



New South Wales

Electricity (Consumer Safety) Bill 2003

Explanatory note

This explanatory note relates to this Bill as introduced into Parliament.

Overview of Bill

The *Electricity Safety Act 1945* (the **current Act**) makes provision for the safe use of electricity and certain electrical equipment and for the reporting and investigation of serious electrical accidents. It also empowers the Energy Corporation of New South Wales constituted under the *Energy Administration Act 1987* to promote and encourage the safety of persons and property in relation to electricity.

The current Act is jointly administered by the Minister for Energy and Utilities, the Minister for Commerce and the Minister for Fair Trading. The Minister for Commerce and the Minister for Fair Trading jointly administer the provisions of the current Act to the extent that they relate to electrical installations and electrical articles. The Minister for Energy and Utilities administers the current Act to the extent that it relates to other matters.

The current Act confers a number of functions on the Director of the Department of Energy. That position no longer exists. However, the combined effect of the *Public Sector Management (Electricity Safety) Order 1997*, the *Public Sector Management (General) Order 1999*, the *Public Sector Management (Ministry of Energy and Utilities) Order 2000 (No 2)* and the *Public Sector Employment and Management (General) Order 2003* is that:

- (a) references in provisions of the current Act (other than to the extent that they relate to electrical installations or electrical articles) to the Director or the Department of Energy are to be read as references to the Director-General of the Ministry of Energy and Utilities and the Ministry of Energy and Utilities respectively, and
- (b) references in provisions of the current Act to the Director or the Department of Energy are to be read as references to the Commissioner for Fair Trading and the Department of Commerce respectively to the extent that they relate to electrical installations and electrical articles.

The objects of this Bill are:

- (a) to repeal the current Act, and
- (b) to re-enact (with modifications) the provisions of the current Act concerning electrical articles, electrical installations and the investigation and reporting of electrical accidents to the extent that they are currently administered by the Minister for Commerce and the Minister for Fair Trading, and
- (c) to amend the *Electricity Supply Act 1995* to re-enact (with modifications) the provisions of the current Act concerning electrical structures, corrosion protection systems, stray current sources and the investigation and reporting of electrical accidents to the extent that they are currently administered by the Minister for Energy and Utilities, and
- (d) to amend the *Energy Administration Act 1987* to re-enact (with modifications) the provisions of the current Act concerning energy efficiency for electrical articles and the functions of the Energy Corporation of New South Wales in relation to electricity safety to the extent that they are currently administered by the Minister for Energy and Utilities, and
- (e) to make consequential amendments to various other Acts and Regulations, and
- (f) to enact provisions of a savings or transitional nature consequent on the enactment of the proposed Act.

Outline of provisions

Part 1 Preliminary

Clause 1 sets out the name (also called the short title) of the proposed Act.

Clause 2 provides for the commencement of the proposed Act on a day or days to be appointed by proclamation (except as provided by the proposed section).

Clause 3 defines certain words and expressions used in the proposed Act.

In particular, the following central concepts are defined:

The **Director-General** is defined to have the same meaning as it has in the *Fair Trading Act 1987*. In that Act, the Director-General is defined to mean the Commissioner for Fair Trading, or if there is no such position, the Director-General of the Department of Commerce.

An **electrical article** is defined to mean any appliance, wire, fitting, cable, conduit, meter, insulator, apparatus, material or other electrical equipment intended or designed for use in, or for the purposes of, or for connection to, any electrical installation.

An **electrical installation** is defined to mean any fixed appliances, wires, fittings, apparatus or other electrical equipment used for (or for purposes incidental to) the conveyance, control and use of electricity in a particular place, but does not include any of the following:

- (a) any electrical equipment used, or intended for use, in the generation, transmission or distribution of electricity that is:
 - (i) owned or used by an electricity supply authority, or
 - (ii) located in a place that is owned or occupied by such an authority,
- (b) any electrical article connected to, and extending or situated beyond, any electrical outlet socket,
- (c) any electrical equipment in or about a mine,
- (d) any electrical equipment operating at not more than 50 volts alternating current or 120 volts ripple-free direct current,
- (e) any other electrical equipment, or class of electrical equipment, prescribed by the regulations.

However, the proposed section also provides that the regulations may make provision for when electrical equipment (or any part of electrical equipment) of the kind referred to in paragraph (a) of the definition of **electrical installation** is taken to form part of an electrical installation in a place for the purposes of that definition. For instance, the regulations might provide that the part of a power

line of an electricity supply authority supplying electricity to an electrical installation that is located on land owned by a consumer of electricity forms part of the consumer's electrical installation.

The proposed section substantially re-enacts the definition of *electrical article* in section 4 (1) of the current Act.

However, the definition of *electrical installation* in section 4 (1) of the current Act has been modified to exclude any electrical equipment operating at not more than 50 volts alternating current or 120 volts ripple-free direct current and any other electrical equipment (or class of electrical equipment) prescribed by the regulations. The current definition does not permit the exclusion of matters from the definition by regulation and excludes any electrical installation operating at not more than 32 volts alternating current or 115 volts direct current. The new definition will now also extend to free-standing installations that are not part of the electricity grid.

Clause 4 provides that the proposed Act binds the Crown.

Part 2 Electrical articles

Division 1 Declared electrical articles

Clause 5 enables the Director-General, by order published in the Gazette, to declare that electrical articles of a class described in the order to be declared electrical articles for the purposes of proposed Part 2 and declare the specifications that are to apply to that class of electrical article. A *specification* is defined in proposed section 3 (1) to include a standard, code, rule, testing requirement or other specification that is approved, recommended, adopted or published by Standards Australia or that is prescribed by the regulations.

The proposed section also defines a *declared electrical article* to mean an electrical article that belongs to any such class of electrical articles.

The proposed section re-enacts (with modifications) the provisions of section 21 of the current Act. However, section 21 of the current Act empowers the Governor rather than the Director-General to make declarations of this kind.

Clause 6 provides that a declared electrical article that is displayed for advertising or in connection with the sale of other declared electrical articles of the same class is to be treated as being displayed for sale.

The proposed section substantially re-enacts the provisions of section 20 (2) (b) of the current Act.

Division 2 Specifications for electrical articles

Clause 7 defines the concept of a *class specification* for declared electrical articles. A class specification is a specification described in an order under proposed section 5 that declares a class of electrical articles to be declared electrical articles.

The proposed section substantially re-enacts the definition of *class specification* in section 20 (1) of the current Act.

Clause 8 defines the concept of a *model specification* for an electrical article. A model specification is a specification that the Director-General has determined under proposed section 11 (1) (c) should be applicable to electrical articles of the model to which the electrical article belongs.

The proposed section also provides that a reference in the proposed Part to a *model* of electrical article is a reference to each electrical article of the same design, material and construction.

The proposed section re-enacts (with modifications) the definition of *type specification* in section 20 (1) and the provisions of section 20 (2) (a) of the current Act. The major difference between the new concept and the old concept is the substitution of the word “model” for “type”. Also, the new concept makes it clear that a model specification is determined by the Director-General in the context of an application for the approval of a model of electrical article under proposed section 11.

Clause 9 provides that if a class specification or model specification requires an electrical article or part of an electrical article to be tested, then an article or part is to be treated as having complied with that requirement even if it is not tested provided that it would have so complied if it had actually been tested.

The proposed section substantially re-enacts the provisions of section 20 (3) of the current Act.

Division 3 Information concerning electrical articles

Clause 10 requires the Director-General to publish details of the current classes of declared electrical articles and the current class specifications for such articles on an Internet website or by such other printed or electronic means as the Director-General considers appropriate.

There is no similar requirement in the current Act.

Division 4 Model approvals for electrical articles

Clause 11 enables the Director-General, on application, to approve a model of electrical article (a *model approval*).

The proposed section re-enacts (with modifications) the provisions of section 21C (1)–(5) of the current Act. The major differences between the proposed section and the current provisions are as follows:

- (a) the proposed section enables approvals to be given both for models of declared and non-declared electrical articles and not only for declared electrical articles as in the current provisions,
- (b) the current provisions that require a declaration of compliance to be lodged with the Director-General with the application are not re-enacted,
- (c) the proposed section includes provisions in relation to the notification of approvals and the rejection of approvals that are currently prescribed by the *Electricity Safety (Equipment Safety) Regulation 1999*,
- (d) the proposed section uses the concept of a model instead of a type of electrical article.

Clause 12 provides that a model approval remains in force for the period specified by the Director-General in the approval (not exceeding 5 years), subject to any cancellation or suspension of the approval or any extension or renewal of the approval in accordance with the regulations.

The proposed section also makes it clear that a model approval is not invalidated only because any specification applicable to electrical articles of that model has changed since the approval was given.

The duration of a type approval for the purposes of the current Act is specified in similar terms to the proposed section in clause 12 of the *Electricity Safety (Equipment Safety) Regulation 1999*.

Clause 13 provides for the suspension and cancellation of model approvals by the Director-General.

The proposed section re-enacts (with additions) the provisions of section 21C (7) and (8) of the current Act. The additional provisions relate to the particulars of which a model approval holder is to be notified and the grounds on which an approval may be suspended or cancelled. These additional provisions are drawn from clauses 20 and 21 of the *Electricity Safety (Equipment Safety) Regulation 1999*.

Clause 14 enables a person whose application for a model approval has been refused by the Director-General to apply to the Administrative Decisions Tribunal for a review of that refusal. It also enables a person to apply to the Administrative Decisions Tribunal for a review of a decision of the Director-General suspending or cancelling a model approval given to the person.

The proposed section departs from the provisions in the current Act for the review of such decisions. Under section 21C (9) of the current Act, such decisions in relation to type approvals are only appealable to the Minister in the manner prescribed by the regulations under that Act.

Division 5 Recognised external approval schemes

Clause 15 enables the Minister, by order published in the Gazette, to declare any scheme for the approval or certification of models of electrical articles to be a recognised external approval scheme for the purposes of the proposed Part. The proposed section also provides that the regulations may make provision with respect to the declaration of schemes.

Under sections 21A (1) (a) (iii) and 21D (1) (a) and (2) (b) (i) of the current Act, the Minister has the power to approve a certification scheme for types of electrical articles for the purposes of Part 4C of that Act. The effect of certification under any such scheme is that a person will be treated as having relevant approval for the sale of the type of electrical article for the purposes of the offences in sections 21A and 21D of the current Act.

The proposed section differs from the current provisions in the following respects:

- (a) the Minister is required formally to declare a scheme by order published in the Gazette rather than simply to approve a scheme,
- (b) the regulations may prescribe criteria to assist the Minister in making declarations.

Division 6 Sale of electrical articles

Clause 16 makes it an offence for a person to sell an electrical article if:

- (a) in the case of a declared electrical article—the article is not of a class, model or description that has received relevant approval from the Director-General or another recognised authority, or
- (b) the article is not marked in accordance with the regulations, or
- (c) the article does not comply with any relevant class or model specifications or other prescribed specifications or requirements for the article.

The maximum penalties for such an offence will be:

- (a) in the case of a second or subsequent offence by a corporation—7,500 penalty units (currently, \$825,000), or
- (b) in the case of a first offence by a corporation—5,000 penalty units (currently, \$550,000), or

- (c) in the case of a second or subsequent offence by an individual—750 penalty units (currently, \$82,500) or imprisonment for 2 years, or both, or
- (d) in the case of a first offence by an individual—500 penalty units (currently, \$55,000).

The proposed section substantially re-enacts the provisions of sections 21A and 21DA of the current Act, but in a single section and with increased penalties. The current Act creates two separate offences depending on whether the electrical article is or is not a declared article. The proposed section also enables the Director-General to exempt persons, or classes of persons, from the operation of any or all of the provisions of the proposed section. The current provisions only permit an exemption from all of the provisions of section 21A of the current Act.

Division 7 Acquisition guarantees

Clause 17 defines the concepts of *acquisition guarantor* and *acquisition guarantee*.

An *acquisition guarantee* is, essentially, a written guarantee given by a person in respect of an electrical article to the effect that, at the time it was given, the model of electrical article had relevant approval, the article complied with any relevant specifications or requirements and was marked as prescribed by the regulations. An *acquisition guarantor* is simply a person who gives an acquisition guarantee.

The proposed section substantially re-enacts the requirements for a prescribed guarantee set out in section 21D (2) of the current Act. However, the proposed section uses the term *acquisition guarantee* rather than *prescribed guarantee*.

