and competence of persons who are to carry out the inspection, pruning or removal of trees in accordance with the Code and the Electricity Safety (General) Regulations 2019²;

Note

Regulation 616(2) of the Electricity Safety (General) Regulations 2019 specifies requirements for qualified persons carrying out vegetation management work.

- (q) notification and consultation procedures, including the form of notices to be given under Division 3 of Part 2 of the Code;
- (r) a procedure for the independent resolution of disputes relating to electric line clearance;
- (s) if Energy Safe Victoria has granted an exemption under regulation 11 relating to a requirement of the Code, details of the exemption or a copy of the exemption.

Penalty: 20 penalty units.

10 Obligations relating to management plans

- (1) This regulation applies in relation to the management plan that a responsible person is required to prepare under regulation 9.
- (2) The responsible person must provide a copy of the management plan to Energy Safe Victoria within 14 days after a written request from Energy Safe Victoria or such longer period as specified by Energy Safe Victoria in the written request.

Penalty: 20 penalty units.

- (3) The responsible person, if requested in writing to do so by Energy Safe Victoria, must provide further information or material in respect of the

management plan within 14 days after the written request or such longer period as specified by Energy Safe Victoria in the written request.

Penalty: 20 penalty units.

- (4) The responsible person must amend the management plan if instructed to do so in writing by Energy Safe Victoria within 14 days after the written instruction or such longer period as specified by Energy Safe Victoria in the written instruction.

Penalty: 20 penalty units.

- (5) If the responsible person is a major electricity company, the responsible person must not contravene the management plan that is approved by Energy Safe Victoria.

Penalty: 20 penalty units.

- (6) The responsible person must ensure that a copy of the current management plan is published on the responsible person's Internet site.

Penalty: 20 penalty units.

11 Exemptions

- (1) Energy Safe Victoria may exempt a responsible person from any of the requirements of these Regulations subject to any conditions specified by Energy Safe Victoria.

- (2) A responsible person who is granted an exemption under this regulation must comply with the conditions (if any) of the exemption.

Penalty: 20 penalty units.

12 Offences for which infringement notices may be served

For the purposes of paragraph (b) of the definition of *prescribed offence* in section 140A of the Act, the following provisions are prescribed—

- (a) regulation 9(2), (3), (4), (5) and (6);
- (b) regulation 10(2), (3), (4), (5) and (6);
- (c) regulation 11(2);
- (d) clause 3(1) of the Code.

Note

Regulation 8 prescribes clause 3(1) of the Code for the purposes of section 90 of the Act. Section 90 of the Act provides that it is an offence for a person to contravene a prescribed provision of the Code. The maximum penalty for that offence is 100 penalty units in the case of a natural person and 500 penalty units in the case of a body corporate.

Part 3—Consequential amendment

13 Consequential amendment of the Electricity Safety (Bushfire Mitigation) Regulations 2023

In the note at the foot of regulation 11(1)(n) of the Electricity Safety (Bushfire Mitigation) Regulations 2023³, for "Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Interim Regulations 2025" **substitute** "Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2026".

Schedule 1—Code of Practice for Electric Line Clearance

Regulation 7

Part 1—Preliminary

1 Definitions

In this Code—

aerial bundled cable means an insulated conductor manufactured in accordance with the specifications set out in any of the following—

- (a) AS/NZS 3560.1 as published or amended from time to time;
- (b) AS/NZS 3560.2 as published or amended from time to time;
- (c) AS/NZS 3599.1 as published or amended from time to time;
- (d) AS/NZS 3599.2 as published or amended from time to time;

conductor spreader means an insulated rod used to maintain distance between uninsulated conductors of an aerial low voltage electric line;

covered conductor means an insulated conductor manufactured in accordance with the specifications set out in AS/NZS 3675 as published or amended from time to time;

electric cable means an insulated conductor manufactured in accordance with—

- (a) the specifications set out in AS/NZS 1429.1 as published or amended from time to time; or

- (b) the specifications set out in AS/NZS 1429.2 as published or amended from time to time;

electric line span means the section of the electric line between 2 adjacent supporting structures;

extra low voltage means a voltage not exceeding—

- (a) 50 volts alternating current; or
- (b) 120 volts ripple-free direct current;

insulated cable means a conductor insulated by a medium other than air and includes any of the following—

- (a) aerial bundled cable;
- (b) covered conductor;
- (c) electric cable;
- (d) a conductor to which an insulating cover has been applied;

insulating cover means an insulating pipe or tube that is—

- (a) applied to a conductor to provide a protective barrier; and
- (b) manufactured in accordance with the specifications set out in any of the following—
 - (i) AS IEC 60060.1 as published or amended from time to time;
 - (ii) AS IEC 60060.2 as published or amended from time to time;
 - (iii) AS 4202 as published or amended from time to time;

(iv) AS/NZS 3100 as published or amended from time to time;

(v) AS/NZS 3121 as published or amended from time to time;

low voltage means a voltage exceeding extra low voltage but not exceeding—

(a) 1000 volts alternating current; or

(b) 1500 volts direct current;

minimum clearance space has the meaning set out in clause 2;

nominal voltage means the voltage at which the electric line is designed to operate;

published technical standard means a document giving technical information, guidance or advice published by—

(a) Standards Australia; or

(b) Standards New Zealand; or

(c) the British Standards Institution; or

(d) the International Organisation for Standardisation; or

(e) the International Electrotechnical Commission; or

(f) any similar standards organisation within or outside Australia approved by Energy Safe Victoria; or

(g) Energy Safe Victoria;

railway supply network means the supply network of a railway;

Note

railway and ***supply network*** are defined in section 3 of the Act.

sag, in relation to a conductor, means the vertical displacement of the conductor below the point at which the conductor is attached to the supporting structure and includes any additional displacement caused by hot weather or high load current;

span distance means the distance between the points at which an electric line span is attached to the 2 adjacent supporting structures;

suitably qualified arborist means an arborist who has—

- (a) as a minimum, the qualification of National Certificate III in Arboriculture including the "Perform a ground-based tree defect evaluation" unit of competency, or an equivalent qualification; and
- (b) at least 3 years of field experience in assessing trees;

sway, in relation to a conductor, means the horizontal displacement of the conductor caused by wind;

transmission line means an electric line—

- (a) with a nominal voltage of more than 66 000 volts; or
- (b) operating at 66 000 volts that is supported on tower structures; or
- (c) operating at 66 000 volts that is adjacent to an electric line that has a nominal voltage greater than 66 000 volts;

uninsulated cable means a conductor that is not an insulated cable.

2 Meaning of *minimum clearance space*

- (1) Except as otherwise provided by this clause, the *minimum clearance space* for an electric line span is the minimum clearance space for the span as determined under Part 3 of this Code.
- (2) For the purposes of the application of this Code to a responsible person who holds an approval for an alternative compliance mechanism that is in effect—
 - (a) if the approval applies to a particular electric line span—the *minimum clearance space* for that span is the minimum clearance space specified in the approval under clause 33(3)(d)(i); or
 - (b) if the approval applies to a class of electric line span—the *minimum clearance space* for each span that belongs to that class is the minimum clearance space specified in the approval under clause 33(3)(d)(i).
- (3) For the purposes of the application of this Code to a responsible person who is the holder of a trial approval that is in effect, the minimum clearance space for the particular electric line span, or class of electric line span, to which the approval applies, is the minimum clearance space specified in the approval.

Part 2—Clearance responsibilities

Division 1—Roles of responsible persons

3 Responsible person must keep minimum clearance space clear of trees

- (1) A responsible person must ensure that, at all times, no part of a tree for which the person has clearance responsibilities is within the minimum clearance space for an electric line span.
- (2) Subclause (1) is subject to clauses 4, 5, 6 and 7.

Note

Clauses 4, 5, 6 and 7 provide that certain responsible persons are not required to ensure that certain branches are clear of the minimum clearance space for spans of certain electric lines.

4 Exception to minimum clearance space for structural branches around insulated low voltage electric lines

- (1) This clause applies to a responsible person referred to in section 84, 84C or 84D of the Act.
- (2) The responsible person is not required to ensure that a particular branch of a tree for which the person has clearance responsibilities is clear of the minimum clearance space for an electric line span if—
 - (a) the electric line is—
 - (i) an insulated cable; and
 - (ii) a low voltage electric line; and
 - (b) the branch is wider than 130 millimetres at the point at which it enters the minimum clearance space; and
 - (c) in the case of a span distance of 40 metres or less, the branch is more than 150 millimetres from the line; and

- (d) in the case of a span distance that is greater than 40 metres, the branch is more than 300 millimetres from the line; and
- (e) within the last 14 months—
 - (i) a suitably qualified arborist has inspected the tree of which the branch is a part; and
 - (ii) the arborist has advised the responsible person—
 - (A) of the risks posed by the branch; and
 - (B) that the tree does not have any visible structural defect that could cause the branch to fail and make contact with the electric line; and
 - (iii) having regard to the advice of the arborist, the responsible person has implemented measures to effectively mitigate the identified risks.
- (3) A responsible person who leaves a branch within the minimum clearance space for an electric line span in accordance with subclause (2) must keep records of the following matters for 5 years—
 - (a) each inspection referred to in subclause (2)(e)(i);
 - (b) all advice referred to in subclause (2)(e)(ii);
 - (c) all measures referred to in subclause (2)(e)(iii).

