Safety & Compliance Training Requirements for Telecommunications Work on Victorian Electricity Supply Industry (VESI) Network Operator Assets

This guideline has been developed by the Victorian Electricity Supply Industry (VESI) Skills and Training Reference Committee (STRC)

In the Victorian Electricity Supply Industry

December 2013

DATE	VERSION	AMENDMENT	NAME
March 2011	1		VESI STRC
December 2013	2	Reformatted document to VESI template Updated Definitions for Low and High Voltage Included requirements when National Qualification and Competencies and there unit numbers are changed Updated training requirements table with new National Competency Standard Unit numbers	VESI STRC
July 2014	3	Added Pole Top Rescue – UETTDRRF02B (if working from a Ladder) to Telecommunications Corridor worker	VESI STRC

Contents

1. Introduction

These training requirements have been developed and established by the Victorian Electricity Supply Industry, (VESI) Skills and Training Reference Committee (STRC). Any departures from these requirements can only be made with the agreement of the host Network Operator.

This document supplements any company specific requirements relating to induction, training, safety and/or any specific requirements described in the VESI Code of Practice for Shared Use and in any related Facilities Access Agreement (FAA).

Telecommunication assets have co-existed on the overhead electricity network for many years, a typical example being above ground telephone cables installed in areas where the installation of underground cables was not practical or economical at the time. In more recent years pay television cables have been installed.

With the role out of the National Broadband Network (NBN), the VESI Network Operators have established this common set of training requirements and as an element of safe work systems for employees engaged in the installation of telecommunication cables for both NBN and existing telecommunication assets.

2. Purpose

This document has been developed to describe the safety and compliance training requirements for the undertaking of telecommunications works on, or in close proximity to Network Operator assets.

Employers should use this document when planning telecommunication work on any VESI network.

3. Scope

This document applies to all workers performing telecommunications works who are required to install and maintain telecommunications infrastructure on Network Operator assets.

This document is not directed at workers employed by Network Operators installing or maintaining network communications systems. Where works are conducted on behalf of the Network Operator additional training requirements shall be completed prior to undertaking any work. Refer to the relevant Network Operator.

Information Communications Technology Qualifications are not covered in this document and are determined by the appropriate telecommunications company and/or regulator.

Access to Transmission assets is subject to specific arrangements with the Network Operator.

4. Responsibilities

Network Operator

- Network Operators shall make employers of telecommunications workers working on Network Operator assets aware of the requirements outlined in this document.

Employer

The employer shall:

- ensure that all workers working on or in the proximity of Network Operator assets meet the training requirements outlined in this document
- ensure that all workers are inducted according to the Network Operators requirements
- maintain records of training as required
- ensure that all workers in training are adequately supervised

Worker

All telecommunications workers shall:

- be aware of and ensure that their minimum training requirements are current
- undertake any training and assessment as required.

5. Definitions

Employer	A Telecommunication company or its sub-contractors who employ Telecommunication workers.
Facilities Access Agreement	An agreement signed by both parties that stipulate requirements for shared use of assets.
High Voltage (HV)	Means nominal voltage exceeding 1000 volts a.c. or exceeding 1500 volts d.c.
Low Voltage (LV)	Means nominal voltage exceeding 50 volts a.c./120 volts d.c. but not exceeding 1000 volts a.c./1500 volts d.c.
National Broadband Network (NBN)	The NBN is an Australian Government initiative which will deliver high-speed broadband via optic fibre cable, wireless and satellite infrastructure.
Network Operator	The owner, controller or operator of an electricity network.
Network Operator Assets	Any asset that is owned or operated by a Network Operator for the purposes of transmitting or distributing or supplying electricity.
Telecommunications cable	Cables transmitting and receiving communication signals via wave, electric or light.
Telecommunications worker	Worker employed by Telecommunication Company or contractor to build, maintain upgrade or repair communication cables.
Telecommunications Company	A company providing telecommunication retail, network and or carrier solutions
Worker	A person employed by a Telecommunications company or the Telecommunications company sub-contractors.

6. Work Environment

The training requirements for each work environment are determined by referencing Acts, Codes, Engineering and Industry standards.

The clearances stated are associated with personal clearances.