Clause 18 provides that proceedings for an offence against proposed section 16 are to be dismissed if it is proved that:

- (a) the defendant received an acquisition guarantee in respect of the electrical article to which the offence relates from the person from whom the defendant obtained the electrical article, and
- (b) the defendant had no reason to believe that, at the time of the alleged offence, the model of electrical article did not have relevant approval or the article did not comply with the relevant specifications or requirements for the article.

The proposed section also provides that the defendant must, within 7 days after being served with the process commencing the criminal proceedings, give the prosecutor and acquisition guarantor written notice of the defendant's intention to rely on the guarantee. The defendant will also be required to provide the prosecutor with a copy of the guarantee within that period.

The proposed section re-enacts (with modifications) the provisions of section 21D (1), (3) and (4) of the current Act. The proposed section differs from the current provisions in that it enables proceedings for an offence relating to the sale of any electrical article (whether declared or not) to be dismissed. However, the current provisions are limited to offences relating to the sale of declared electrical articles. The proposed section also imposes the additional requirement that a defendant provide the prosecutor with a copy of the acquisition guarantee being relied on.

Clause 19 provides that an acquisition guarantor may be convicted of an offence under proposed section 16 instead of the defendant who succeeds in having proceedings against the defendant dismissed under proposed section 18 unless the guarantor proves that the guarantor had reasonable grounds for believing the guarantee was correct.

The proposed section substantially re-enacts the provisions of section 21D (5) of the current Act.

Clause 20 makes it an offence for a person to make a false statement or give a false description in relation to an electrical article or model of electrical article in any acquisition guarantee, or purported acquisition guarantee, given by the person.

The maximum penalty for any such offence will be 500 penalty units (currently, \$55,000) in the case of a corporation and 150 penalty units (currently, \$16,500) in any other case.

The proposed section substantially re-enacts the provisions of section 21D (6) of the current Act, but with increased penalties.

Division 8 Unsafe electrical articles

Clause 21 enables the Director-General, by notice published in the Gazette, to prohibit the sale generally of a specified electrical article or model of electrical article if the Director-General believes on reasonable grounds that the article or model is or may become unsafe to use and that the prohibition is warranted because of the risk of death, injury or property damage. The Director-General may also prohibit a particular person from selling an electrical article, or model of electrical article, by notice served on the person on the same grounds.

The proposed section re-enacts (with modifications) the provisions of section 21E (2) and (4) of the current Act. The proposed section differs from the current provisions in that it requires a notice that generally prohibits the sale of electrical articles to be published in the Gazette and then requires copies of that notice to be published in newspapers prescribed by the regulations. A failure to publish a

copy in such newspapers will not affect the validity of the notice published in the Gazette. However, under the current provisions, such a notice must be published both in the Gazette and in such newspapers.

Clause 22 enables the Director-General, by notice served on the seller of electrical articles, to require that person to take specified remedial action to make an electrical article, or model of electrical article, safe to use if the Director-General believes on reasonable grounds that the article or model is or may become unsafe to use and that such action is necessary to make it safe to use.

The proposed section substantially re-enacts the provisions of section 21E (3) and (5) of the current Act.

Clause 23 enables the Director-General, by notice served on the seller of electrical articles, to require that person to carry out specified safety testing or provide other evidence of the safety of an electrical article or model of electrical article that the person sells if the Director-General believes on reasonable grounds that the article or model is or may become unsafe to use.

There is no comparable provision to the proposed section in the current Act.

Clause 24 makes it an offence for a person:

- (a) to sell an electrical article if the sale of that article by the person is prohibited by a notice in force under proposed section 21, or
- (b) not to comply with any requirement to take action in respect of an electrical article made of the person under a notice in force under proposed section 22, or
- (c) not to comply with any requirement to test or provide evidence in respect of an electrical article or model of electrical article under a notice in force under proposed section 23.

The maximum penalties for such an offence will be:

- (a) in the case of a second or subsequent offence by a corporation—7,500 penalty units (currently, \$825,000), or
- (b) in the case of a first offence by a corporation—5,000 penalty units (currently, \$550,000), or
- (c) in the case of a second or subsequent offence by an individual—750 penalty units (currently, \$82,500) or imprisonment for 2 years, or both, or
- (d) in the case of a first offence by an individual—500 penalty units (currently, \$55,000).

The proposed section re-enacts (with increased penalties) the offence provisions in section 21E (6), (7) and (8) of the current Act.

Clause 25 provides that the proposed Division operates in addition to, and not in derogation of, the provisions of the *Fair Trading Act 1987* or the regulations made under that Act.

The proposed section substantially re-enacts the provisions of section 21E (11) of the current Act.

Division 9 Investigation powers

Clause 26 provides that an authorised officer may, at any reasonable time, enter any place that the officer suspects on reasonable grounds to be a place in which the manufacture or sale of electrical articles is being, or may be, carried on. It also confers certain search and investigation powers while in such a place. One such power is the power to seize, detain or remove an electrical article (or any container or package containing an electrical article) if the officer has reasonable cause to believe that an offence has been committed against the proposed Act or the regulations in respect of the electrical article or the article is or is likely to be unsafe.

The proposed section enables an authorised officer (with the written authority of the Director-General) to enter any place and inspect and copy documents in the place if the Director-General believes on reasonable grounds that there are in that place documents evidencing conduct in connection with an electrical article in contravention of the proposed Act or the regulations. This new power is similar to that conferred on investigators by section 19 (4) of the *Fair Trading Act 1987*.

The proposed section also provides that an authorised officer may not exercise the authorised officer's functions under the proposed section in relation to a part of any premises being used for residential purposes except with the permission of the occupier of that part of the premises or under the authority of a search warrant.

The proposed section re-enacts (with modifications) the provisions of section 21F (2) of the current Act. However, the power to enter premises to locate documents evidencing a contravention of the proposed Act or the regulations in connection with an electrical article is a new power.

Clause 27 enables an authorised officer, if the officer believes on reasonable grounds that an electrical article or more than one electrical article of a particular model is or may become unsafe:

- (a) to prohibit a person who has the custody, control or possession of such an article or articles from selling it or them, and
- (b) to affix a label on an electrical article (or container or package containing an electrical article) indicating that the electrical article is to be considered dangerous and must not be sold or used until specified repairs necessary to make the electrical article safe to use have been carried out.

The proposed section also makes it an offence for a person to sell an electrical article in contravention of such a notice or to remove or alter a label affixed to an electrical article or a container or package under the proposed section unless directed to do so by an authorised officer. The maximum penalties for any such offence will be:

- (a) in the case of a second or subsequent offence by a corporation—7,500 penalty units (currently, \$825,000), or
- (b) in the case of a first offence by a corporation—5,000 penalty units (currently, \$550,000), or
- (c) in the case of a second or subsequent offence by an individual—750 penalty units (currently, \$82,500) or imprisonment for 2 years, or both, or
- (d) in the case of a first offence by an individual—500 penalty units (currently, \$55,000).

The proposed section re-enacts (with increased penalties and other modifications) the provisions of section 21F (3), (4), (5) and (7) of the current Act. The proposed section differs from the current provisions in two important respects. Firstly, the proposed section extends the current provisions by enabling an authorised officer to affix a label to a container or package for an electrical article as well as on the electrical article itself. Secondly, the proposed section also makes it an offence to remove or alter a label that has been affixed by an authorised officer.

Division 10 Seizure and forfeiture of electrical articles

Clause 28 requires the Director-General to return an electrical article seized by an authorised officer under proposed section 26 no later than 60 days (or such greater period as may be prescribed by the regulations) after seizure.

The only exceptions to this general rule are if, within that period, the Director-General has determined that the article is unsafe and proceedings for its forfeiture are brought or proceedings for an offence involving that article are brought.

The Director-General is to provide compensation for returned seized articles in accordance with the regulations.

If proceedings for an offence are commenced within the relevant period, the article may be retained until the proceedings are finally determined.

The proposed section re-enacts (with modifications) the provisions of section 21F (11) of the current Act. The proposed section differs from the current provisions in that it enables the retention of a seized article for the purposes of criminal proceedings and not just in cases where the Director-General determines the article to be unsafe. The proposed section requires the return of

an article within 60 days or a greater prescribed period instead of just within the prescribed period specified by the current provisions. A 60 day period is currently prescribed by clause 49 (1) (a) of the *Electricity Safety (Equipment Safety) Regulation 1999*.

Clause 29 enables the Director-General to apply to a Local Court for the forfeiture of an electrical article to the Crown if the Director-General has determined that it is unsafe or a court has found a person guilty of an offence under the proposed Act or the regulations in connection with the article.

The proposed section re-enacts (with modifications) the provisions of section 21G of the current Act. The proposed section extends the scope of the current provisions by enabling the forfeiture of an electrical article if a court has found a person guilty of an offence under the proposed Act or the regulations in connection with the article. The current provisions are limited to forfeiture of articles that the Director-General has determined are unsafe.

Part 3 Electrical installations

Clause 30 enables an authorised officer to enter any place at any reasonable time for the purpose of inspecting any electrical installation in the place. On entering such a place, the authorised officer may require a person carrying out electrical wiring work to produce evidence of the person's authority to carry out such work under the *Home Building Act 1989*.

The proposed section enables an authorised officer (with the written authority of the Director-General) to enter any place and inspect and copy documents in the place if the Director-General believes on reasonable grounds that there are in that place documents evidencing conduct in connection with an electrical installation in contravention of the proposed Act or the regulations. This new power is similar to that conferred on investigators by section 19 (4) of the *Fair Trading Act 1987*.

The proposed section also provides that an authorised officer may not exercise the authorised officer's functions under the proposed section in relation to a part of any premises being used for residential purposes except with the permission of the occupier of that part of the premises or under the authority of a search warrant.

The proposed section re-enacts (with modifications) the provisions of section 25 (1) and (4) of the current Act. The power to enter any premises to locate documents evidencing a contravention of the proposed Act or the regulations is a new power. Also, the proposed section confines the exercise of the powers it confers in relation to parts of premises that are being used for residential purposes.

Clause 31 makes it an offence for a person not to carry out electrical installation work in accordance with such standards or requirements as may be prescribed by the regulations. Electrical installation work is the work of installing, adding to, altering, disconnecting, reconnecting or replacing an electrical installation.

The maximum penalties for such an offence will be:

- (a) in the case of a second or subsequent offence by a corporation—7,500 penalty units (currently, \$825,000), or
- (b) in the case of a first offence by a corporation—5,000 penalty units (currently, \$550,000), or
- (c) in the case of a second or subsequent offence by an individual—750 penalty units (currently, \$82,500) or imprisonment for 2 years, or both, or
- (d) in the case of a first offence by an individual—500 penalty units (currently, \$55,000).

The current Act contains no such offence. However, clause 7 of the *Electricity Safety (Electrical Installations) Regulation 1998* provides for a similar offence.

Clause 32 makes it an offence for the responsible person for an electrical installation:

- (a) not to ensure that such parts of the installation as are prescribed by the regulations are maintained in accordance with the regulations while the installation is connected to its source of electricity, or
- (b) to connect an electrical installation to a source of supply of electricity if the installation has been lawfully disconnected for safety reasons.

The responsible person for an electrical installation is the occupier of the place where the installation is located or, if there is no such occupier, an owner of the place.

The maximum penalties for such offences will be 500 penalty units (currently, \$55,000) in the case of a corporation or 150 penalty units (currently, \$16,500) in any other case.

The proposed section re-enacts (with modifications and increased penalties) the provisions of section 29 of the current Act. However, the proposed section differs from the current section in that it is not limited to consumers.

Part 4 Accident reporting and investigations

Clause 33 requires the occupier of a place in which a serious electrical accident occurs (or any other person prescribed by the regulations) to notify the Director-General of the accident within 7 days of the accident.

A serious electrical accident is defined in proposed section 3 (1) to mean an accident:

- (a) in which an electrical article or electrical installation is involved, and
- (b) as a consequence of which a person dies or suffers permanent disability, is hospitalised, receives treatment from a health care professional or is unable to attend work for any period of time.

However, it does not include an accident in which only electricity works (within the meaning of the *Electricity Supply Act 1995*) are involved. Electricity works are any electricity power lines or associated equipment or electricity structures that form part of a transmission or distribution system within the meaning of the *Electricity Supply Act 1995*.

A failure to notify the Director-General will be an offence. The maximum penalty for the offence will be 5 penalty units (currently, \$550) where the accident occurred in residential premises and 100 penalty units (currently, \$11,000) in any other case.