5 Exception to minimum clearance space for small branches around insulated low voltage electric lines

- (1) This clause applies to a responsible person referred to in section 84, 84C or 84D of the Act.
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- (2) The responsible person is not required to ensure that a particular branch of a tree for which the person has clearance responsibilities is clear of the minimum clearance space for an electric line span if—
- (a) the electric line is—
 - (i) an insulated cable; and
 - (ii) a low voltage electric line; and
 - (b) the branch is less than 10 millimetres wide at the point at which it enters the minimum clearance space.

6 Exception to minimum clearance space for structural branches around uninsulated low voltage electric lines in low bushfire risk areas

- (1) This clause applies to a responsible person referred to in section 84, 84C or 84D of the Act.
- (2) The responsible person is not required to ensure that a particular branch of a tree for which the person has clearance responsibilities is clear of the minimum clearance space for an electric line span if—
- (a) the electric line is—
 - (i) an uninsulated cable; and
 - (ii) a low voltage electric line; and
 - (iii) located in a low bushfire risk area; and
 - (b) in the case of a branch that comes within the minimum clearance space around the middle 2 thirds of the span, the span is fitted with—
 - (i) one conductor spreader if the length of the span is 45 metres or less; or
 - (ii) 2 conductor spreaders if the length of the span exceeds 45 metres; and

Note

Schedule 1—Code of Practice for Electric Line Clearance

A conductor spreader is not required to be fitted to the span if the branch comes within the minimum clearance space around the first or last sixth of the span.

- (c) the branch is more than 130 millimetres wide at the point at which it enters the clearance space; and
 - (d) the branch is no more than 500 millimetres inside the minimum clearance space; and
 - (e) within the last 14 months—
 - (i) a suitably qualified arborist has inspected the tree of which the branch is a part; and
 - (ii) the arborist has advised the responsible person—
 - (A) of the risks posed by the branch; and
 - (B) that the tree does not have any visible structural defect that could cause the branch to fail and make contact with the electric line; and
 - (iii) having regard to the advice of the arborist, the responsible person has implemented measures to effectively mitigate the identified risks.
- (3) A responsible person who leaves a branch within the minimum clearance space for an electric line span in accordance with subclause (2) must keep records of the following matters for 5 years—
- (a) each inspection referred to in subclause (2)(e)(i);
 - (b) all advice referred to in subclause (2)(e)(ii);
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- (c) all measures referred to in subclause (2)(e)(iii).

7 Exception to minimum clearance space for small branches growing under uninsulated low voltage electric lines in low bushfire risk areas

- (1) This clause applies to a responsible person referred to in section 84, 84C or 84D of the Act.
- (2) The responsible person is not required to ensure that a particular branch of a tree for which the person has clearance responsibilities is clear of the minimum clearance space for an electric line span if—
- (a) the electric line is—
 - (i) an uninsulated cable; and
 - (ii) a low voltage electric line; and
 - (iii) located in a low bushfire risk area; and
 - (b) the branch is less than 10 millimetres wide at the point at which it enters the minimum clearance space and is no more than 500 millimetres inside the minimum clearance space; and
 - (c) the point at which the branch originates is below the height of the electric line; and
 - (d) in the case of a branch that comes within the minimum clearance space around the middle 2 thirds of the span, the span is fitted with—
 - (i) one conductor spreader if the length of the span is 45 metres or less; or
 - (ii) 2 conductor spreaders if the length of the span exceeds 45 metres.

Note

A conductor spreader is not required to be fitted to the span if the branch comes within the minimum clearance space around the first or last sixth of the span.

8 Owner or operator of transmission line must manage tree clearance around the transmission line

- (1) A responsible person who owns or operates a transmission line must manage trees below the transmission line to mitigate, as far as practicable, the fire risks associated with the fuel load below the transmission line.
- (2) A responsible person who owns or operates a transmission line must manage trees adjacent to the transmission line to avoid, as far as practicable, a tree entering the minimum clearance space for that line if the tree falls.

9 Responsible person may prune or remove hazard tree

- (1) This clause applies to a responsible person referred to in section 84, 84C or 84D of the Act.
- (2) The responsible person may prune or remove a tree for which the person has clearance responsibilities if a suitably qualified arborist has—
 - (a) assessed the tree having regard to foreseeable local conditions; and
 - (b) advised the responsible person that the tree, or any part of the tree, is likely to fall onto or otherwise come into contact with an electric line.

Note

See also section 86B of the Act.

- (3) For the purposes of this clause, it is irrelevant that the tree is not within, and is not likely to grow into, the minimum clearance space for an electric line span.

Division 2—Manner of pruning and removing trees

10 Pruning of tree to comply with Australian Standard

A responsible person who prunes a tree that the person is required or authorised to prune under Division 1, as far as practicable, must prune the tree in accordance with AS 4373.

11 Pruning or removal of indigenous trees or significant trees must be minimised

- (1) A responsible person who prunes a significant tree that the person is required or authorised to prune under Division 1, as far as is practicable, must not prune the tree more than the extent necessary to either—
 - (a) ensure compliance with Division 1; or

- (b) make an unsafe situation safe.
 - (2) A responsible person must not remove a significant tree for which the responsible person has clearance responsibilities unless—
 - (a) it is necessary to remove the tree to either—
 - (i) ensure compliance with Division 1; or
 - (ii) make an unsafe situation safe; or
 - (b) a suitably qualified arborist has—
 - (i) inspected the tree; and
 - (ii) advised the responsible person that pruning the tree in accordance with subclause (1) would make the tree unhealthy or unviable.
 - (3) A responsible person who prunes or removes a tree under subclause (1)(b) or (2)(a)(ii) must keep records of the following matters for 5 years—
 - (a) the location of the tree that was pruned or removed;
 - (b) the class of tree;
 - (c) whether the tree was habitat for threatened fauna and specifying the threatened fauna;
 - (d) the details of the unsafe situation that had to be made safe; and
 - (e) the actions taken to make the unsafe situation safe.
 - (4) In this clause—

significant tree means a tree that belongs to any of the following classes—

 - (a) trees that are indigenous to Victoria;
 - (b) trees that are listed in a planning scheme to be of ecological, historical or aesthetic significance;
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- (c) trees of cultural or environmental significance.

12 Pruning or removing habitat for threatened fauna

A responsible person must not prune or remove a tree that is the habitat for threatened fauna during the breeding season for the threatened fauna unless—

- (a) it is necessary to prune or remove the tree to make an unsafe situation safe; or
- (b) it is not practicable to undertake pruning or removal of that tree outside the breeding season.

13 Restriction on timing of pruning or removal if notification is required

A responsible person who gives a notice under clause 16 or publishes a notice under clause 17 about the intended pruning or removal of a tree must not commence pruning or removing the tree—

- (a) for a notice that specifies a day on which the pruning or removal is intended to commence, before that day; or
- (b) for a notice that specifies multiple days on which the pruning or removal is intended to commence, before the first of those days; or
- (c) for a notice that specifies a period during which the pruning or removal is intended to commence, before the first day of that period.

Note

See clause 16(6) or 17(5) (as the case requires).

14 Restriction on urgent pruning of trees

- (1) This clause applies to a responsible person referred to in section 84, 84C or 84D of the Act who undertakes any pruning of a tree for which
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the person has clearance responsibilities that is urgently required—

- (a) because of encroachment or growth of the tree that was not anticipated in the management plan; or
 - (b) during a fire danger period declared under the **Country Fire Authority Act 1958** in respect of the area on which the tree is situated.
- (2) The responsible person must not prune the tree further than one metre from the minimum clearance space for an electric line span if—
- (a) the tree is within the boundary of private property; or
 - (b) the tree is on land that is managed by a Council and not by the responsible person.

15 Restriction on urgent removal of trees

- (1) This clause applies to a responsible person referred to in section 84, 84C or 84D of the Act if the removal of a tree for which the person has clearance responsibilities is urgently required, and the tree is—
- (a) within the boundary of private property; or
 - (b) is on land that is managed by a Council and not by the responsible person.
- (2) The responsible person must not remove the tree unless—
- (a) the tree has fallen or become damaged and removal of the tree is necessary to keep the tree outside of the minimum clearance space for an electric line span; or
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- (b) a suitably qualified arborist has—
 - (i) assessed the tree having regard to foreseeable local conditions; and
 - (ii) advised the responsible person that the tree or any part of the tree is likely to fall onto or otherwise come into contact with an electric line imminently.

Division 3—Notification, consultation and dispute resolution

16 Responsible person must give notification before pruning or removing certain trees

- (1) This clause applies to a responsible person who is required by clause 3 or 8, or who intends under clause 9, to prune or remove a tree that is—
 - (a) on private property that the responsible person neither owns nor occupies; or
 - (b) on public land; or
 - (c) a tree of cultural or environmental significance; or
 - (d) listed in a planning scheme to be of ecological, historical or aesthetic significance.
- (2) Before pruning or removing the tree, the responsible person must give a written notice to—
 - (a) if the tree is within the boundary of private property—an owner or occupier of the property; or
 - (b) if the tree is on land that is managed by a Council that is not the responsible person—that Council; or

- (c) if the tree is on land that is contiguous to private property and the use of that property may be affected during the pruning or removal—an owner or occupier of that property.

Note

A requirement to give information in writing may be met by means of an electronic communication—see section 8 of the **Electronic Transactions (Victoria) Act 2000**.