The work environments are:

Power Corridor

An area within 1000mm of bare overhead LV Network Operator assets or 2000mm of bare overhead HV VESI assets (See Figures1 & 2)

Telecommunications Corridor

The area greater than 1000mm below bare overhead LV Network Operator assets or 2000mm below bare overhead HV Network Operator assets (See Figures 3 & 4)

Electrical Enclosure

A VESI owned and/or controlled electrical enclosure e.g. indoor substation, outdoor switchyard

Ground Work

Ground based work supporting telecommunications cable installation in the power or telecommunications corridor e.g. traffic management, plant operator.

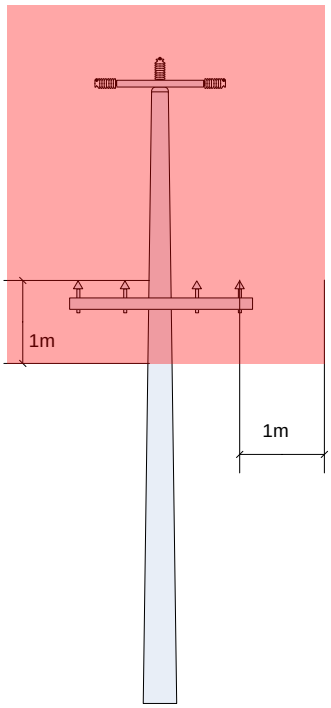

Figure 1

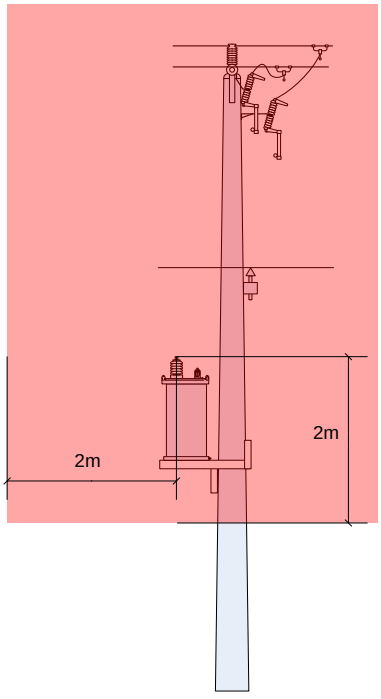

Figure 2

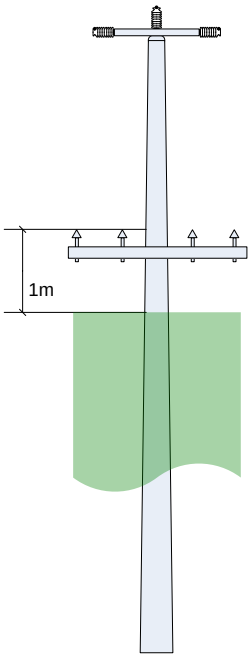

Figure 4

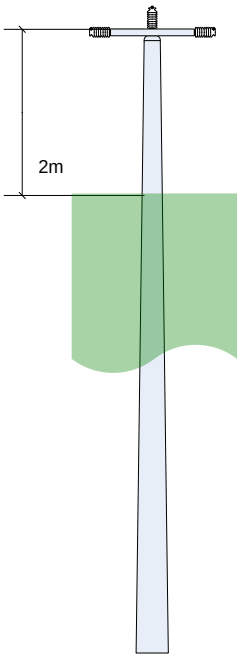

Figure 3

7. TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

The minimum training requirements for each of the environments listed above relate to electrical safety and the induction requirements of the Network Operator.

The required training and/or induction are dependent on the task being undertaken. Where the task varies or work environment changes (e.g. HV enclosures, Single Wire Earth Return (SWER) there may be additional training/Induction required by the Network Operator.

All training required by State or Federal Regulations e.g. Traffic management, Construction Induction Card (White Card) must be completed prior to any work being undertaken on Network Operator assets.

The training modules, links to national competencies and frequencies for the VESI training listed in the table below can be found in the VESI Skills and Training Guideline located on the VESI Skills and Training website www.vesi.com.au.

Previous National Qualifications and Competency Standard Unit equivalents will be recognised and where the training requires Competency Assessment / Refresher training, this assessment / training will meet the requirements of the new or updated unit.