The proposed section re-enacts (with modifications) the provisions of section 27E of the current Act. The proposed section confines notifiable accidents to serious electrical accidents that do not involve electricity works only. The current section is not so confined. Serious electricity accidents involving electricity works will be notifiable under proposed section 63R of the *Electricity Supply Act 1995* (to be inserted by Schedule 2 [4] to the proposed Act). Also, the current provisions leave the period for notification to be prescribed by the regulations. However, the proposed section specifies the relevant time frame for reporting accidents. The proposed section requires the Director-General to be notified of such accidents instead of the Energy Corporation of New South Wales (as is currently the case). Finally, the proposed section also enables the regulations to exclude persons or classes or persons from its operation. There is no similar power in the current provisions.

Clause 34 enables the Director-General to arrange for an authorised officer to investigate and report to the Director-General concerning a serious electrical accident.

The proposed section re-enacts the provisions of section 27G of the current Act.

Clause 35 enables an authorised officer to enter any place where a serious electrical accident has or may reasonably be expected to have occurred and to exercise certain investigative powers in that place.

The proposed section re-enacts (with modifications) the provisions of section 27H of the current Act. The proposed section extends the investigative powers of authorised officers in relation to such an accident to include a power (with the written authority of the Director-General) to enter any place and inspect and

copy documents in the place if the Director-General believes on reasonable grounds that there are in that place documents evidencing conduct in connection with a serious electrical accident in contravention of the proposed Act or the regulations. This new power is similar to that conferred on investigators by section 19 (4) of the *Fair Trading Act 1987*.

Clause 36 makes it an offence for a person to disturb or interfere with the site of a serious electrical accident before it has been inspected by an authorised officer other than for the purpose of making it safe or with the permission of an authorised officer or as provided by the regulations.

The maximum penalty for the offence will be 500 penalty units (currently, \$55,000) in the case of corporations or 250 penalty units (currently, \$27,500) in any other case.

The proposed section re-enacts (with modifications and increased penalties) the provisions of section 27K of the current Act. The proposed section differs from the current provisions by also enabling the regulations to provide when a site may be disturbed or interfered with.

Clause 37 enables the Director-General to publish such details of serious electrical accidents as the Director-General considers necessary in the interests of public information and safety.

The proposed section substantially re-enacts the provisions of section 27L (1) of the current Act.

Clause 38 enables the Director-General, the WorkCover Authority and the Director-General of the Ministry of Energy and Utilities to enter into arrangements concerning the exercise of their respective functions in relation to the investigation of accidents and other incidents involving electricity.

There are no similar provisions in the current Act.

Part 5 Enforcement

Division 1 Authorised officers

Clause 39 enables the Director-General to appoint any person (other than an investigator under the *Fair Trading Act 1987*) to be an authorised officer for the purposes of any or all of the provisions of the proposed Act or the regulations. Investigators under the *Fair Trading Act 1987* will be authorised officers for the purposes of the proposed Act without further need for appointment under the proposed section by reason of their inclusion in the definition of *authorised officer* in proposed section 3 (1).

The power to appoint authorised officers and inspectors under the current Act is contained in sections 21F (2), 25 (1) and 27F of that Act. The proposed section collects the power to make such appointments in one place.

Clause 40 makes it an offence to refuse or fail to comply with a requirement made, or to answer a question asked by, an authorised officer, or wilfully delay, hinder, or obstruct an authorised officer or falsely to represent oneself to be an authorised officer.

Similar offences are created in sections 21F (6), 25 (5) and (8) and 27J of the current Act.

Clause 41 provides that the powers conferred by the proposed Act or the regulations on persons who are authorised officers by reason of being investigators are in addition to, and not in derogation of, the powers conferred on investigators by Division 3 of Part 2 of the *Fair Trading Act 1987*.

There is no similar provision in the current Act.

Division 2 Search warrants

Clause 42 enables an authorised officer to apply for a search warrant for a place if the authorised officer has reasonable grounds for believing that:

- (a) an unsafe electrical installation is in the place, or
- (b) a serious electrical accident has occurred in the place, or
- (c) a provision of the proposed Act or the regulations has been or is being contravened in the place.

Similar provision is made in sections 21I and 27I of the current Act for search warrants to investigate contraventions of Part 4C (Electrical articles) and Part 6B (Accident reporting and investigation) of that Act. The proposed section differs from the current provisions in that it also enables a search warrant to be obtained if there are reasonable grounds for believing that an unsafe electrical installation is located in a place.

Division 3 Undertakings

Clause 43 provides that section 73A (Enforcement of undertakings) of the *Fair Trading Act 1987* applies in connection with a matter in relation to which the Director-General has a function under the proposed Act as if the function were a function under the *Fair Trading Act 1987*. Section 73A of the *Fair Trading Act 1987* enables the Director-General to accept a written undertaking given by a person in connection with a matter in relation to which the Director-General has a function under that Act. Any such undertaking is enforceable by the Supreme Court.

The proposed section also provides that costs incurred by the Director-General in taking action under section 73A of the *Fair Trading Act 1987* to enforce an undertaking are recoverable from the person who gave the undertaking, as a debt due to the Crown, in a court of competent jurisdiction.

There are no similar provisions in the current Act.

Division 4 Proceedings for offences

Clause 44 provides that a person is not excused from providing information that the person is required to provide under the proposed Act or regulations on the grounds of self-incrimination. However, any such information is generally not admissible in any criminal proceedings against a natural person.

Similar provision is made in section 21F (9) of the current Act in relation to information that is required to be provided to authorised officers in respect of electrical articles.

Clause 45 provides for the circumstances in which directors and managers of corporations will be taken to be liable for offences under the proposed Act or regulations committed by corporations.

The proposed section also re-enacts the provisions of section 21F (10) of the current Act, which relate to when any information concerning electrical articles provided by an officer of a corporation will be taken to have been provided by the corporation. The proposed section generalises these provisions so that they apply to any information provided to an authorised officer under the Act or the regulations.

Clause 46 enables the Director-General (or a staff member of the Department of Commerce authorised by the Director-General) to certify certain matters relating to electrical articles. Any such certificate is admissible in any proceedings and is evidence of the matters certified.

The proposed section re-enacts (with some modifications) the provisions of section 21H of the current Act. In addition to the matters that the Director-General may currently certify, the proposed section also enables the Director-General to certify that a scheme for the approval or certification of models of electrical articles was a recognised external approval scheme for the purposes of the proposed Act.

Clause 47 enables authorised officers to issue penalty notices for alleged offences against the proposed Act or the regulations that are prescribed by regulations as penalty notice offences.

There are no similar provisions in the current Act.

Clause 48 provides that proceedings for an offence against the proposed Act or the regulations may be dealt with summarily by a Local Court or the Supreme Court. However, if dealt with by a Local Court, the maximum monetary penalty that the Local Court may impose is 200 penalty units (currently, \$22,000).

The proposed section re-enacts (with modifications) the provisions of section 33 of the current Act. The proposed section differs from the current section in that it enables the Supreme Court to deal summarily with offences under the proposed Act. The current section requires all offences to be dealt with by a Local Court.

Clause 49 requires proceedings for an offence against the proposed Act or the regulations to be commenced within the period of 2 years after the date on which the offence is alleged to have been committed.

The proposed section also provides that such proceedings may be commenced within the period of 2 years after the date on which evidence of the alleged offence first came to the attention of an authorised officer. However, this will not enable proceedings to be commenced if a period of more than 5 years has elapsed since the date on which the offence is alleged to have been committed.

Section 31A of the current Act provides that proceedings for an offence under that Act are to be commenced within 2 years after the commission of the offence. The only exception to that general rule is provided by section 21D (8) of the current Act in relation to offences under section 21D (6) of that Act, which enables proceedings to be commenced at any time.

Part 6 Miscellaneous

Clause 50 makes it an offence for a person to disclose certain information relating to any manufacturing or commercial secrets or working processes obtained by the person in connection with the administration or execution of the proposed Act.

The maximum penalty for the offence will be 100 penalty units (currently \$11,000).

The new offence generalises the provisions of section 21K of the current Act (with increased penalties), which are limited at the moment to information obtained in connection with the administration or execution of Part 4C (Electrical articles) of that Act.

Clause 51 excludes the Minister, the Director-General, an authorised officer or a person acting under direction from the Minister or Director-General from any personal civil liability for any act done, or omitted to be done, in good faith for the purpose of executing the proposed Act.

A more limited protection from civil liability relating to information published about unsafe electrical articles is contained in section 27L (2) of the current Act.

Clause 52 provides for how documents may be served on, or given to, a person for the purposes of the proposed Act.

Similar provision is made in section 21E (9) of the current Act in respect of the service of notices under that section.

Clause 53 provides for how documents may be served on, given to, or lodged with, the Director-General for the purposes of the proposed Act.

There are no similar provisions in the current Act.

Clause 54 enables the Minister to delegate the exercise of certain of the Minister's functions under the proposed Act or the regulations. It also enables the Director-General to delegate the exercise of certain of the Director-General's functions under the proposed Act or the regulations.

The proposed section re-enacts (with modifications) the provisions of section 28 of the current Act. The current section is confined to the delegation of functions by the Minister.

Clause 55 enables regulations to be made by the Governor for the purposes of the proposed Act.

The proposed section substantially re-enacts a number of regulation-making powers contained in section 37 of the current Act that are administered by the Minister for Commerce and the Minister for Fair Trading.

Clause 56 gives effect to proposed Schedule 1, which contains savings, transitional and other provisions.

Clause 57 repeals the current Act.

Clause 58 gives effect to proposed Schedules 2–4, which contain consequential amendments to the *Electricity Supply Act 1995*, the *Energy Administration Act 1987* and certain other Acts and Regulations.

Clause 59 provides for the review of the proposed Act after 5 years of its date of assent to determine whether its policy objectives remain valid and whether its terms remain appropriate for securing those objectives.

Schedule 1 Savings, transitional and other provisions

Schedule 1 contains provisions enabling the Governor to make regulations of a savings and transitional nature. It also contains certain savings and transitional provisions that are consequent on the enactment of the proposed Act.

Schedule 2 Amendment of Electricity Supply Act 1995 No 94

Schedule 2 [1] amends section 3 of the *Electricity Supply Act 1995* to specify that one of the objects of that Act is to promote and encourage the safety of persons and property in relation to the generation, transmission, distribution and use of electricity.

Schedule 2 [2] amends section 54 of the Act to enable an authorised officer of a network operator to enter premises for the purpose of inspecting or disconnecting an electrical installation if the network operator is required or permitted to inspect or disconnect the installation by or under the Act or any other Act or law.

Schedule 2 [3] inserts a new Part 5C in the Act that enables the Director-General of the Ministry of Energy and Utilities (the *Energy Director-General*) to direct distribution network service providers to remove or relocate certain electricity structures that are on or adjacent to public roads that are traffic routes or that the Energy Director-General determines have such a volume of traffic as to require the removal or relocation of such structures.

The new Part 5C substantially re-enacts the provisions of Part 4B of the current Act.

Schedule 2 [4] inserts a new Part 5D in the Act relating to electricity safety. The proposed Part re-enacts (with modifications) the provisions of Parts 5 (Electrical apparatus and appliances) and 6B (Accident reporting and investigation) of the current Act that are currently administered either exclusively or jointly by the Minister for Energy and Utilities.

Division 1 of the new Part 5D contains definitions and other interpretative provisions for the new Part.

Division 2 of the new Part 5D consolidates the provisions in sections 25 (1) and 27F of the current Act to enable the Energy Director-General to appoint inspectors for the purposes of the new Part.

Division 3 of the new Part 5D re-enacts (with modifications) the provisions of sections 25 and 26 of the current Act to the extent that they are administered by the Minister for Energy and Utilities. These provisions deal with the inspection of cathodic protection systems (to be renamed corrosion protection systems) and stray current sources and the safety of certain electricity delivery equipment. However, the new Division will also enable the Energy Director-General to authorise the inspection of electrical installations and for inspectors to require the disconnection of installations that are unsafe.

Division 4 of the new Part 5D makes provision for the reporting and investigation of serious electricity works accidents. See clause 33 above for an explanation of electricity works accidents. The new provisions confine reporting requirements to distribution network service providers or transmission operators (within the meaning of the Act).