- (3) Despite subclause (2), a responsible person referred to in section 84, 84C or 84D of the Act is not required to give a notice under that subclause if the pruning or removal is urgently required for a reason set out in clause 19(1).
- (4) A written notice under subclause (2) must—
- (a) include the following information—
- (i) the contact details of the responsible person, including the contact details for all enquiries regarding vegetation and the intended pruning or removal;
 - (ii) details of the intended pruning or removal;
 - (iii) advice that the responsible person has procedures for resolving disputes and details on how to access those procedures; and
- (b) specify one or more days on which, or a period during which, the responsible person intends for the pruning or removal to commence.

Note

Clause 13 provides that the responsible person must not commence pruning or removing the tree before the day or period specified in the notice.

- (5) For the purposes of subclause (4)(b), a specified day or the first day of a specified period must not be—
- (a) earlier than 14 days from the date of the notice; or
 - (b) later than 60 days from the date of the notice.
- (6) A written notice under subclause (2) must include the following additional information—
- (a) for a notice that is given to an owner or occupier of private property under subclause (2)(a)—
 - (i) details of the consultation procedure that the responsible person will follow; and
 - (ii) details of whether the tree to be pruned or removed is—
 - (A) a tree of cultural or environmental significance; or
 - (B) listed in a planning scheme to be of ecological, historical or aesthetic significance; and
 - (iii) if the tree is intended to be pruned, a diagram that shows—
 - (A) the tree and where the electric line is in relation to the tree; and
 - (B) where the tree will be pruned;
 - (b) for a notice that is given to a Council under subclause (2)(b)—details of whether the tree to be pruned or removed is—
 - (i) on public land; or
 - (ii) a tree of cultural or environmental significance; or
-

- (iii) listed in a planning scheme to be of ecological, historical or aesthetic significance;
- (c) for a notice that is given to an owner or occupier of private property under subclause (2)(c)—details of the impact that the intended pruning or removal may have on the affected person's use of their land during the pruning or removal.

17 Responsible person must publish notice before pruning or removing certain trees on public land

- (1) This clause applies to a responsible person who is required by clause 3 or 8 to prune or remove a tree that is on public land that is not privately owned.
- (2) Before pruning or removing the tree, the responsible person must publish a written notice that—
 - (a) describes the pruning or removal that the responsible person intends to undertake; and
 - (b) specifies one or more days on which, or a period during which, the responsible person intends for the pruning or removal to commence.

Note

Clause 13 provides that the responsible person must not commence pruning or removing the tree before the day or period specified in the notice.

- (3) For the purposes of subclause (2)(b), a specified day or the first day of a specified period must not be—
 - (a) earlier than 14 days after the date of the notice; or

(b) later than 60 days after the date of the notice.

- (4) Despite subclause (2), a responsible person referred to in section 84, 84C or 84D of the Act is not required to publish a notice under that subclause if the pruning or removal is urgently required for a reason set out in clause 19(1).
- (5) A written notice under subclause (2) must be published on the responsible person's Internet site or in a newspaper circulating generally in the locality of the land in which the tree is to be pruned or removed.

18 Responsible person must consult with occupier or owner of private property before pruning or removing certain trees

- (1) This clause applies to a responsible person who is required by clause 3 or 8, or who intends under clause 9, to prune or remove a tree that is within the boundary of a private property which the responsible person neither occupies nor owns.
 - (2) Before pruning or removing the tree, the responsible person must consult—
 - (a) if the tree is to be pruned—an occupier of the property; or
 - (b) if the tree is to be removed—an owner of the property.
 - (3) Despite subclause (2), a responsible person referred to in section 84, 84C or 84D of the Act is not required to consult the persons specified in that subclause if the pruning or removal is urgently required for a reason set out in clause 19(1).

19 Notification and record keeping requirements for urgent pruning or removal

- (1) This clause applies if a responsible person referred to in section 84, 84C or 84D of the Act undertakes any pruning or removal of a tree for which the person has clearance responsibilities that is urgently required—
- (a) because of encroachment or growth of the tree that was not anticipated in the management plan; or
 - (b) because the tree has fallen or become damaged and pruning or removal of the tree is necessary to keep the tree outside of the minimum clearance space for an electric line span; or
 - (c) because a suitably qualified arborist has—
 - (i) assessed the tree having regard to foreseeable local conditions; and
 - (ii) advised the responsible person that the tree, or any part of the tree, is likely to fall onto or otherwise come into contact with an electric line imminently; or
 - (d) during a fire danger period declared under the **Country Fire Authority Act 1958** in respect of the area on which the tree is situated.

Note

See clause 14 in relation to pruning in urgent circumstances, and clause 15 in relation to removal in urgent circumstances.

- (2) As soon as practicable after completing the pruning or removal of the tree, the responsible person must give written notice of that pruning or removal to—
- (a) if the tree was within the boundary of private property—an owner or occupier of the property; or
-

- (b) if the tree was on land that is managed by a Council that is not the responsible person—the Council.
- (3) A written notice under subclause (2) must specify—
 - (a) where and when the pruning or removal was undertaken; and
 - (b) why the pruning or removal was required; and
 - (c) the date of the last inspection of the span of the electric line in relation to which the pruning or removal was required before it was identified that the urgent pruning or removal was required.
- (4) The responsible person must keep a record of a written notice given under subclause (2) for at least 5 years.

Division 4—Additional duties of responsible persons

20 Duty relating to the safety of pruning or removal of trees close to an electric line

- (1) If a Council has concerns about the safety of pruning or removing a tree for which the Council has clearance responsibilities, the Council may consult—
 - (a) if the Council's concerns relate to an electric line span that is part of a railway supply network—the owner or operator of that supply network; or
 - (b) in any other case—the distribution company in whose distribution area the electric line is located.
-

- (2) An owner, operator or distribution company that is consulted by a Council under subclause (1) must give advice to the Council on—
 - (a) safe limits of approach to electric lines for pruning or removing the tree; and
 - (b) safe methods for pruning or removing the tree.

21 Duty relating to assisting to determine the allowance for conductor sag and sway

- (1) If a Council considers that, for the purpose of determining a minimum clearance space in accordance with Division 1 of Part 3, the Council requires assistance to determine an additional distance that allows for conductor sag and sway, the Council may consult—
 - (a) if the Council requires assistance in relation to an electric line span that is part of a railway supply network—the owner or operator of that supply network; or
 - (b) in any other case—the distribution company in whose distribution area the electric line is located.
- (2) An owner, operator or distribution company that is consulted by a Council under subclause (1) must assist the Council by determining the additional distance.
- (3) The Council must keep a record of the additional distance referred to in subclause (2) for at least 5 years.
- (4) An owner, operator or distribution company may determine different additional distances for different parts of an electric line span.

22 Duties relating to management procedures to minimise danger

- (1) A distribution company must give advice about the following matters to each occupier of land above which there is a private electric line that is within the distribution company's distribution area—
 - (a) the duties of the responsible person under this Code;
 - (b) the dangers of pruning and removing trees;
 - (c) the precautions that should be taken to safely maintain the line.
- (2) A distribution company must give advice under subclause (1) at least once every calendar year.
- (3) A distribution company, on the request of a person who has clearance responsibilities for a tree within the distribution company's distribution area, must advise that person—
 - (a) how to identify places within that area where the pruning or removal of trees will be required; and
 - (b) where to obtain advice and information on methods for maintaining clearance between electric lines and trees.

Part 3—Minimum clearance spaces

Division 1—Standard minimum clearance spaces

23 Additional distance that allows for conductor sag and sway

In this Division, a reference to an *additional distance that allows for conductor sag and sway* that is to be used in determining a minimum clearance space is a reference to—

- (a) if the minimum clearance space is to be determined in relation to a Council that sought assistance in determining the
-

- additional distance under clause 21—the additional distance specified in the record kept by the Council under clause 21(3); or
- (b) in any other case—the distance determined in accordance with the method specified, under regulation 9(6)(i)(ii), in the management plan of the responsible person in relation to whom the minimum clearance space is to be determined.

Note

Different parts of an electric line span may have different additional distances—see clause 21(4).

24 Insulated electric lines in all areas

- (1) This clause applies to an electric line that is an insulated cable.
- (2) The minimum clearance space for a span of the electric line is the space extending away from the line in all directions perpendicular to its axis for the applicable distance.
- (3) The *applicable distance* for the first and last sixths of the span is 300 millimetres.
- (4) The *applicable distance* for the middle 2 thirds of the span is—
- (a) if the span distance is less than or equal to 40 metres—300 millimetres; or
- (b) if the span distance is greater than 40 metres and less than or equal to 100 metres—the distance calculated in accordance with the following expression—

$$300 + ((SD - 40) \times 10)$$

where—

SD is the span distance; or

- (c) if the span distance is greater than 100 metres—900 millimetres.

Notes

- 1 The applicable distance for the middle 2 thirds of the span is represented as a graph in Graph 1 of Schedule 2.
- 2 The minimum clearance space for an electric line span to which this clause applies is partially illustrated in Figures 1, 2 and 3 of Schedule 2.

25 Uninsulated low voltage electric line in a low bushfire risk area

- (1) This clause applies to an electric line that is—
 - (a) an uninsulated cable; and
 - (b) a low voltage electric line; and
 - (c) located in a low bushfire risk area.
 - (2) The minimum clearance space for a span of the electric line is the space extending away from the line in all directions perpendicular to its axis for—
 - (a) the applicable distance; and
 - (b) if the span distance is greater than 100 metres, an additional distance that allows for conductor sag and sway.
 - (3) The *applicable distance* for the first and last sixths of the span is 1000 millimetres.
 - (4) the *applicable distance* for the middle 2 thirds of the span is—
 - (a) if the span distance is less than or equal to 45 metres—1000 millimetres; or
 - (b) if the span distance is greater than 45 metres and less than or equal to 100 metres—the distance calculated in accordance with the following expression—
$$1000 + ((SD - 45) \times (1500 \div 55))$$
where—
-

SD is the span distance; or

- (c) if the span distance is greater than 100 metres—2500 millimetres.

