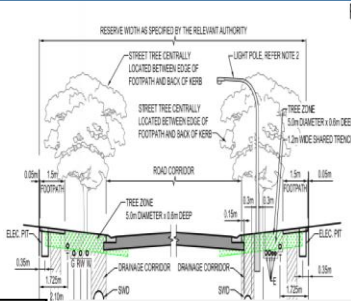


# VEDN Bulletin

Issue: 15, Sept 2017



## Victorian Electricity Distribution Network Management Systems

## Road Management Regulations and Code of Practice (installation of Trees)

## Worksite and Network Audits

Companies wishing to be approved by the VEDN to install underground electrical infrastructure must have a management system that either meets the CCF IMS code, or HSEQ certificates of conformity from a JASANZ certified auditing company. The scope of the management system must include installation of underground electrical infrastructure. The HSEQ Management system must include:

### TRAINING

All people involved in the installation of Underground Electrical Infrastructure must have **completed VEDN Module 1**. This includes and is not limited to people who:

- # Undertake trenching or backfilling
- # Install conduits & marker tape
- # Install poles & pits
- # Installation of Earth systems
- # Preparation of substation sites
- # Undertake Cable Hauling (Module 6:- training required.)

### INSPECTION & TEST PROCEDURE

The ITP must cover all the controls and hold points from accepting the project to completion, including auditing/inspection requirements.

### AUDITING & Non Conformance

The minimum requirements are included but not limited to:

- # Annual HSEQ Field Audit
- # Copies of all Worksite Audits
- # Photos
- # Preventing Non Conformances

In recent times Developers may have been creating non-compliance in the vicinity of electricity assets by planting trees directly over underground electricity cables and related infrastructure.

These works have created the following hazards:-

- Removal of marker tape
- Star pickets damaging assets
- Star pickets driven into LIVE cables
- Potential root ball pulling on cables

Distribution companies are currently reviewing the installation of Trees in Road Reserves so check with the relevant Distribution company. In some instances DBYD plans will be required before tree installation to ensure they meet Compliance.

### QUESTIONS?

- Will there be sufficient clearance available?
- Are the trees offset from the cables?
- Will the warning tape or cover slabs be disturbed (see pic below, marker tape at base of tree)?
- Is there a need for the cable to be in conduit?
- Will the trees be halfway between the footpath and the kerb?
- Will there be any joints in the 5m tree zone?



Option 2 works allows a 3<sup>rd</sup> Party (eg Developer) to take **responsibility** for the Design and Construction of electrical infrastructure that will one day be connected to a Distribution Network.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Party is responsible to ensure that the assets are installed and remain compliant to the network requirements up to the handover stage and including any warranty period thereafter.

The VEDN auditing model defines two categories of auditing:

1. **Worksite Auditing**  
Undertaken by an auditor on behalf of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Party. (Staged audits)
2. **Network Auditing**  
Undertaken by an auditor on behalf of the network.

The VEDN audit process is a sample compliance assessment at a point in time, and unless this is undertaken in conjunction with **Good Project Management & Effective onsite Supervision/Co-ordination** the end result can be non-compliant infrastructure.

Due to 3<sup>rd</sup> Parties continuing to install non-compliant infrastructure the VEDN is now considering changes to the Auditing, Training, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Party requirements.