Division 5 of the new Part 5D enables an inspector to apply for a search warrant for a place if the inspector has reasonable grounds for believing that:

- (a) an unsafe electrical installation is in the place, or
- (b) a serious electricity works accident has occurred in the place, or
- (c) a provision of the new Part 5D or the regulations made for the purposes of that Part has been or is being contravened in the place.

Schedule 2 [5] amends section 106 of the Act to re-enact certain regulation-making powers contained in section 37 (2) of the current Act that are administered by the Minister for Energy and Utilities.

Schedule 2 [6] amends section 106 of the Act to re-enact the provisions of section 37 (2A), (4) and (5) of the current Act to enable the regulations:

- (a) to apply, adopt or incorporate (with or without modification) any publication as in force at a particular time or from time to time, and
- (b) to prevail over a regulation made under the *Local Government Act 1993*, to the extent of any inconsistency, and
- (c) to bind the Crown.

Schedule 2 [7] repeals Schedule 5.1 to the Act. Schedule 5.1 would have abolished the Electricity Development Fund established by section 15 of the current Act. Transitional provisions in respect of the Fund enacted by Schedule 5.1 have been re-enacted in Division 3 of Part 2 of Schedule 1 to the proposed Act.

Schedule 2 [8] amends clause 1 of Schedule 6 to the Act to enable the regulations to make provision for matters of a savings or transitional nature consequent on the amendment of the Act.

Schedule 2 [9] amends Schedule 6 to the Act to insert a number of savings and transitional provisions consequent on the amendment of the Act.

Schedule 2 [10] inserts several new definitions in the Act consequent on the amendments made to the Act. In particular, the definition of *cathodic protection system* in the current Act is re-enacted (with modifications) as the new definition of *corrosion protection system*. The new definition reflects the fact that a cathodic protection system is but one kind of corrosion protection system.

Schedule 3 Amendment of Energy Administration Act 1987 No 103

Schedule 3 [1] amends section 3 of the *Energy Administration Act 1987* to insert definitions for some terms used in provisions to be inserted in the Act by Schedule 3.

Schedule 3 [2] amends section 12 of the Act to re-enact certain functions of the Energy Corporation of New South Wales specified in Part 3 (The Corporation) of the current Act.

Schedule 3 [3] amends section 38 of the Act to augment the regulation-making power in that section in relation to the energy efficiency of electrical equipment. The amended section 38 will enable the making of regulations like the *Electricity Safety (Equipment Efficiency) Regulation 1999* made under the current Act.

Schedule 3 [4] amends section 38 of the Act to re-enact the provisions of section 37 (4) and (5) of the current Act to enable the regulations:

- (a) to prevail over a regulation made under the *Local Government Act 1993*, to the extent of any inconsistency, and
- (b) to bind the Crown.

Schedule 3 [5] inserts a new section 46A in the Act to enable penalty notices to be issued in respect of offences under the Act or the regulations.

Schedule 3 [6] amends section 47 of the Act to require proceedings for an offence against the Act or the regulations to be instituted within 2 years after the commission of the offence. The amendment re-enacts the similar requirement in section 31A of the current Act.

Schedule 3 [7] inserts a new section 49 in the Act, which gives effect to Schedule 2 containing savings and transitional provisions.

Schedule 3 [8] amends section 53 of the Act to increase the maximum penalty that the regulations may prescribe for an offence under the regulations from 10 penalty units (currently, \$1,100) to 20 penalty units (currently, \$2,200).

Schedule 3 [9] amends section 53 of the Act to enable the regulations to apply, adopt or incorporate (with or without modification) any publication as in force at a particular time or from time to time. Section 37 (2A) of the current Act contains a similar power.

Schedule 3 [10] inserts a new Schedule 2 in the Act containing provisions of a savings or transitional nature, including a provision to enable the regulations to make provision for matters of a savings or transitional nature consequent on the amendment of the Act.

Electricity (Consumer Safety) Bill 2003

Explanatory note

Schedule 4 Consequential amendment of other Acts and Regulations

Schedule 4 makes amendments to certain other Acts and Regulations that are consequential on the enactment of the proposed Act.



New South Wales

Electricity (Consumer Safety) Bill 2003

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New South Wales

Electricity (Consumer Safety) Bill 2003

No. , 2003

A Bill for

An Act to make provision with respect to electricity safety; to repeal the *Electricity Safety Act 1945*; to make consequential amendments to various other Acts and Regulations; and for other purposes.

The Legislature of New South Wales enacts: 1

Part 1 Preliminary 2

1 Name of Act 3

This Act is the *Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2003*. 4

2 Commencement 5

(1) This Act commences on a day or days to be appointed by proclamation, except as provided by this section. 6
7

(2) Schedule 4.1 and 4.11 [1] commence on the commencement of section 42 or the commencement of Division 4 of Part 5 of the *Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act 2002*, whichever is the later. 8
9
10
11

(3) Schedule 4.4 and 4.11 [2] commence on the commencement of Schedule 2 [4] or the commencement of Division 4 of Part 5 of the *Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act 2002*, whichever is the later. 12
13
14
15

3 Definitions (cf 1946 No 13, ss 4, 4A, 20 and 27D) 16

(1) In this Act: 17

acquisition guarantee—see section 17 (2). 18

acquisition guarantor—see section 17 (1). 19

authorised electrician means a person who is authorised under the *Home Building Act 1989* to do electrical wiring work. 20
21

authorised officer means: 22

(a) any investigator, or 23

(b) any other person appointed under section 39 by the Director-General as an authorised officer for the purposes of the provision in which the expression is used. 24
25
26

class specification for an electrical article—see section 7. 27

declared electrical article—see section 5 (1). 28

Departmental staff member means a member of staff of the Department of Commerce. 29
30

Director-General has the same meaning as it has in the *Fair Trading Act 1987*. 31
32

electrical article means any appliance, wire, fitting, cable, conduit, meter, insulator, apparatus, material or other electrical equipment intended or designed for use in, or for the purposes of, or for connection to, any electrical installation.

electrical installation means any fixed appliances, wires, fittings, apparatus or other electrical equipment used for (or for purposes incidental to) the conveyance, control and use of electricity in a particular place, but does not include any of the following:

- (a) subject to any regulation made under subsection (4)—any electrical equipment used, or intended for use, in the generation, transmission or distribution of electricity that is:
 - (i) owned or used by an electricity supply authority, or
 - (ii) located in a place that is owned or occupied by such an authority,
- (b) any electrical article connected to, and extending or situated beyond, any electrical outlet socket,
- (c) any electrical equipment in or about a mine,
- (d) any electrical equipment operating at not more than 50 volts alternating current or 120 volts ripple-free direct current,
- (e) any other electrical equipment, or class of electrical equipment, prescribed by the regulations.

electrical wiring work means the actual physical work of installing, repairing, altering, removing or adding to an electrical installation or the supervising of that work.

electricity supply authority means a person or body engaged in the distribution of electricity to the public or in the generation of electricity for supply, directly or indirectly, to the public whether by statute, franchise agreement or otherwise and includes:

- (a) an energy services corporation within the meaning of the *Energy Services Corporations Act 1995*, and
- (b) the Rail Infrastructure Corporation constituted by the *Transport Administration Act 1988*, and
- (c) the Water Administration Ministerial Corporation constituted by the *Water Management Act 2000*.

exercise a function includes perform a duty.

function includes power, authority or duty.

<i>health care professional</i> means a person registered under a health registration Act within the meaning of the <i>Health Care Complaints Act 1993</i> .	1 2 3
<i>investigator</i> means a person appointed as an investigator under section 18 of the <i>Fair Trading Act 1987</i> .	4 5
<i>mark</i> includes label.	6
<i>model</i> of electrical article—see section 8 (2).	7
<i>model approval</i> means an approval for a model of electrical article given by the Director-General under section 11.	8 9
<i>model approval holder</i> , in relation to a model approval, means the person to whom the model approval has been given.	10 11
<i>model specification</i> for an electrical article—see section 8 (1).	12
<i>process commencing proceedings for an offence</i> includes:	13
(a) in the case of proceedings for an offence commenced in a Local Court—a court attendance notice issued under the <i>Criminal Procedure Act 1986</i> in respect of the person alleged to have committed the offence, and	14 15 16 17
(b) in the case of proceedings for an offence commenced in the Supreme Court in its summary jurisdiction—an application for an order under section 246 of the <i>Criminal Procedure Act 1986</i> in respect of the person alleged to have committed the offence.	18 19 20 21 22
<i>recognised external approval scheme</i> means any scheme for the approval or certification of models of electrical articles that is declared under section 15 to be a recognised external approval scheme for the purposes of Part 2.	23 24 25 26
<i>relevant authority</i> , in relation to a State (other than New South Wales) or a Territory, means the authority prescribed by the regulations as the relevant authority for the other State or the Territory.	27 28 29 30
<i>sell</i> includes:	31
(a) auction or exchange, and	32
(b) offer, agree or attempt to sell, and	33
(c) advertise, expose, send, forward or deliver for sale, and	34
(d) cause or permit to be sold or offered for sale, and	35
(e) hire or cause to be hired, and	36

-
- (f) display for sale or hire. 1
- serious electrical accident** means an accident: 2
- (a) in which an electrical article or electrical installation is 3
involved, and 4
- (b) as a consequence of which a person dies or suffers permanent 5
disability, is hospitalised, receives treatment from a health 6
care professional or is unable to attend work for any period of 7
time, 8
- but does not include an accident in which only electricity works 9
(within the meaning of the *Electricity Supply Act 1995*) are 10
involved. 11
- specification** includes (but is not limited to): 12
- (a) a standard, code, rule, testing requirement or other 13
specification approved, recommended, adopted or published 14
by Standards Australia, and 15
- (b) a standard, code, rule, testing requirement or other 16
specification described in, or prescribed by, the regulations. 17
- (2) For the purposes of this Act, **place** includes land (whether or not 18
covered with water), premises, buildings and other structures. 19
- (3) For the purposes of this Act, a person or thing is **in a place** if the 20
person or thing is located in, on, over or under the place. 21
- (4) The regulations may make provision for when electrical equipment 22
(or any part of electrical equipment) of the kind referred to in 23
paragraph (a) of the definition of **electrical installation** in 24
subsection (1) is taken to form part of an electrical installation in a 25
place for the purposes of that definition. 26
- (5) Notes included in the text of this Act do not form part of this Act. 27
- Note.** For the purposes of comparison, a number of provisions of this Act 28
contain bracketed notes in headings drawing attention ("cf") to equivalent or 29
comparable (though not necessarily identical) provisions of other Acts. 30
Abbreviations in the notes include: 31
- 1946 No 13: *Electricity Safety Act 1945* (1946 No 13) as in force immediately 32
before the enactment of this Act. 33
- 1987 No 68: *Fair Trading Act 1987* No 68 as in force immediately before the 34
enactment of this Act. 35
-

Clause 4 Electricity (Consumer Safety) Bill 2003

Part 1 Preliminary

4 Act to bind Crown (cf 1946 No 13, s 20 (4))

This Act binds the Crown in right of New South Wales and, in so far as the legislative power of the Parliament of New South Wales permits, the Crown in all its other capacities.