Notes

- 1 The applicable distance for the middle 2 thirds of the span is represented as a graph in Graph 2 of Schedule 2.
- 2 The minimum clearance space for an electric line span to which this clause applies is partially illustrated in Figures 1 and 4 of Schedule 2.

26 Uninsulated high voltage electric line (other than a 66 000 volt electric line) in a low bushfire risk area

- (1) This clause applies to an electric line that—
 - (a) is an uninsulated cable; and
 - (b) is a high voltage electric line; and
 - (c) does not have a nominal voltage of 66 000 volts; and
 - (d) is located in a low bushfire risk area.
 - (2) The minimum clearance space for a span of the electric line is the space extending away from the line in all directions perpendicular to its axis for—
 - (a) the applicable distance; and
 - (b) if the span distance is greater than 100 metres, an additional distance that allows for conductor sag and sway.
 - (3) The *applicable distance* for the first and last sixths of the span is 1500 millimetres.
 - (4) The *applicable distance* for the middle 2 thirds of the span is—
 - (a) if the span distance is less than or equal to 45 metres—1500 millimetres; or
 - (b) if the span distance is greater than 45 metres and less than or equal to 100 metres—the
-

distance calculated in accordance with the following expression—

$$1500 + (SD - 45) \times (1000 \div 55)$$

where—

SD is the span distance; or

- (c) if the span distance is greater than 100 metres—2500 millimetres.

Notes

- 1 The applicable distance for the middle 2 thirds of the span is represented as a graph in Graph 3 of Schedule 2.
- 2 The minimum clearance space for an electric line span to which this clause applies is partially illustrated in Figures 1 and 3 of Schedule 2.

27 Uninsulated 66 000 volt electric line in a low bushfire risk area

- (1) This clause applies to an electric line that—
 - (a) is an uninsulated cable; and
 - (b) is a high voltage electric line; and
 - (c) has a nominal voltage of 66 000 volts; and
 - (d) is located in a low bushfire risk area.
 - (2) The minimum clearance space for a span of the electric line is—
 - (a) the space extending away from the line in all directions perpendicular to its axis for—
 - (i) the applicable distance; and
 - (ii) if the span distance is greater than 100 metres, an additional distance that allows for conductor sag and sway; and
 - (b) the space above the space described in paragraph (a).
 - (3) The *applicable distance* for the first and last sixths of the span is 2250 millimetres.
-

- (4) The *applicable distance* for the middle 2 thirds of the span is—
- (a) if the span distance is less than or equal to 45 metres—2250 millimetres; or
 - (b) if the span distance is greater than 45 metres and less than or equal to 100 metres—the distance calculated in accordance with the following expression—
$$2250 + (SD - 45) \times (1250 \div 55)$$
where—
SD is the span distance; or
 - (c) if the span distance is greater than 100 metres—3500 millimetres.

Notes

- 1 The applicable distance for the middle 2 thirds of the span is represented as a graph in Graph 4 of Schedule 2.
- 2 The minimum clearance space for an electric line span to which this clause applies is partially illustrated in Figures 1 and 5 of Schedule 2.

28 Uninsulated low voltage and high voltage electric lines (other than a 66 000 volt electric line) in a hazardous bushfire risk area

- (1) This clause applies to an electric line that—
 - (a) is an uninsulated cable; and
 - (b) does not have a nominal voltage of 66 000 volts; and
 - (c) is located in a hazardous bushfire risk area.
 - (2) The minimum clearance space for a span of the electric line is—
 - (a) the space extending away from the line in all directions perpendicular to its axis for the applicable distance and an additional
-

- distance that allows for conductor sag and sway; and
- (b) the space above the space described in paragraph (a).
- (3) The *applicable distance* for the first and last sixths of the span is 1500 millimetres.
- (4) The *applicable distance* for the middle 2 thirds of the span is—
- (a) if the span distance is less than or equal to 45 metres—1500 millimetres; or
- (b) if the span distance is greater than 45 metres and less than or equal to 500 metres—the distance calculated in accordance with the following expression—
- $$1500 + ((SD - 45) \times (500 \div 303))$$
- where—
- SD** is the span distance; or
- (c) if the span distance is greater than 500 metres—2250 millimetres.

Notes

- 1 The applicable distance for the middle 2 thirds of the span is represented as a graph in Graph 5 of Schedule 2.
- 2 The minimum clearance space for an electric line span to which this clause applies is partially illustrated in Figures 1 and 5 of Schedule 2.

29 Uninsulated 66 000 volt electric lines in a hazardous bushfire risk area

- (1) This clause applies to an electric line that—
- (a) is an uninsulated cable; and
- (b) has a nominal voltage of 66 000 volts; and
- (c) is located in a hazardous bushfire risk area.
-

- (2) The minimum clearance space for a span of the electric line is—
- (a) the space extending away from the line in all directions perpendicular to its axis for the applicable distance and an additional distance that allows for conductor sag and sway; and
 - (b) the space above the space described in paragraph (a).
- (3) The *applicable distance* for the first and last sixths of the span is 2250 millimetres.
- (4) The *applicable distance* for the middle 2 thirds of the span is—
- (a) if the span distance is less than or equal to 45 metres—2250 millimetres; or
 - (b) if the span distance is greater than 45 metres and less than or equal to 350 metres—the distance calculated in accordance with the following expression—
$$2250 + ((SD - 45) \times (750 \div 305))$$
where—
SD is the span distance; or
 - (c) if the span distance is greater than 350 metres—3000 millimetres.

Notes

- 1 The applicable distance for the middle 2 thirds of the span is represented as a graph in Graph 6 of Schedule 2.
- 2 The minimum clearance space for an electric line span to which this clause applies is partially illustrated in Figures 1 and 5 of Schedule 2.

30 Transmission lines

- (1) The minimum clearance space for a span of a transmission line is—
-

Schedule 1—Code of Practice for Electric Line Clearance

- (a) the space that is bound by the horizontal limits determined in accordance with subclause (2) and that, between those limits, extends downward from the level of the line for the applicable vertical distance; and
 - (b) the space above the space described in paragraph (a).
- (2) The horizontal limits of the minimum clearance space are reached by extending horizontally from the transmission line to the left and right of the line for the applicable horizontal distance.
- (3) For a transmission line of a nominal voltage that is specified in an item in Column 1 of the following table—
- (a) the applicable horizontal distance is the sum of—
 - (i) the distance specified in Column 2 for that item; and
 - (ii) an additional distance that allows for conductor sag and sway; and
 - (b) the applicable vertical distance is the sum of—
 - (i) the distance specified in Column 3 for that item; and
 - (ii) an additional distance that allows for conductor sag and sway.

<i>Column 1</i>	<i>Column 2</i>	<i>Column 3</i>
	<i>Applicable horizontal distance (without allowance for sag and sway)</i>	<i>Applicable vertical distance (without allowance for sag and sway)</i>

Schedule 1—Code of Practice for Electric Line Clearance

66 kV	3000 mm	3000 mm
More than 66 kV, but less than 220 kV	4600 mm	3700 mm
220 kV	4600 mm	3700 mm
275 kV	5000 mm	4200 mm
330 kV	5500 mm	4700 mm
500 kV	6400 mm	6400 mm

Note

This minimum clearance space is partially illustrated in Figures 6 and 7 of Schedule 2.

Division 2—Alternative compliance mechanisms

31 Application for approval of alternative compliance mechanism

- (1) This clause applies to a responsible person referred to in section 84, 84C or 84D of the Act.
- (2) A responsible person may apply to Energy Safe Victoria for approval to use an alternative compliance mechanism in respect of an electric line span or a class of electric line spans.
- (3) The application must—
 - (a) include details of—
 - (i) the alternative compliance mechanism; and
 - (ii) the procedures to be adopted for commissioning, installing, operating, maintaining and decommissioning the alternative compliance mechanism; and
 - (b) identify the published technical standards that will be complied with when commissioning, installing, operating, maintaining and decommissioning the alternative compliance mechanism; and

- (c) either—
 - (i) if the application is made in respect of an electric line span—specify the location of the span; or
 - (ii) if the application is made in respect of a class of electric line spans—describe the class; and
 - (d) specify the minimum clearance space that the applicant proposes is to be applied in relation to the span, or class of spans, in respect of which the application is made; and
 - (e) include a copy of the formal safety assessment prepared under clause 32.
- (4) The application must include a copy of the written agreement of—
- (a) if the application is made in respect of an electric line span and the responsible person does not own the span—the owner or the operator of the span; or
 - (b) if the application is made in respect of a class of electric line spans—the owner or the operator of each span that—
 - (i) belongs to that class; and
 - (ii) is not owned by the applicant.
- (5) The responsible person must, if requested to do so by Energy Safe Victoria, provide further information or material about the application.

32 Formal safety assessment of alternative compliance mechanism

A formal safety assessment must include—

- (a) a description of the methodology used and investigations undertaken for the formal safety assessment; and
- (b) an identification of hazards associated with the use of the alternative compliance mechanism having the potential to cause a serious electrical incident; and
- (c) a systematic assessment of the risks (including the likelihood and consequences of a serious electrical incident) associated with—
 - (i) commissioning, installing, operating, maintaining and decommissioning the alternative compliance mechanism; and
 - (ii) the safety of the span or class of spans to which the alternative compliance mechanism will apply; and
- (d) a description of technical and other measures undertaken or to be undertaken to reduce those risks as far as practicable.

33 Approval of alternative compliance mechanism

- (1) Energy Safe Victoria may approve an application under clause 31 if satisfied that—
 - (a) the application complies with clause 31; and
 - (b) the details included in the application under clause 31(3)(a) are adequate; and
 - (c) the application provides an adequate assessment of the risks referred to in clause 32(c); and

- (d) the application provides an appropriate set of measures to mitigate those risks.
- (2) The approval may be subject to any conditions that Energy Safe Victoria thinks fit, including conditions that—
- (a) the responsible person's communications with Energy Safe Victoria regarding the approval must be made in a specified manner; or
 - (b) the responsible person must perform specified actions in relation to the alternative compliance mechanism; or
 - (c) the responsible person must monitor the use of the alternative compliance mechanism in a specified manner; or
 - (d) the responsible person must report to Energy Safe Victoria on the use of the alternative compliance mechanism in a specified manner.
- (3) The approval must—
- (a) be in writing; and
 - (b) include any conditions to which the approval is subject; and
 - (c) identify the span of an electric line, or describe the class of electric line spans, to which the approval applies; and
 - (d) specify—
 - (i) the minimum clearance space that is to apply under the approval; and
 - (ii) the period of time for which the approval has effect; and
-

- (iii) any acts or omissions that will constitute major non-compliance and result in the revocation of the approval.
- (4) Energy Safe Victoria must give a copy of the approval to the responsible person who made the application.
- (5) If Energy Safe Victoria refuses an application for approval of an alternative compliance mechanism, Energy Safe Victoria must—
 - (a) give written notice of the decision to the responsible person who made the application; and
 - (b) set out reasons for the decision.

34 Amendment of approval

- (1) Energy Safe Victoria may amend an approval for an alternative compliance mechanism.
- (2) Without limiting subclause (1), an amendment under that subclause may—
 - (a) amend or revoke a condition attached to the approval; or
 - (b) impose a further condition on the approval.
- (3) On making an amendment under subclause (1), Energy Safe Victoria must give the responsible person a written notice specifying—
 - (a) the amendment; and
 - (b) the date from which the amendment has effect.

35 Suspension or revocation of approval

- (1) Energy Safe Victoria may suspend or revoke an approval for an alternative compliance mechanism if Energy Safe Victoria considers that—
-

- (a) there has been a failure to comply with a condition of the approval and the failure is so serious that it cannot be dealt with by increased monitoring requirements under the arrangement; or
 - (b) the responsible person has committed an act or omission that constitutes a major non-compliance with the approval that was specified in the approval under clause 33(3)(d)(iii).
- (2) If Energy Safe Victoria suspends or revokes an approval under subclause (1), Energy Safe Victoria must give the responsible person a written notice setting out—
- (a) that the approval has been suspended or revoked (as the case requires); and
 - (b) the reasons for the suspension or revocation; and
 - (c) if the approval is suspended, the period of suspension; and
 - (d) if the approval is revoked, the day from which the revocation has effect.
- (3) Energy Safe Victoria may at any time revoke the suspension of an approval by giving written notice of the revocation to the responsible person.

Division 3—Trials

36 Application of Division

This Division applies to a responsible person referred to in section 84 or 84C of the Act.

37 Determination of trial

- (1) Energy Safe Victoria may determine to undertake a trial.
-

- (2) A trial undertaken by Energy Safe Victoria may include one or more areas of Victoria.
- (3) A trial must not include any area of Victoria that is within a hazardous bushfire risk area.
- (4) Before determining to undertake a trial, Energy Safe Victoria must consult with the fire control authority responsible for any area to which the trial may be applied on the details of that trial.
- (5) Energy Safe Victoria must publish a determination under subclause (1) on its Internet site.
- (6) A determination must—
 - (a) include any details of the trial that have been determined by Energy Safe Victoria; and
 - (b) include any other matter Energy Safe Victoria consider necessary; and
 - (c) invite applications from responsible persons to Energy Safe Victoria to participate in the trial.

38 Application for approval of trial participation

- (1) A responsible person may apply to Energy Safe Victoria for approval to participate in a trial.
 - (2) An application under subclause (1) must be in the form and manner and contain the information determined by Energy Safe Victoria.
 - (3) An application under subclause (1) made by a responsible person under section 84C of the Act must include written support for the responsible person's participation in a trial, by the distribution company that owns or operates the electric lines to which the trial approval would apply.
-

- (4) The responsible person must, if requested to do so by Energy Safe Victoria, provide further information or material about the application.

39 Approval or refusal of application

- (1) Energy Safe Victoria may approve or refuse to approve an application under clause 38.
- (2) An approval under subclause (1) may be subject to any conditions that Energy Safe Victoria reasonably believes is necessary to effectively run the trial or to manage risk associated with the trial.
- (3) Without limiting subclause (2), a condition may include—
- (a) the collection of information and data relating to the trial; or
 - (b) the reporting of information and data to Energy Safe Victoria relating to the trial; or
 - (c) any other actions the holder of the trial approval must undertake in relation to the trial.
- (4) The approval must—
- (a) be in writing; and
 - (b) include any conditions to which the approval is subject; and
 - (c) identify the area to which the approval applies; and
 - (d) specify—
 - (i) the electric line span, or class of electric line span, to which the approval applies; and
-

(ii) the minimum clearance space that applies to the electric line span, or class of electric line span, to which the approval applies; and

(ii) the period of time for which the approval has effect.

(5) Energy Safe Victoria must give a copy of the approval to the responsible person who made the application.

(6) If Energy Safe Victoria refuses an application for approval to participate in a trial, Energy Safe Victoria must—

(a) give written notice of the decision to the responsible person who made the application; and

(b) set out the reasons for the decision.

40 Amendment of approval

(1) Energy Safe Victoria may—

(a) impose a new condition or amend a condition on the trial approval; or,

(b) amend any terms set out in the approval.

(2) Before taking an action under subclause (1), Energy Safe Victoria must give the holder of the trial approval a written notice specifying—

(a) the new or amended condition (if any); and

(b) the amended terms (if any); and

(c) the date from which the amendment to the trial approval or new or amended condition on the approval comes into effect.

- (3) A written notice under subclause (2) must be given at least 30 days before the date specified in the notice.

41 Suspension or withdrawal from participation

- (1) A responsible person who holds a trial approval may request in writing to Energy Safe Victoria that the responsible person's participation be temporarily suspended.
- (2) A responsible person who holds a trial approval may withdraw their participation from the trial by providing notice in writing to Energy Safe Victoria.
- (3) A notice under subclause (2) must include a date on which the holder of the trial approval requests to be withdrawn from the trial that is no less than 30 days from the date on which the notice is provided to Energy Safe Victoria.

42 Suspension or revocation of approval

- (1) Energy Safe Victoria may suspend or revoke a trial approval.
- (2) Without limiting subclause (1), Energy Safe Victoria may suspend or revoke a trial approval if Energy Safe Victoria—
- (a) considers that there has been a failure by the holder of the approval to comply with the approval or a condition of the approval; or
 - (b) has determined that the approval has increased energy safety risks or energy reliability risks; or

(c) a request made under clause 41(1) has been provided to Energy Safe Victoria

(3) If a responsible person has provided a notice to Energy Safe Victoria under clause 41(2), Energy Safe Victoria must revoke the trial approval by the date set out in the notice.

(4) Before Energy Safe Victoria suspends or revokes an approval, Energy Safe Victoria must give the holder of the trial approval a written notice specifying—

(a) that the approval will be suspended or revoked (as the case requires); and

(b) the reasons for the suspension or revocation; and

(c) if the approval is to be suspended, the period of suspension; and

(d) if the approval is to be revoked, the day from which the revocation comes into effect.

(5) A notice under subclause (4) must be given at least 90 days before the date specified in the notice, unless the notice is given for the reasons set out under subclause (2)(a) or (b).

(6) Subclause (4) does not apply to a notice of withdrawal under clause 41(2).

43 Suspension or discontinuation of a trial

(1) Energy Safe Victoria may suspend or discontinue a trial.

(2) Without limiting subclause (1), Energy Safe Victoria may suspend or discontinue a trial if Energy Safe

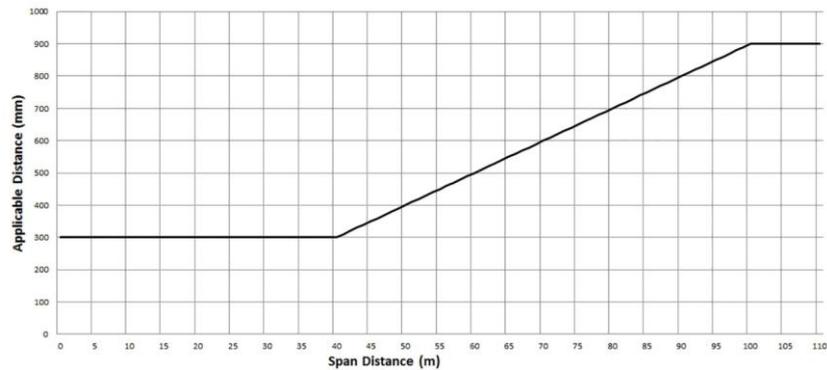
Victoria has determined that the trial has increased energy safety risks or energy reliability risks.