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Part 2	Electrical articles	1
Division 1	Declared electrical articles	2
5	Declared electrical articles (cf 1946 No 13, s 21)	3
(1)	A <i>declared electrical article</i> is an electrical article that belongs to a class of electrical articles that is the subject of an order under this section.	4 5 6
(2)	The Director-General may, by order published in the Gazette, declare:	7 8
(a)	electrical articles of a class described in the order to be, on and from a date specified in the order, declared electrical articles for the purposes of this Part, and	9 10 11
(b)	the specifications that are applicable to electrical articles of that class.	12 13
(3)	An order under this section may declare a specification modified as stated in the order to be applicable to electrical articles of the class to which the order relates.	14 15 16
6	Declared electrical articles displayed for advertising to be treated as being displayed for sale (cf 1946 No 13, s 20 (2) (b))	17 18
	For the purposes of this Part, a declared electrical article that is displayed for the purpose of advertising, or otherwise in connection with, the sale of other declared electrical articles of the same class, is to be treated as being displayed for sale.	19 20 21 22
Division 2	Specifications for electrical articles	23
7	Class specifications for electrical articles (cf 1946 No 13, s 20 (1))	24
	A <i>class specification</i> for an electrical article is:	25
(a)	a specification for the time being declared by an order under section 5 to be applicable to articles of the class to which the article belongs, or	26 27 28
(b)	where any such specification is declared by the order to be modified in its application to those articles, the specification as so modified,	29 30 31
	except so much, if any, of the specification, or of the specification as so modified, as is inconsistent with a model specification for the article.	32 33 34

8 Model specifications for electrical articles (cf 1946 No 13, s 20 (1) and (2) (a))	1
(1) A <i>model specification</i> for an electrical article is a specification, or modified specification, that the Director-General has determined under section 11 (1) (c) to be applicable to electrical articles of the model to which the article belongs.	2 3 4 5
(2) A reference in this Part to a <i>model</i> of electrical article is a reference to each electrical article of the same design, material and construction.	6 7 8
9 Compliance with class and model specifications (cf 1946 No 13, s 20 (3))	9
If a class specification or a model specification for an electrical article requires the article or any part of the article:	10 11
(a) to have been submitted to a specified test, and	12
(b) to have complied with a standard relating to the test,	13
the article is, for the purposes of this Part (other than section 11 (1) (b) or (c)), to be treated as complying with the requirement if the article or part would comply with the standard if it were to be submitted to the test.	14 15 16 17
Division 3 Information concerning electrical articles	18
10 Publication of information concerning declared electrical articles and specifications	19 20
(1) The Director-General is to publish details of the following matters on an Internet website or by such other printed or electronic means as the Director-General considers appropriate:	21 22 23
(a) the classes of electrical articles that are currently declared under section 5 (2),	24 25
(b) any class specifications for electrical articles that are currently in force.	26 27
(2) A failure to comply with subsection (1) does not invalidate any order made under this Part.	28 29

Division 4	Model approvals for electrical articles	1
11	Approval of model of electrical article (cf 1946 No 13, s 21C (1)–(5))	2
(1)	The Director-General may, by order in writing, approve any model of electrical article (whether or not a declared electrical article) if:	3
(a)	an application for the approval is made in accordance with the regulations, and	4
(b)	in the case of a model of electrical article that is a declared electrical article—the Director-General is satisfied that an article of that model complies with any class specification for that article, and	5
(c)	the Director-General is satisfied that the model of electrical article complies with any other specification (other than a class specification) that the Director-General has determined should be applicable, or applicable in a modified form, to that model of electrical article.	6
	Note. If the Director-General determines a model specification under paragraph (c), section 7 provides that a class specification for an electrical article of that particular model will be taken not to include anything that is inconsistent with that model specification.	7
(2)	The Director-General may refuse to approve a model of electrical article unless an electrical article of that model has been lodged with the Director-General for testing or inspection.	8
(3)	The Director-General may approve a model of electrical article subject to it complying with a model specification.	9
(4)	If the Director-General approves a model of electrical article under this section, the Director-General must, by written notice given to the applicant for the approval, immediately provide the applicant with the following particulars:	10
(a)	the name of the model approval holder,	11
(b)	a description of the model,	12
(c)	the fact that the Director-General has approved the model,	13
(d)	the date of the approval,	14
(e)	the duration of the approval,	15
(f)	the mark (if any) approved by the Director-General for articles of the model,	16
(g)	such other particulars as the Director-General considers appropriate or that are prescribed by the regulations.	17

-
- (5) If the Director-General is not satisfied that a model of electrical article should be approved, the Director-General must, by written notice given to the applicant for the approval, inform the applicant within 21 days of the refusal:
- (a) that the Director-General has refused the application for approval, and
 - (b) of the reasons for refusing the application.

12 Duration of model approvals

- (1) A model approval remains in force for the period specified by the Director-General in the approval (not exceeding 5 years), subject to any cancellation or suspension of the approval or any extension or renewal of the approval in accordance with the regulations.
- (2) A model approval is not invalidated only because any specification applicable to electrical articles of that model has changed since the approval was given.
- (3) Nothing in subsection (2) requires the Director-General to approve, or renew or extend a model approval for, a model of electrical article that does not comply with a relevant class or model specification as in force at the time the approval is sought.

13 Suspensions and cancellations of model approvals (cf 1946 No 13, s 21C (7) and (8))

- (1) The Director-General may, by written notice given to the model approval holder:
- (a) suspend the model approval for a period not exceeding 90 days, or
 - (b) cancel the model approval.
- (2) The Director-General may suspend or cancel a model approval only on one or more of the following grounds:
- (a) an electrical article of the model is found by the Director-General not to comply with any one or more of the following:
 - (i) the class specifications for an electrical article of that model,
 - (ii) the model specifications for electrical articles of that model,
 - (iii) any specifications or requirements prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of section 16 (1) (c) (iii) or (iv) for an electrical article of that model,

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| (b) | electrical articles of the model are unsafe by reason of their design or construction, | 1
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| (c) | the model approval holder gives the Director-General a written request for the suspension or cancellation, | 3
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| (d) | any other ground that may be prescribed by the regulations. | 5 |
| (3) | A written notice suspending or cancelling a model approval must set out the following matters: | 6
7 |
| (a) | the name of the model approval holder, | 8 |
| (b) | the reasons for the suspension or cancellation, | 9 |
| (c) | a description of the model, | 10 |
| (d) | the mark (if any) approved by the Director-General for the model of electrical article, | 11
12 |
| (e) | the date of the suspension or cancellation of the approval, | 13 |
| (f) | in the case of a suspension, the period of suspension, | 14 |
| (g) | in the case of a suspension, the remedial action (if any) necessary before the suspension is lifted, | 15
16 |
| (h) | such other matters as the Director-General considers appropriate or that are prescribed by the regulations. | 17
18 |
| 14 | Review of certain model approval decisions by Administrative Decisions Tribunal (cf 1946 No 13, s 21C (6) and (9)) | 19
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| (1) | A person whose application for a model approval has been refused by the Director-General may apply to the Administrative Decisions Tribunal for a review of that refusal. | 21
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23 |
| (2) | A model approval holder may apply to the Administrative Decisions Tribunal for a review of a decision of the Director-General suspending or cancelling the model approval given to the holder. | 24
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| (3) | For the purposes of an application under subsection (1), an application for a model approval is taken to have been refused if it is not determined by the Director-General: | 27
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29 |
| (a) | except as provided by paragraph (b)—within 60 days after the date on which the application was lodged with the Director-General, or | 30
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32 |
| (b) | if the applicant and the Director-General agree on a longer period—within the longer agreed period after the date on which the application was lodged with the Director-General. | 33
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Division 5 Recognised external approval schemes 1

15 Recognised external approval schemes (cf 1946 No 13, ss 21A (1) (a) (iii) and 21D (1) (a) and (2) (b) (i)) 2

(1) The Minister may, by order published in the Gazette, declare any scheme for the approval or certification of models of electrical articles to be a recognised external approval scheme for the purposes of this Part. 3
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(2) The regulations may make provision with respect to the declaration of schemes for the purposes of subsection (1). 7
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Division 6 Sale of electrical articles 9

16 Electrical articles must meet certain standards before they can be sold (cf 1946 No 13, ss 21A and 21DA) 10
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(1) A person must not sell an electrical article if: 12

(a) in the case of a declared electrical article—the article is not of: 13

(i) a model of electrical article that has a model approval, or 14
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(ii) a class, description or model that has been approved or registered by the relevant authority for another State or a Territory, or 16
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(iii) a model of electrical article that has been approved or certified under a recognised external approval scheme (being an approval or certification that is evidenced by marking on the article), or 19
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(b) the article is not marked in accordance with the regulations, or 23

(c) the article does not comply with any one or more of the following: 24
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(i) the class specifications (if any) for the article, 26

(ii) the model specifications (if any) for the article, 27

(iii) any other specifications prescribed by the regulations (if any) for the article, 28
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(iv) any other requirements prescribed by the regulations (if any) for the article. 30
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Maximum penalty: 32

(a) in the case of a second or subsequent offence by a corporation—7,500 penalty units, or 33
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- (b) in the case of a first offence by a corporation—5,000 penalty units, or 1
 - (c) in the case of a second or subsequent offence by an individual—750 penalty units or imprisonment for 2 years, or both, or 2
 - (d) in the case of a first offence by an individual—500 penalty units. 3
- (2) The Director-General may, by order in writing and subject to such conditions, if any, as are specified in the order, exempt a person or persons of a specified class from the operation of any or all of the provisions of subsection (1). 4

Division 7 Acquisition guarantees 5

17 Acquisition guarantor and guarantees (cf 1946 No 13, s 21D (2)) 6

- (1) An *acquisition guarantor* is a person who gives an acquisition guarantee. 7
- (2) A guarantee is an *acquisition guarantee* in respect of an electrical article for the purposes of the prosecution of an offence only if: 8
 - (a) the guarantee is in writing, and 9
 - (b) the matters guaranteed are that, when the guarantee is given: 10
 - (i) if the electrical article is a declared electrical article—the model of the article has a model approval or has been approved or certified under a recognised external approval scheme or the article is of a class, description or model approved or registered by a relevant authority for another State or a Territory, and 11
 - (ii) the electrical article complies with the class specifications (if any), the model specifications (if any) and any other specifications or requirements (if any) for the article prescribed by the regulations, and 12
 - (iii) the electrical article is marked as prescribed by the regulations, and 13
 - (c) the guarantor is: 14
 - (i) an individual who resides in New South Wales, or 15
 - (ii) a corporation that has a place of business within New South Wales, and 16

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- (d) the guarantee specifies the name of the guarantor and: 1
- (i) in the case of a guarantor who is an individual and who 2
resides within the State—the address of the guarantor 3
and of the place of business of the guarantor, or 4
 - (ii) in the case of a guarantor that is a corporation—an 5
address of a place of business of the guarantor within 6
New South Wales, and 7
- (e) the guarantee applies: 8
- (i) generally to electrical articles of the particular model to 9
which the prosecution relates, or 10
 - (ii) to the specific electrical article to which the prosecution 11
relates and refers to a sale note, bill of sale, invoice, bill 12
of lading or other document describing the electrical 13
article sold and the marking on it, and 14
- (f) the guarantee complies with any other requirements 15
prescribed by the regulations. 16
- 18 Acquisition guarantee may be defence to certain offences** (cf 1946 No 17
13, s 21D (1), (3) and (4))
- (1) Subject to this section, proceedings against a person for an offence 18
under section 16 (1) are to be dismissed if it is proved that: 19
- (a) the defendant received an acquisition guarantee in respect of 20
the electrical article to which the offence relates from the 21
person from whom the defendant obtained the electrical 22
article, and 23
 - (b) the defendant had no reason to believe that, at the time of the 24
alleged offence: 25
 - (i) if the electrical article was a declared electrical 26
article—the model of the article did not have a model 27
approval or had not been approved or certified under a 28
recognised external approval scheme or the article was 29
not of a class, description or model approved or 30
registered by a relevant authority for another State or a 31
Territory, and 32
 - (ii) the electrical article was not marked as prescribed by 33
the regulations, and 34
 - (iii) the electrical article did not comply with the class 35
specifications (if any), the model specifications (if any) 36
and the other specifications or requirements (if any) for 37
the article prescribed by the regulations. 38

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- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply unless, not later than 7 days after service on the defendant of the process commencing proceedings for the offence:
- (a) the defendant has given a written notice to the prosecutor of the defendant's intention to rely on an acquisition guarantee and the notice specifies the following:
 - (i) the name of the acquisition guarantor,
 - (ii) any name under which the acquisition guarantor trades,
 - (iii) the address referred to in section 17 (2) (d) in relation to the acquisition guarantor, and
 - (b) the defendant has given a written notice to the acquisition guarantor of the defendant's intention to rely on the guarantee, and
 - (c) the defendant has given the prosecutor a copy of the guarantee.
- (3) An acquisition guarantor given notice under subsection (2) is entitled to offer evidence at the hearing of the proceedings to which the notice relates and the court may, if it thinks fit, adjourn the hearing to enable the guarantor to do so.
- 19 Acquisition guarantor may be convicted of offence if proceedings against defendant dismissed** (cf 1946 No 13, s 21D (5))
- (1) If an offence is proved under section 16 (1) but the proceedings are dismissed under section 18, the acquisition guarantor is liable to the same penalty as could have been imposed if the offence to which the proceedings relate had been committed by the guarantor.
 - (2) Subsection (1) does not apply if the acquisition guarantor proves that, when the acquisition guarantee was given, the guarantor had reasonable grounds for believing that the statements and descriptions contained in the acquisition guarantee were true.
 - (3) Nothing in this section affects the liability of an acquisition guarantor to be prosecuted for an offence against section 20.