- (3) Before Energy Safe Victoria suspends or discontinues a trial, Energy Safe Victoria must give each responsible person that holds a trial approval for the trial a written notice specifying—
- (a) that the trial will be suspended or discontinued (as the case requires); and
 - (b) the reasons the trial is being suspended or discontinued; and
 - (c) for a trial that is suspended or discontinued, other than under the circumstances in subclause (2), either—
 - (i) in the case of a trial being suspended, the period of suspension, which must not commence earlier than 90 days after the date the notice is given; or
 - (ii) in the case of a trial being discontinued, the day from which the discontinuation comes into effect, which must not be earlier than 90 days after the date the notice is given.

Schedule 2—Applicable distance for middle 2 thirds of electric line span

Graph 1—Insulated electric lines in all areas

Clauses 3 and 24



Graph 1 Formula

The formula by which the applicable distance for the middle 2 thirds of an electric line span to which clause 24 applies is calculated as follows:

For $0 < SD \leq 40$, $AD = 300$

For $40 < SD \leq 100$, $AD = 300 + ((SD - 40) \times 10)$

For $100 < SD$, $AD = 900$

Where:

SD = Span Distance (in metres)

AD = Applicable Distance (in millimetres)

Notes to Graph 1

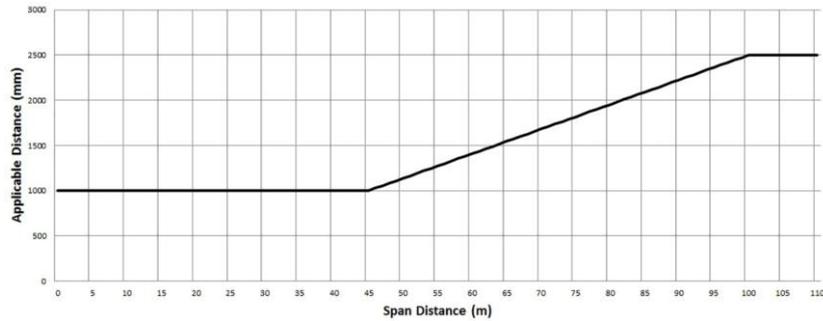
- 1 The applicable distance includes allowances for sag and sway of the conductor.
- 2 The minimum clearance space for an electric line span to which this Graph and clause 24 apply is partially illustrated in Figures 1, 2 and 3.
- 3 The applicable distance for the first and last sixths of an electric line span to which clause 24 applies is 300 millimetres.

Graph 2—Uninsulated low voltage electric line in low bushfire risk area

Clauses 3 and 25

Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2026
S.R. No. [number]/[year]

Schedule 2—Applicable distance for middle 2 thirds of electric line span



Graph 2 Formula

The formula by which the applicable distance for the middle 2 thirds of an electric line span to which clause 25 applies is calculated as follows:

For $0 < SD \leq 45$, $AD = 1000$

For $45 < SD \leq 100$, $AD = 1000 + ((SD - 45) \times (1500 \div 55))$

For $100 < SD$, $AD = 2500$

Where:

SD = Span Distance (in metres)

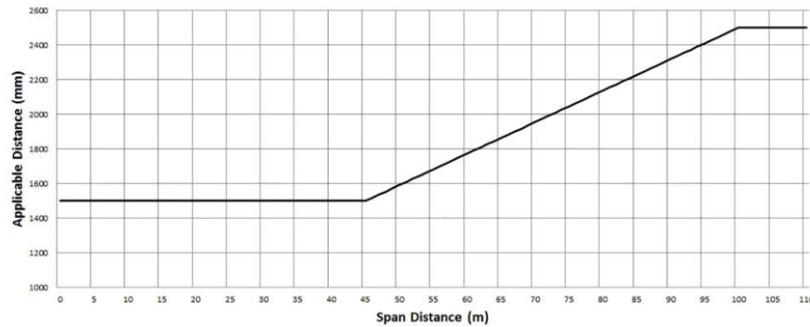
AD = Applicable Distance (in millimetres)

Notes to Graph 2

- 1 The applicable distance includes allowances for sag and sway of the conductor for a span up to and including 100 metres in length.
- 2 For a span longer than 100 metres, the applicable distance must be extended by an additional distance to allow for sag and sway of the conductor. This is done by adding that distance to the applicable distance (see clause 25(2)).
- 3 A distribution company, or an owner or operator of a railway supply network, must assist a Council, if requested, by determining the additional distance that allows for sag and sway of the conductor (see clause 21(2)).
- 4 The minimum clearance space for an electric line span to which this Graph and clause 25 apply is partially illustrated in Figures 1 and 4.
- 5 The applicable distance for the first and last sixths of an electric line span to which clause 25 applies is 1000 millimetres.

Graph 3—Uninsulated high voltage electric line (other than a 66 000 volt electric line) in low bushfire risk area

Clauses 3 and 26



Graph 3 Formula

The formula by which the applicable distance for the middle 2 thirds of an electric line span to which clause 26 applies is calculated as follows:

For $0 < SD \leq 45$, $AD = 1500$

For $45 < SD \leq 100$, $AD = 1500 + ((SD - 45) \times (1000 \div 55))$

For $100 < SD$, $AD = 2500$

Where:

SD = Span Distance (in metres)

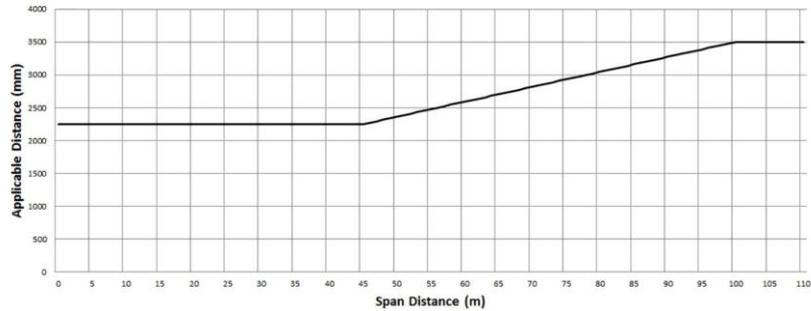
AD = Applicable Distance (in millimetres)

Notes to Graph 3

- 1 The applicable distance includes allowances for sag and sway of the conductor for a span up to and including 100 metres in length.
- 2 For a span longer than 100 metres, the applicable distance must be extended by an additional distance to allow for sag and sway of the conductor. This is done by adding that distance to the applicable distance (see clause 26(2)(b)).
- 3 A distribution company, or an owner or operator of a railway supply network, must assist a Council, if requested, by determining the additional distance (see clause 21(2)).
- 4 The minimum clearance space for an electric line span to which this Graph and clause 26 apply is partially illustrated in Figures 1 and 3.
- 5 The applicable distance for the first and last sixths of an electric line span to which clause 26 applies is 1500 millimetres.

Graph 4—Uninsulated 66 000 volt electric line in low bushfire risk area

Clauses 3 and 27



Graph 4 Formula

The formula by which the applicable distance for the middle 2 thirds of an electric line span to which clause 27 applies is calculated as follows:

For $0 < SD \leq 45$, $AD = 2250$

For $45 < SD \leq 100$, $AD = 2250 + ((SD - 45) \times (1250 \div 55))$

For $100 < SD$, $AD = 3500$

Where:

SD = Span Distance (in metres)

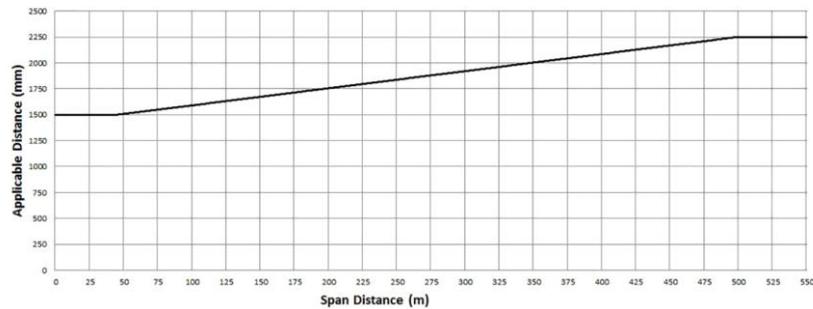
AD = Applicable Distance (in millimetres)

Notes to Graph 4

- 1 The applicable distance includes allowances for sag and sway of the conductor for a span up to and including 100 metres in length.
- 2 For a span longer than 100 metres, the applicable distance must be extended by an additional distance to allow for sag and sway of the conductor. This is done by adding that distance to the applicable distance (see clause 27(2)(a)(ii)).
- 3 A distribution company, or an owner or operator of a railway supply network, must assist a Council, if requested, by determining the additional distance (see clause 21(2)).
- 4 The minimum clearance space for an electric line span to which this Graph and clause 27 apply is partially illustrated in Figures 1 and 5.
- 5 The applicable distance for the first and last sixths of an electric line span to which clause 27 applies is 2250 millimetres.

**Graph 5—Uninsulated low voltage and high voltage electric line
(other than a 66 000 volt electric line) in hazardous bushfire risk
area**

Clauses 3 and 28



Graph 5 Formula

The formula by which the applicable distance for the middle 2 thirds of an electric line span to which clause 28 applies is calculated as follows:

For $0 < SD \leq 45$, $AD = 1500$

For $45 < SD \leq 500$, $AD = 1500 + ((SD - 45) \times (500 \div 303))$

For $500 < SD$, $AD = 2250$

Where:

SD = Span Distance (in metres)

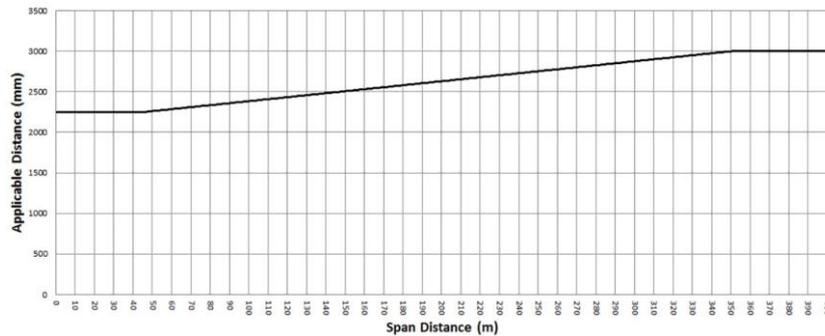
AD = Applicable Distance (in millimetres)

Notes to Graph 5

- 1 The applicable distance must be extended by an additional distance to allow for sag and sway of the conductor. This is done by adding that distance to the applicable distance (see clause 28(2)(a)).
- 2 A distribution company, or an owner or operator of a railway supply network, must assist a Council, if requested, by determining the additional distance (see clause 21(2)).
- 3 The minimum clearance space for an electric line span to which this Graph and clause 28 apply is partially illustrated in Figures 1 and 5.
- 4 The applicable distance for the first and last sixths of an electric line span to which clause 28 applies is 1500 millimetres.

Graph 6—Uninsulated 66 000 volt electric line in hazardous bushfire risk area

Clauses 3 and 29



Graph 6 Formula

The formula by which the applicable distance for the middle 2 thirds of an electric line span to which clause 29 applies is calculated as follows:

For $0 < SD \leq 45$, $AD = 2250$

For $45 < SD \leq 350$, $AD = 2250 + ((SD - 45) \times (750 \div 305))$

For $350 < SD$, $AD = 3000$

Where:

SD = Span Distance (in metres)

AD = Applicable Distance (in millimetres)

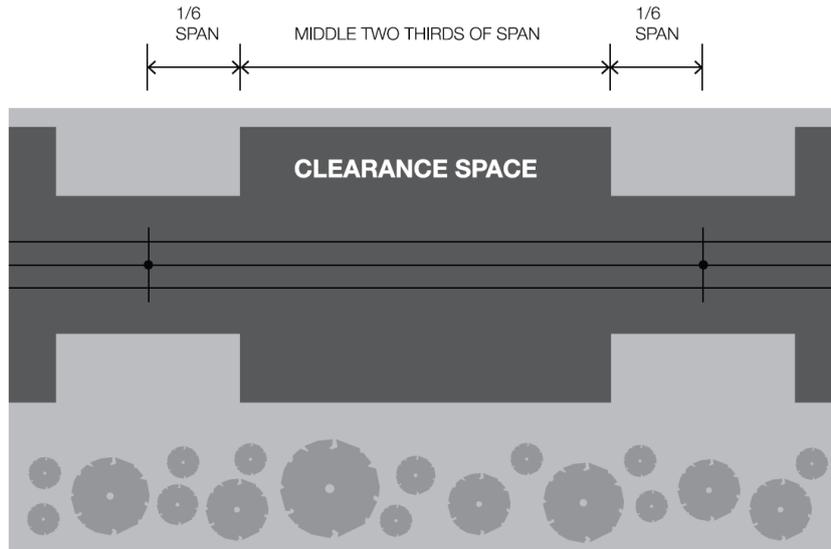
Notes to Graph 6

- 1 The applicable distance must be extended by an additional distance to allow for sag and sway of the conductor. This is done by adding that distance to the applicable distance (see clause 29(2)(a)).
- 2 A distribution company, or an owner or operator of a railway supply network, must assist a Council, if requested, by determining the additional distance (see clause 21(2)).
- 3 The minimum clearance space for an electric line span to which this Graph and clause 29 apply is partially illustrated in Figures 1 and 5.
- 4 The applicable distance for the first and last sixths of an electric line span to which clause 29 applies is 2250 millimetres.

Schedule 2—Applicable distance for middle 2 thirds of electric line span

Figure 1—Plan view of electric lines in all areas

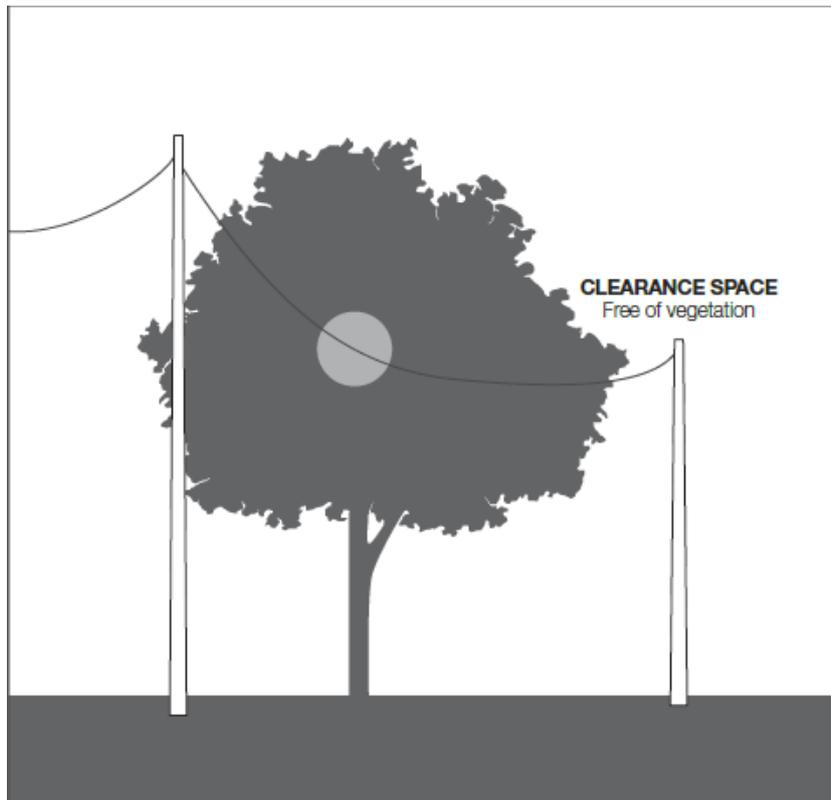
Clauses 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29,
Graphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6



NOT TO SCALE

Figure 2—Insulated electric lines in all areas

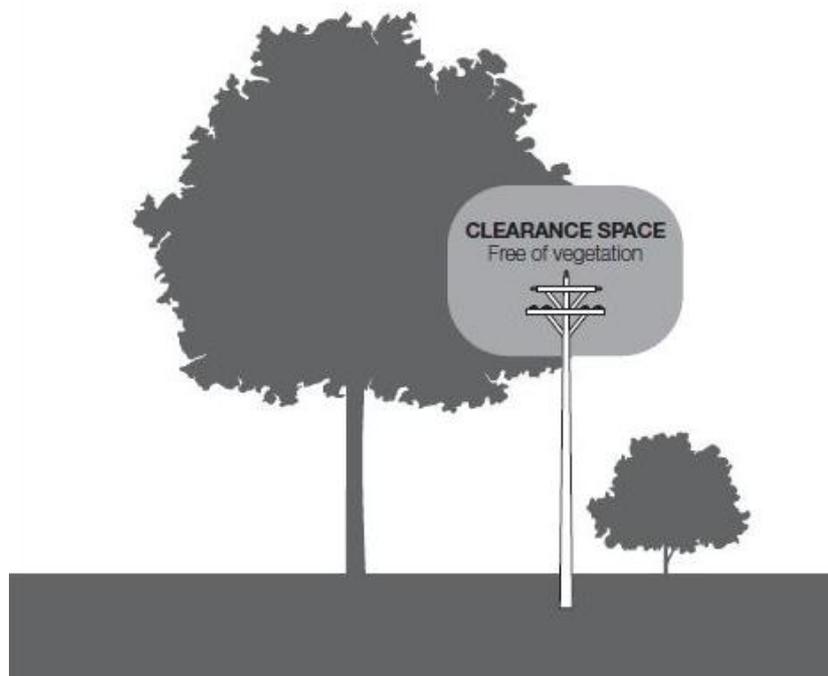
Clause 24, Graph 1



NOT TO SCALE

Figure 3—Insulated electric lines in all areas and uninsulated high voltage electric lines (other than 66 000 volt electric lines) in low bushfire risk areas