20	Person must not give false acquisition guarantee (cf 1946 No 13, s 21D (6) and (7))	1
(1)	A person must not make a false statement or give a false description in relation to an electrical article or model of electrical article in any acquisition guarantee, or purported acquisition guarantee, given by the person.	2 3 4 5
	Maximum penalty: 500 penalty units (in the case of a corporation) and 150 penalty units (in any other case).	6 7
(2)	It is a defence to the prosecution of an offence against subsection (1) if the defendant proves that, when the defendant gave the guarantee, the defendant had reasonable grounds for believing that the statements and descriptions contained in the guarantee were true.	8 9 10 11
Division 8	Unsafe electrical articles	12
21	Prohibition of the sale of unsafe electrical articles (cf 1946 No 13, s 21E (2) and (4))	13
(1)	The Director-General may, by a notice published in the Gazette, prohibit the sale of an electrical article or electrical articles of a particular model from the date of the publication of the notice in the Gazette or such later date as may be specified in the notice.	14 15 16 17
(2)	The Director-General may, by written notice served on any person, prohibit the person from selling an electrical article or any electrical article of a particular model specified in the notice from the date on which the notice is so served or such later date as may be specified in the notice.	18 19 20 21 22
(3)	The Director-General may issue a notice under this section prohibiting the sale of an electrical article or electrical articles of a particular model only if the Director-General believes on reasonable grounds that:	23 24 25 26
(a)	the electrical article or model of electrical article is, or is likely to become, by reason of its design or construction, unsafe to use, and	27 28 29
(b)	prohibiting the sale of the electrical article, or electrical articles of that model, is warranted by reason of the risk of death or injury to any person or damage to any property arising out of the use of that article or those articles.	30 31 32 33

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- (4) A notice issued under this section prohibiting the sale of an electrical article or electrical articles of a particular model may be revoked by the Minister or Director-General:
- (a) in the case of a notice issued under subsection (1)—by notice published in the Gazette, or
 - (b) in the case of a notice issued under subsection (2)—by notice served on the person or persons to whom the original notice was directed.
- (5) The Director-General must publish copies of any notice issued under subsection (1), or any notice of revocation issued under subsection (4) (a), in such newspapers as may be prescribed by the regulations.
- (6) A failure to comply with subsection (5) does not invalidate any notice or revocation of a notice under this section.
- 22 Requiring action to be taken by seller of unsafe electrical articles** (cf 1946 No 13, s 21E (3) and (5))
- (1) The Director-General may, by written notice served on any person (the *seller*) whose business is or includes the sale of electrical articles and who has sold an electrical article or electrical articles of a particular model, require the seller to take such action within such time as is specified in the notice if the Director-General believes on reasonable grounds that:
- (a) the electrical article or model of electrical article is, or is likely to become, by reason of its design or construction, unsafe to use, and
 - (b) specific action is necessary to make the electrical article or electrical articles of that model safe to use or to render safe the use of that article or those articles.
- (2) Action that may be specified for the purposes of a notice under subsection (1) may consist of or include:
- (a) sending a written request to a person to whom the electrical article or any other electrical article of the same model was sold by the seller to return the article to the place at which the article was sold, and
 - (b) making the electrical article safe to use or rendering safe the use of that article, in the manner specified in the notice.

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- (3) If a seller is required to take action in a notice issued under this section, the Director-General or the Minister may (whether or not on application of the seller), alter the requirements of the notice or revoke the notice by further written notice served on the seller.

23 Requiring evidence of safety of electrical articles

If the Director-General believes on reasonable grounds that an electrical article or model of electrical article is, or is likely to become, by reason of its design or construction, unsafe to use, the Director-General may, by written notice served on any person who sells such electrical articles or electrical articles of that model, require the person:

- (a) to carry out such testing of the safety of the article or model as is specified in the notice, and
- (b) to provide such other evidence concerning the safety of the article or model as may be specified in the notice.

24 Persons must comply with notices issued under this Division (cf 1946 No 13, s 21E (6), (7) and (8))

- (1) A person must not sell an electrical article if the sale of that article by the person is prohibited by a notice in force under section 21.

Maximum penalty:

- (a) in the case of a second or subsequent offence by a corporation—7,500 penalty units, or
- (b) in the case of a first offence by a corporation—5,000 penalty units, or
- (c) in the case of a second or subsequent offence by an individual—750 penalty units or imprisonment for 2 years, or both, or
- (d) in the case of a first offence by an individual—500 penalty units.

- (2) A person must comply with any requirement to take action in respect of an electrical article or model of electrical article made of the person under a notice in force under section 22.

Maximum penalty:

- (a) in the case of a second or subsequent offence by a corporation—7,500 penalty units, or
- (b) in the case of a first offence by a corporation—5,000 penalty units, or

(c)	in the case of a second or subsequent offence by an individual—750 penalty units or imprisonment for 2 years, or both, or	1 2 3
(d)	in the case of a first offence by an individual—500 penalty units.	4 5
(3)	A person must comply with any requirement to test or provide evidence in respect of an electrical article or model of electrical article under a notice in force under section 23.	6 7 8
	Maximum penalty:	9
(a)	in the case of a second or subsequent offence by a corporation—7,500 penalty units, or	10 11
(b)	in the case of a first offence by a corporation—5,000 penalty units, or	12 13
(c)	in the case of a second or subsequent offence by an individual—750 penalty units or imprisonment for 2 years, or both, or	14 15 16
(d)	in the case of a first offence by an individual—500 penalty units.	17 18
(4)	A person is not guilty of an offence against this section if the person satisfies the court that the person had reasonable grounds for breaching or failing to comply with the prohibition or requirement to which the alleged offence relates.	19 20 21 22
25	Effect of Division on Fair Trading Act 1987 (cf 1946 No 13, s 21E (11))	23
	The provisions of this Division are in addition to, and not in derogation of, any provision of the <i>Fair Trading Act 1987</i> or any regulation made under that Act.	24 25 26
Division 9	Investigation powers	27
26	Powers of authorised officers (cf 1946 No 13, s 21F (2); 1987 No 68, s 19 (4))	28
(1)	An authorised officer may, at any reasonable time, enter any place that the officer suspects on reasonable grounds to be a place in which the manufacture or sale of electrical articles is being, or may be, carried on and may:	29 30 31 32
(a)	inspect and test any electrical article or prototype of an electrical article, and	33 34
(b)	inspect any manufacturing assembly or testing plant or equipment used in respect of any electrical article, and	35 36

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- (c) open any container or package which the authorised officer has reasonable grounds to believe contains any electrical article or require the person having the custody, control or possession of the container or package to open it, and 1
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- (d) seize, detain or remove, for the purpose of examination or testing, any electrical article or any container or package in which an electrical article is contained or has been contained, if the authorised officer has reasonable cause to believe that: 5
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- (i) an offence has been committed against this Act or the regulations in respect of the electrical article, or 9
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- (ii) the electrical article is or is likely to become unsafe, and 11
- (e) require any person in the place to produce any accounts, records, books or other documents in the possession or under the control of that person relating to the manufacture or sale of any electrical article in the place, and 12
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- (f) take copies of, or extracts or notes from, any such accounts, records, books or other documents, and 16
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- (g) require any person in the place to answer questions or otherwise furnish information relating to the manufacture or sale of electrical articles in the place where the articles are in the possession or under the control of that person, and 18
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- (h) require the owner or occupier of the place to provide the authorised officer with such assistance and facilities as are reasonably necessary to enable the authorised officer to exercise the functions of the authorised officer. 22
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- (2) If the Director-General believes on reasonable grounds that there are in any place documents evidencing conduct in connection with an electrical article in contravention of this Act or the regulations, an authorised officer may, with the written authority of the Director-General, enter the place, inspect any documents and make copies of them or take extracts from them. 26
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- (3) An authorised officer may not exercise the authorised officer's functions under this section in relation to a part of any premises being used for residential purposes except: 32
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- (a) with the permission of the occupier of that part of the premises, or 35
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- (b) under the authority conferred by a search warrant issued under this Act. 37
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- Note.** Section 42 enables authorised officers to obtain search warrants to search residential premises in certain circumstances. 39
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27	Prohibition of the sale of certain electrical articles and the labelling of such articles (cf 1946 No 13, s 21F (3), (4), (5) and (7))	1 2
(1)	An authorised officer may, if the officer believes on reasonable grounds that an electrical article or more than one electrical article of a particular model is, or is likely to become, unsafe:	3 4 5
(a)	by written notice served on the person having the custody, control or possession of the electrical article or of electrical articles of that model, prohibit the sale by that person of the electrical article or of all electrical articles of that model, and	6 7 8 9
(b)	affix in some conspicuous position on the electrical article or each of the electrical articles (as the case may be) or on any container or package that contains such an article, a label indicating that the electrical article is to be considered dangerous and must not be sold or used until specified repairs necessary to make the electrical article safe to use have been effected by the person having the custody, possession or control of the electrical article.	10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17
(2)	A notice issued under this section ceases to have effect after the expiration of 2 weeks from the date on which it is issued unless within that period the Director-General has:	18 19 20
(a)	confirmed or varied the terms of the notice under this section, or	21 22
(b)	revoked the notice under this section.	23
(3)	For the purposes of subsection (2), the Director-General may, at any time, by a further written notice served on the person to whom a notice under subsection (1) was originally issued, confirm or vary the terms of, or revoke, the original notice.	24 25 26 27
(4)	A person must not:	28
(a)	sell an electrical article in contravention of a notice in force under this section, or	29 30
(b)	remove or alter a label affixed to an electrical article or a container or package under this section unless directed to do so by an authorised officer.	31 32 33
	Maximum penalty (subsection (4)):	34
(a)	in the case of a second or subsequent offence by a corporation—7,500 penalty units, or	35 36
(b)	in the case of a first offence by a corporation—5,000 penalty units, or	37 38

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- (c) in the case of a second or subsequent offence by an individual—750 penalty units or imprisonment for 2 years, or both, or 1
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 - (d) in the case of a first offence by an individual—500 penalty units. 4
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Division 10 Seizure and forfeiture of electrical articles 6

28 Return of seized electrical articles (cf 1946 No 13, s 21F (11)) 7

- (1) If an electrical article is seized under section 26 (1) (d) (a *seized article*), the Director-General must, no later than 60 days (or such greater period as may be prescribed by the regulations) after the seizure, return the seized article to the person from whom it was seized unless: 8
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 - (a) the Director-General has, within that period, determined that the article is unsafe and brought proceedings under section 29 for the forfeiture of the article, or 13
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 - (b) proceedings are brought within that period against the person or any other person in connection with the article for an offence against this Act or the regulations. 16
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- (2) The Director-General must provide compensation, determined in accordance with the regulations, for the seized article if: 19
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 - (a) the Director-General does not find the article to be unsafe, or bring proceedings for the forfeiture of the article, within the period referred to in subsection (1), or 21
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 - (b) proceedings for an offence against this Act or the regulations are not brought within the period referred to in subsection (1) against a person in connection with the article. 24
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26
- (3) If proceedings are brought within the period referred to in subsection (1) against a person in connection with a seized article for an offence against this Act or the regulations: 27
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 - (a) the Director-General may retain the article until the proceedings are finally determined, and 30
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 - (b) the Director-General must immediately return the article to the person from whom it was seized if the defendant in the proceedings is acquitted of the offence. 32
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- 29 Forfeiture of certain electrical articles** (cf 1946 No 13, s 21G) 1
- (1) The Director-General may apply, in the manner prescribed by the 2
regulations, to a Local Court for the forfeiture of an electrical article 3
to the Crown if: 4
- (a) the Director-General determines that an electrical article 5
seized under section 26 (1) (d) is unsafe, or 6
- (b) a court has found a person guilty of an offence against this Act 7
or the regulations in connection with the article. 8
- (2) On the making of an order by a Local Court for the forfeiture of an 9
electrical article, the electrical article is forfeited to the Crown. 10
- (3) Any electrical article forfeited to the Crown may be disposed of as 11
the Director-General directs. 12

Part 3 Electrical installations 1

30 Inspection of electrical installations (cf 1946 No 13, s 25 (1) and (4); 1987 No 68, s 19 (4)) 2

(1) An authorised officer may enter any place at any reasonable time for the purpose of inspecting any electrical installation in the place. 3
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(2) An authorised officer may require: 5