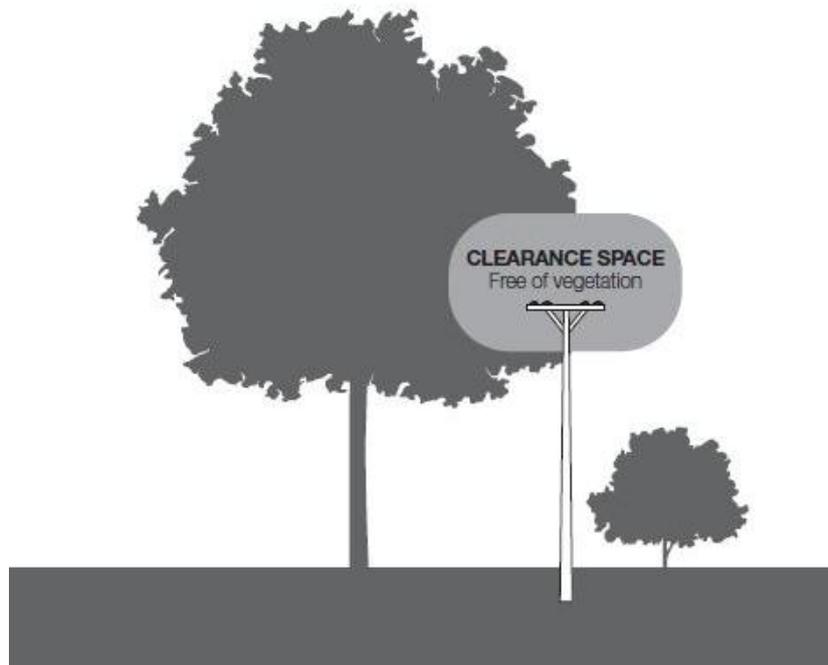
Clauses 24 and 26, Graphs 1 and 3



NOT TO SCALE

Figure 4—Uninsulated low voltage electric line in a low bushfire risk area

Clause 25, Graph 2



NOT TO SCALE

Figure 5—Uninsulated 66 000 volt electric line in a low bushfire risk area and uninsulated electric line in a hazardous bushfire risk area

Clauses 27, 28 and 29, Graphs 4, 5 and 6

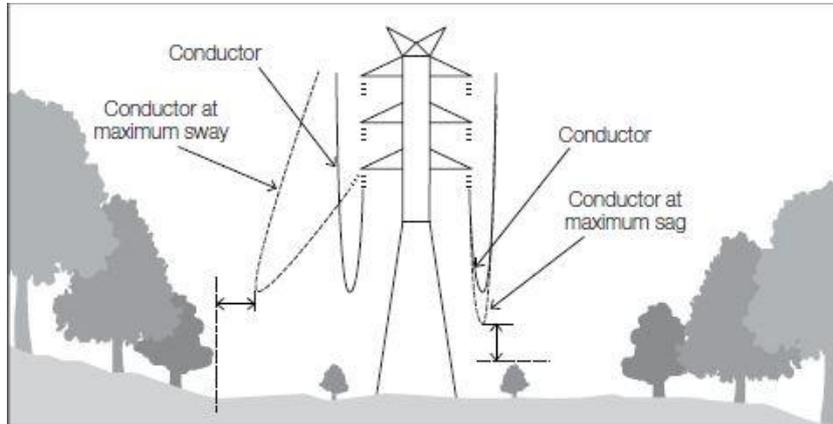


NOT TO SCALE

Figure 6—End view of the transmission line

Clause 30

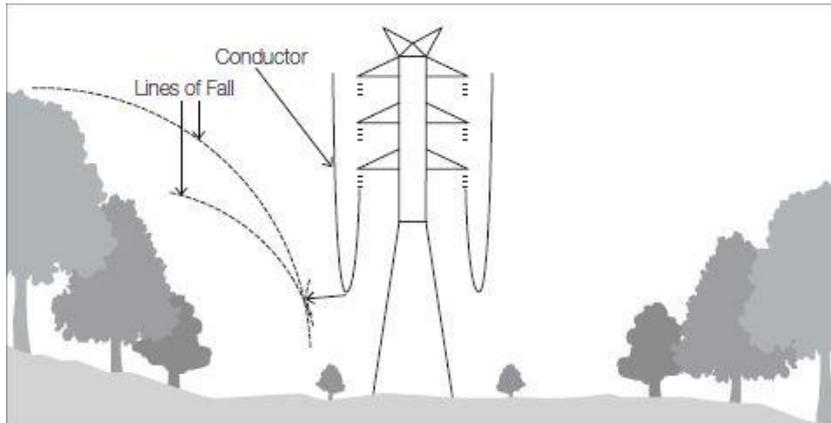
Schedule 2—Applicable distance for middle 2 thirds of electric line span



NOT TO SCALE

Figure 7—Trees adjacent to the transmission line

Clauses 8 and 30



NOT TO SCALE

Endnotes

1 Explanatory details

¹ Reg. 4: S.R. No. 40/2025.

² Reg. 9(4)(p): S.R. No. 113/2019 as amended by S.R. No. 112/2023.

³ Reg. 13: S.R. No. 40/2023.

Penalty Units

These Regulations provide for penalties by reference to penalty units within the meaning of section 110 of the **Sentencing Act 1991**. The amount of the penalty is to be calculated, in accordance with section 7 of the **Monetary Units Act 2004**, by multiplying the number of penalty units applicable by the value of a penalty unit.

The value of a penalty unit for the financial year commencing 1 July 2024 is \$197.59. The amount of the calculated penalty may be rounded to the nearest dollar.

The value of a penalty unit for future financial years is to be fixed by the Treasurer under section 5 of the **Monetary Units Act 2004**. The value of a penalty unit for a financial year must be published in the Government Gazette and a Victorian newspaper before 1 June in the preceding financial year.

Table of Applied, Adopted or Incorporated Matter

The following table of applied, adopted or incorporated matter is included in accordance with the requirements of regulation 5 of the Subordinate Legislation Regulations 2024.

Statutory rule provision	Title of applied, adopted or incorporated document	Matter in applied, adopted or incorporated document
Regulation 5, definition of AS 4373 , regulation 9(6)(j), Schedule 1, clause 10	AS 4373, "Pruning of amenity trees" published 14 March 2007 by Standards Australia, as amended from time to time	The whole

Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2026
S.R. No. [number]/[year]

Endnotes

Statutory rule provision	Title of applied, adopted or incorporated document	Matter in applied, adopted or incorporated document
Schedule 1, clause 1, definition of <i>aerial bundled cable</i>	AS/NZS 3560.1, "Electric cables—Cross-linked polyethylene insulated—Aerial bundled—For working voltages up to and including 0·6/1 (1·2) kV—Part 1: Aluminium conductors" published 7 April 2000 by Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand, as amended from time to time	The whole
Schedule 1, clause 1, definition of <i>aerial bundled cable</i>	AS/NZS 3560.2, "Electric cables—Cross-linked polyethylene insulated—Aerial bundled—For working voltages up to and including 0·6/1 (1·2) kV—Part 2: Copper conductors" published 17 July 2003 by Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand, as amended from time to time	The whole
Schedule 1, clause 1, definition of <i>aerial bundled cable</i>	AS/NZS 3599.1, "Electric cables—Aerial bundled—Polymeric insulated—Voltages 6·35/11 (12) kV and 12·7/22 (24) kV—Part 1: Metallic screened" published 11 September 2003 by Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand, as amended from time to time	The whole

Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2026
S.R. No. [number]/[year]

Endnotes

Statutory rule provision	Title of applied, adopted or incorporated document	Matter in applied, adopted or incorporated document
Schedule 1, clause 1, definition of <i>aerial bundled cable</i>	AS/NZS 3599.2, "Electric cables—Aerial bundled—Polymeric insulated— Voltages 6.35/11 (12) kV and 12.7/22 (24) kV—Part 2: Non-metallic screened" published 5 June 1999 by Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand, as amended from time to time	The whole
Schedule 1, clause 1, definition of <i>covered conductor</i>	AS/NZS 3675, "Conductors— Covered overhead—For working voltages 6.35/11 (12) kV up to and including 19/33 (36) kV" published 30 May 2002 by Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand, as amended from time to time	The whole
Schedule 1, clause 1, definition of <i>electric cable</i>	AS/NZS 1429.1, "Electric cables—Polymeric insulated—Part 1: For working voltages 1.9/3.3 (3.6) kV up to and including 19/33 (36) kV" published 21 April 2006 by Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand, as amended from time to time	The whole
Schedule 1, clause 1, definition of <i>electric cable</i>	AS/NZS 1429.2, "Electric cables—Polymeric insulated—Part 2: For working voltages above 19/33 (36) kV up to and including 87/150 (170) kV" published 17 September 2009 by Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand, as amended from time to time	The whole

Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2026
S.R. No. [number]/[year]

Endnotes

Statutory rule provision	Title of applied, adopted or incorporated document	Matter in applied, adopted or incorporated document
Schedule 1, clause 1, definition of <i>insulating cover</i>	AS IEC 60060.1, "High-voltage test techniques—Part 1: General definitions and test requirements" published 18 October 2018 by Standards Australia, as amended from time to time	The whole
Schedule 1, clause 1, definition of <i>insulating cover</i>	AS IEC 60060.2, "High-voltage test techniques—Part 2: Measuring systems" published 6 November 2018 by Standards Australia, as amended from time to time	The whole
Schedule 1, clause 1, definition of <i>insulating cover</i>	AS 4202, "Insulating covers for electrical purposes" published 11 July 1994 by Standards Australia, as amended from time to time	The whole
Schedule 1, clause 1, definition of <i>insulating cover</i>	AS/NZS 3100, "Approval and test specification—General requirements for electrical equipment" published on 24 June 2022 by Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand and reissued in November 2024, as amended from time to time	The whole
Schedule 1, clause 1, definition of <i>insulating cover</i>	AS/NZS 3121, "Approval and test specification—Insulating mouldings" published 22 November 2002 by Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand, as amended from time to time	The whole