(a) any person who claims to be an authorised electrician to produce for inspection by the authorised officer, within such time as the authorised officer specifies, the person's licence or other authority to do electrical wiring work, or 6
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(b) any person who appears to the authorised officer to be doing electrical wiring work to satisfy the authorised officer, within such time as the authorised officer specifies, that the person is not prohibited under the *Home Building Act 1989* from doing that electrical wiring work. 10
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(3) If the Director-General believes on reasonable grounds that there are in any place documents evidencing conduct in connection with an electrical installation in contravention of this Act or the regulations, an authorised officer may, with the written authority of the Director-General, enter the place, inspect any documents and make copies of them or take extracts from them. 15
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(4) An authorised officer may not exercise the authorised officer's functions under this section in relation to a part of any premises being used for residential purposes except: 21
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(a) with the permission of the occupier of that part of the premises, or 24
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(b) under the authority conferred by a search warrant issued under this Act. 26
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Note. Section 42 enables authorised officers to obtain search warrants to search residential premises in certain circumstances. 28
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31 Electrical installation work to comply with regulations 30

(1) A person must carry out electrical installation work in accordance with such standards or requirements as may be prescribed by the regulations. 31
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Maximum penalty: 34

(a) in the case of a second or subsequent offence by a corporation—7,500 penalty units, or 35
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(b)	in the case of a first offence by a corporation—5,000 penalty units, or	1 2
(c)	in the case of a second or subsequent offence by an individual—750 penalty units or imprisonment for 2 years, or both, or	3 4 5
(d)	in the case of a first offence by an individual—500 penalty units.	6 7
(2)	In this section:	8
	<i>electrical installation work</i> means the work of installing, adding to, altering, disconnecting, reconnecting or replacing an electrical installation.	9 10 11
32	Responsibilities of persons concerning the safety of electrical installations (cf 1946 No 13, s 29)	12 13
(1)	A responsible person for an electrical installation in a place must, to the best of the person's ability and knowledge, ensure that such parts of the electrical installation as may be prescribed by the regulations are maintained in accordance with the regulations while the electrical installation remains connected to the source of the supply of electricity.	14 15 16 17 18 19
	Maximum penalty: 500 penalty units (in the case of a corporation) and 150 penalty units (in any other case).	20 21
(2)	A responsible person for an electrical installation in a place must not connect the electrical installation or any part of it, or cause the installation or any part of it to be connected, to the source of supply of electricity if the installation has been lawfully disconnected for reasons of safety until the installation has been made safe.	22 23 24 25 26
	Maximum penalty: 500 penalty units (in the case of a corporation) and 150 penalty units (in any other case).	27 28
(3)	In this section, <i>responsible person</i> , in relation to an electrical installation in a place, means:	29 30
(a)	the occupier of the place, or	31
(b)	if there is no occupier, any owner of the place.	32

Part 4	Accident reporting and investigations	1
33	Notification of serious electrical accidents (cf 1946 No 13, s 27E)	2
(1)	A serious electrical accident must be notified in accordance with subsection (2) to the Director-General by:	3
	(a) except as provided by paragraph (b), the occupier of the place at which the accident occurred, or	4
	(b) such other person as is prescribed by the regulations.	5
	Maximum penalty: 5 penalty units (where the place at which the accident occurred is residential premises) and 100 penalty units (in any other case).	6
(2)	A notice of an accident must be given within 7 days after the accident in such manner as may be prescribed by the regulations.	7
(3)	The regulations may exclude a person, or a person belonging to a class of persons, prescribed by the regulations from any requirement under this section to notify the Director-General of a serious electrical accident.	8
34	Investigation of serious electrical accidents (cf 1946 No 13, s 27G)	9
	The Director-General may arrange for an authorised officer to investigate and report to the Director-General concerning a serious electrical accident, whether or not notice of the accident is given to the Director-General.	10
35	Powers of authorised officers (cf 1946 No 13, s 27H; 1987 No 68, s 19 (4))	11
(1)	For the purposes of this Part, an authorised officer may, in any place where a serious electrical accident has or may reasonably be expected to have occurred do any one or more of the following:	12
	(a) enter and inspect the place,	13
	(b) examine and test any electrical article, electrical installation or other electrical equipment,	14
	(c) take photographs,	15
	(d) take for analysis a sample of any substance or thing that in the authorised officer's opinion may relate to the accident,	16
	(e) require any person in the place to produce any record that may be of relevance to the occurrence of the accident,	17
	(f) take copies of, or extracts or notes from, any such record,	18

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- (g) require any person in the place to answer questions or otherwise furnish information relating to the accident, 1
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- (h) require the owner or occupier of the place to provide the authorised officer with such assistance and facilities as are reasonably necessary to enable the authorised officer to exercise the authorised officer's functions under this section. 3
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- (2) If the Director-General believes on reasonable grounds that there are in any place documents evidencing conduct in connection with a serious electrical accident in contravention of this Act or the regulations, an authorised officer may, with the written authority of the Director-General, enter the place, inspect any documents and make copies of them or take extracts from them. 7
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- (3) An authorised officer may not exercise the authorised officer's functions under this section in relation to a part of any premises being used for residential purposes except: 13
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- (a) with the permission of the occupier of that part of the premises, or 16
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- (b) under the authority conferred by a search warrant issued under this Act. 18
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- Note.** Section 42 enables authorised officers to obtain search warrants to search residential premises in certain circumstances. 20
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- 36 Interference with site of serious electrical accident** (cf 1946 No 13, s 27K) 22
- A person must not disturb or interfere with the site of a serious electrical accident before it has been inspected by an authorised officer except: 23
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- (a) to make it safe, or 26
- (b) with the permission of an authorised officer, or 27
- (c) as provided by the regulations. 28
- Maximum penalty: 500 penalty units (in the case of a corporation) and 250 penalty units (in any other case). 29
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- 37 Publication of details of serious electrical accidents** (cf 1946 No 13, s 27L (1)) 31
- The Director-General may publish such details of serious electrical accidents as the Director-General considers necessary in the interests of public information and safety. 32
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38 Arrangements with other public authorities regarding investigable electrical incidents	1
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(1) The Director-General, WorkCover and the Energy Director-General may enter into arrangements regarding any one or more of the following:	3
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(a) matters concerning investigable electrical incidents that the Director-General or the Energy Director-General will refer to WorkCover for investigation or other action under the <i>Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000</i> ,	6
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(b) matters concerning investigable electrical incidents that the Energy Director-General or WorkCover will refer to the Director-General for investigation or other action under this Act,	10
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(c) matters concerning investigable electrical incidents that WorkCover or the Director-General will refer to the Energy Director-General for investigation or other action under the <i>Electricity Supply Act 1995</i> ,	14
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(d) matters concerning an investigable electrical incident that is the subject of investigation or other action by more than one of the following at the same time:	18
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(i) the Director-General,	21
(ii) WorkCover,	22
(iii) the Energy Director-General,	23
(e) the co-operative exercise of the respective functions of the Director-General, WorkCover and the Energy Director-General in respect of investigable electrical incidents.	24
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(2) The Director-General, WorkCover and the Energy Director-General are jointly to cause notice of any arrangements entered into under this section to be published in the Gazette as soon as is practicable after they are entered into. However, a failure to publish any such arrangements does not affect their validity.	27
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(3) A party to an arrangement entered into under this section:	32
(a) may decline, discontinue or defer an investigation or other action in relation to an investigable electrical incident to give effect to the arrangement, and	33
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(b) may disclose any information concerning a matter involving an investigable electrical incident that was duly obtained by that party to another party to the arrangement to which the matter is referred so as to give effect to the arrangement.	36
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- (4) A party to which a matter is referred under an arrangement entered into under this section may investigate or deal with information obtained in respect of the matter referred in order to give effect to the arrangement. 1
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- (5) In this section: 5
- Energy Director-General** means the Director-General within the meaning of the *Electricity Supply Act 1995*. 6
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- investigable electrical incident** means an accident or other incident: 8
- (a) in which electricity is involved, and 9
- (b) as a consequence of which a person dies or suffers permanent disability, is hospitalised, receives treatment from a health care professional or is unable to attend work for any period of time. 10
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- WorkCover** means the WorkCover Authority constituted by the *Workplace Injury Management and Workers Compensation Act 1998*. 14
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Part 5 Enforcement 1

Division 1 Authorised officers 2

39 Authorised officers (cf 1946 No 13, ss 21F (1), (2), (13) and (14), 25 (1) and (9) and 27F) 3

(1) The Director-General may appoint any person (other than an investigator) as an authorised officer for the purposes of any or all of the provisions of this Act or the regulations. 4
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Note. Any investigator under the *Fair Trading Act 1987* is an authorised officer for the purposes of this Act without further need for appointment under this section by reason of paragraph (a) of the definition of **authorised officer** in section 3 (1). 7
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(2) The Director-General may at any time and for any reason revoke a person's appointment under subsection (1). 11
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(3) An authorised officer is to be provided by the Director-General with a certificate of identification. 13
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(4) An authorised officer must, when exercising in any place any function of the authorised officer under this Act or the regulations, produce the officer's certificate of identification to any person apparently in charge of the place who requests its production. 15
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40 Obstruction etc of authorised officers (cf 1946 No 13, ss 21F (6), (8) and (12), 25 (5)–(8) and 27J) 19

(1) A person must not: 20

(a) without reasonable excuse, refuse or fail to comply with any notice given or requirement made, or to answer any question asked, by an authorised officer under this Act or the regulations, or 21
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(b) provide information or give evidence in purported compliance with a requirement made or question asked by an authorised officer under this Act or the regulations knowing the information or evidence to be false or misleading in a material particular, or 25
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(c) wilfully delay, hinder or obstruct an authorised officer in the exercise of the officer's functions under this Act or the regulations, or 30
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(d) falsely represent himself or herself to be an authorised officer. 33

Maximum penalty: 500 penalty units (in the case of a corporation) and 150 penalty units (in any other case). 34
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(2)	If an authorised officer makes a requirement under section 30 (2) (b), of a person who appears to the officer to be doing electrical wiring work, that person is not guilty of the offence of failing to comply with that requirement if it is proved that the person was not actually doing the electrical wiring work.	1 2 3 4 5
(3)	It is a sufficient defence to a prosecution for an offence arising under subsection (1) (a) by reason of the failure of a defendant to answer a question asked by an authorised officer under a power conferred by this Act or the regulations if the defendant satisfies the court that the defendant did not know, and could not with reasonable diligence ascertain, the answer to the question.	6 7 8 9 10 11
(4)	A person cannot be prosecuted for both an offence against this section and an offence against section 23 (Obstruction etc of officers) of the <i>Fair Trading Act 1987</i> in relation to the same act or omission.	12 13 14 15
41	Powers of authorised officers who are investigators under Fair Trading Act 1987 not limited	16 17
	The powers conferred by this Act or the regulations on persons who are authorised officers by reason of being investigators are in addition to, and not in derogation of, the powers conferred on investigators by Division 3 of Part 2 of the <i>Fair Trading Act 1987</i> .	18 19 20 21
Division 2	Search warrants	22
42	Search warrants (cf 1946 No 13, ss 211 and 271)	23
(1)	An authorised officer may apply to an authorised justice for a search warrant in respect of a place if the authorised officer has reasonable grounds for believing that:	24 25 26
(a)	an unsafe electrical installation is in the place, or	27
(b)	a serious electrical accident has occurred in the place, or	28
(c)	a provision of this Act or the regulations has been or is being contravened in the place.	29 30
(2)	An authorised justice to whom an application is made under this section may, if satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for doing so, issue a search warrant authorising the authorised officer named in the warrant:	31 32 33 34
(a)	to enter the place concerned, and	35

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- (b) to search the place for evidence of a contravention of this Act or the regulations. 1
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- (3) Part 3 of the *Search Warrants Act 1985* applies to a search warrant issued under this section. 3
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- (4) In this section, *authorised justice* means an authorised justice within the meaning of the *Search Warrants Act 1985*. 5
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Division 3 Undertakings 7

43 Application of section 73A of Fair Trading Act 1987 to undertakings given for purposes of this Act (cf 1987 No 68, s 73A) 8 9

- (1) Section 73A (Enforcement of undertakings) of the *Fair Trading Act 1987* applies in connection with a matter in relation to which the Director-General has a function under this Act as if the function were a function under the *Fair Trading Act 1987*. 10
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Note. Section 73A of the *Fair Trading Act 1987* enables the Director-General to accept a written undertaking given by a person in connection with a matter in relation to which the Director-General has a function under that Act. Any such undertaking is enforceable by the Supreme Court. 14
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- (2) The costs incurred by the Director-General in taking action under section 73A of the *Fair Trading Act 1987* to enforce an undertaking are recoverable from the person who gave the undertaking, as a debt due to the Crown, in a court of competent jurisdiction. 18
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Division 4 Proceedings for offences 22

44 Limitation on self-incrimination (cf 1946 No 13, s 21F (9)) 23

- (1) A person who is required under this Act or the regulations to answer a question, produce a thing or provide information is not excused from answering the question, producing that thing or providing the information on the ground that the answer to the question, the production of the thing or the provision of the information might tend to incriminate the person or make the person liable to a penalty. 24
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- (2) However, any answer given to a question, thing produced or information provided by a natural person in compliance with a requirement under this Act or the regulations is not admissible in evidence against the person in criminal proceedings (except proceedings for an offence against section 27 (4) or 40 (1)). 30
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45 Corporations (cf 1946 No 13, s 21F (10))	1
(1) If a corporation contravenes, whether by act or omission, any provision of this Act or the regulations, each person who is a director of the corporation or who is concerned in the management of the corporation is taken to have contravened the same provision if the person knowingly authorised or permitted the contravention.	2 3 4 5 6
(2) A person may be proceeded against and convicted under a provision pursuant to subsection (1) whether or not the corporation has been proceeded against or has been convicted under the provision.	7 8 9
(3) If an answer to a question asked by an authorised officer under this Act or the regulations or any information is given to an authorised officer by an officer of a corporation:	10 11 12
(a) the answer and the information are admissible in evidence in any proceedings against the corporation under this Act or the regulations, and	13 14 15
(b) the answer or information is binding on the corporation unless it is proved that the answer or information was given in relation to a matter in respect of which the officer had no authority to bind the corporation.	16 17 18 19
(4) Nothing in subsection (1) or (2) affects any liability imposed on a corporation for an offence committed by the corporation under this Act or the regulations.	20 21 22
46 Evidentiary provisions relating to electrical articles (cf 1946 No 13, s 21H)	23
A certificate purporting to be signed by the Director-General (or any Departmental staff member authorised in writing by the Director-General) to the effect that at any time, or during any period, specified in the certificate:	24 25 26 27
(a) an electrical article was a declared electrical article, or	28
(b) a standard, code, rule, testing requirement or other specification specified or described in the certificate (whether with or without modifications so specified or described) was a class specification or a model specification for a specified model of electrical article, or	29 30 31 32 33
(c) an electrical article described in the certificate was or was not of a particular model that had a model approval or of a class, description or model approved or registered by a relevant authority for another State or a Territory, or	34 35 36 37

(d) a scheme for the approval or certification of models of electrical articles was a recognised external approval scheme, is admissible in any proceedings and is evidence of the matters certified.

47 Penalty notices

- (1) An authorised officer may serve a penalty notice on a person if it appears to the officer that the person has committed an offence against this Act or the regulations, being an offence prescribed by the regulations as a penalty notice offence.
- (2) A penalty notice is a notice to the effect that, if the person served does not wish to have the matter determined by a court, the person can pay, within the time and to the person specified in the notice, the amount of the penalty prescribed by the regulations for the offence if dealt with under this section.
- (3) A penalty notice may be served personally or by post.
- (4) If the amount of penalty prescribed for an alleged offence is paid under this section, no person is liable to any further proceedings for the alleged offence.
- (5) Payment under this section is not to be regarded as an admission of liability for the purpose of, and does not in any way affect or prejudice, any civil claim, action or proceeding arising out of the same occurrence.
- (6) The regulations may:
- (a) prescribe an offence for the purposes of this section by specifying the offence or by referring to the provision creating the offence, and
 - (b) prescribe the amount of penalty payable for the offence if dealt with under this section, and
 - (c) prescribe different amounts of penalties for different offences or classes of offences.
- (7) The amount of penalty prescribed under this section for an offence may not exceed:
- (a) an amount equivalent in value to \$10,000, or
 - (b) the maximum amount of penalty that could be imposed for the offence by a court,
- whichever is the lesser.

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- (8) This section does not limit the operation of any other provision of, or made under, this or any other Act relating to proceedings that may be taken in respect of offences. 1
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- 48 Nature of proceedings for offences** (cf 1946 No 13, s 33) 4
- (1) Proceedings for an offence against this Act or the regulations may be dealt with: 5
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- (a) summarily before a Local Court, or 7
- (b) summarily before the Supreme Court in its summary jurisdiction. 8
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- (2) If proceedings are brought in a Local Court, the maximum monetary penalty that the Local Court may impose for the offence is 200 penalty units, despite any higher maximum monetary penalty provided in respect of the offence. 10
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- 49 Commencement of proceedings** (cf 1946 No 13, ss 21D (8) and 31A) 14
- (1) Proceedings for an offence against this Act or the regulations may be commenced at any time within the period of 2 years after the date on which the offence is alleged to have been committed. 15
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- (2) Proceedings for an offence against this Act or the regulations may also be commenced within the period of 2 years after the date evidence of the offence that is alleged to have been committed first came to the attention of an authorised officer. 18
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- (3) However, nothing in subsection (2) permits the commencement of proceedings if a period of 5 years has elapsed after the date on which the offence is alleged to have been committed. 22
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- (4) If subsection (2) is relied on for the purpose of commencing proceedings for an offence, the process commencing proceedings for the offence must contain particulars of the date on which evidence of the offence first came to the attention of an authorised officer and need not contain particulars of the date on which the offence was committed. The date on which evidence first came to the attention of an authorised officer is the date specified in the process commencing proceedings for the offence, unless the contrary is established. 25
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- (5) This section applies despite anything in the *Criminal Procedure Act 1986* or any other Act. 34
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(6) In this section:

authorised officer means any person who is an authorised officer for the purposes of this Act, whether or not the person has the functions of an authorised officer in connection with the offence concerned.

evidence of an offence means evidence of any act or omission constituting the offence.

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Part 6	Miscellaneous	1
50	Disclosure of information (cf 1946 No 13, s 21K)	2
(1)	Subject to subsection (3), a person must not disclose any information relating to any manufacturing or commercial secrets or working processes obtained by the person in connection with the administration or execution of this Act, unless the disclosure of information is:	3 4 5 6 7
(a)	made in connection with the administration or execution of this Act, or	8 9
(b)	made with the prior permission of the Minister, or	10
(c)	ordered by a court, or by any other body or person authorised by law to examine witnesses, in the course of, and for the purpose of, the hearing and determination by that court, body or person of any matter or thing.	11 12 13 14
	Maximum penalty: 100 penalty units.	15
(2)	The Minister may grant the permission referred to in subsection (1) (b) only if the Minister is satisfied that to do so would be in the public interest.	16 17 18
(3)	A Departmental staff member may, with the consent of the Director-General, communicate any matter which comes to the knowledge of the member of staff in the exercise of the functions of the member of staff under this Act to an officer or body engaged in administering or executing a law of the Commonwealth or of another State or a Territory relating to electrical articles.	19 20 21 22 23 24
51	Exclusion of personal liability (cf 1946 No 13, s 27L (2); 1987 No 68, s 10)	25
	Anything done or omitted to be done by:	26
(a)	the Minister, or a person acting under the direction of the Minister, or	27 28
(b)	the Director-General, or a person acting under the direction of the Director-General, or	29 30
(c)	an authorised officer,	31
	does not subject the Minister, Director-General, person or authorised officer personally to any action, liability, claim or demand if the thing was done, or omitted to be done, in good faith for the purpose of executing this Act.	32 33 34 35

52 Service or giving of documents (cf 1946 No 13, s 21E (9))	1
(1) A document that is authorised or required by this Act or the regulations to be served on, or given to, any person may be served or given by:	2
(a) in the case of a natural person:	3
(i) delivering it to the person personally, or	4
(ii) sending it by post to the address specified by the person for the giving or service of documents or, if no such address is specified, the residential or business address of the person last known to the person giving or serving the document, or	5
(iii) sending it by facsimile transmission to the facsimile number of the person, or	6
(b) in the case of a body corporate:	7
(i) leaving it with a person apparently of or above the age of 16 years at, or by sending it by post to, the head office, a registered office or a principal office of the body corporate or to an address specified by the body corporate for the giving or service of documents, or	8
(ii) sending it by facsimile transmission to the facsimile number of the body corporate.	9
(2) Nothing in this section affects the operation of any provision of a law or of the rules of a court authorising a document to be served on a person in any other manner.	10
53 Provision of documents to Director-General	11
(1) A document may be served on, or given to, or lodged with, the Director-General by leaving it at, or by sending it by post to:	12
(a) the office of the Director-General, or	13
(b) if the Director-General has more than one office, any one of the Director-General's offices.	14
(2) Nothing in subsection (1) affects the operation of any provision of a law or of the rules of a court authorising a document to be served on the Director-General in a manner not provided for by subsection (1).	15
54 Delegation of functions (cf 1946 No 13, s 28)	16
(1) The Minister may delegate to an authorised person any of the functions of the Minister under this Act or the regulations, other than this power of delegation.	17

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- (2) The Director-General may delegate to any other authorised person any of the functions of the Director-General under this Act or the regulations, other than this power of delegation. 1
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- (3) A delegate may sub-delegate to an authorised person any function delegated by the Minister or the Director-General if the delegate is authorised in writing to do so by the Minister or Director-General (as the case may be). 4
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- (4) In this section: 8
- authorised person* means: 9
- (a) a public authority or local authority or a member of staff of a public authority or local authority, or 10
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- (b) a member of staff of a government Department, or 12
- (c) a person of a class prescribed by the regulations. 13
- 55 Regulations** (cf 1946 No 13, s 37) 14
- (1) The Governor may make regulations, not inconsistent with this Act, for or with respect to any matter that by this Act is required or permitted to be prescribed or that is necessary or convenient to be prescribed for carrying out or giving effect to this Act. 15
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- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), regulations may be made for or with respect to any of the following matters: 19
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- (a) standards for electrical articles and for the materials used in the manufacture of electrical articles, 21
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- (b) interference by persons with electrical installations or other electrical equipment, 23
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- (c) the installation of electrical installations or other electrical equipment and the alteration, repair or renewal of such installations or equipment, 25
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- (d) the provision of reports, information, particulars, returns and statistics for the purposes of this Act and the time and mode of furnishing and the manner of verification, 28
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- (e) the constitution, functions and procedures of a committee to advise the Director-General in relation to any matters relating to the approval or sale of electrical articles that may be referred to it by the Director-General, 31
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- (f) the making of applications for the purposes of Part 2 and the fees for any such applications, 35
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- (g) the testing and inspection of electrical articles, 37
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(h) the approval, and the withholding and withdrawal of approval, of electrical articles or models of electrical articles and the renewal of any such approval,	1 2 3
(i) fees for the testing, inspection or approval of electrical articles or of models of electrical articles or for the renewal of any such approval,	4 5 6
(j) the marking of electrical articles and the improper use of such marks,	7 8
(k) guarantees to be given with respect to electrical articles,	9
(l) the disposal, whether by way of sale or otherwise, of electrical articles and the display of electrical articles in connection with any such disposal.	10 11 12
(3) The regulations may create offences punishable by a penalty not exceeding 500 penalty units (in the case of corporations) and 250 penalty units (in any other case).	13 14 15
(4) The regulations may apply, adopt or incorporate (with or without modification) any publication as in force at a particular time or from time to time.	16 17 18
(5) The regulations prevail over regulations made under the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> , to the extent of any inconsistency.	19 20
56 Savings, transitional and other provisions	21
Schedule 1 has effect.	22
57 Repeal of Electricity Safety Act 1945 (1946 No 13)	23
The <i>Electricity Safety Act 1945</i> is repealed.	24
58 Amendment of Acts and Regulations	25
The Acts and Regulations specified in Schedules 2–4 are amended as set out in those Schedules.	26 27
59 Review of Act	28
(1) The Minister is to review this Act to determine whether the policy objectives of the Act remain valid and whether the terms of the Act remain appropriate for securing those objectives.	29 30 31
(2) The review is to be undertaken as soon as possible after the period of 5 years from the date of assent to this Act.	32 33

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- (3) A report on the outcome of the review is to be tabled in each House of Parliament within 12 months after the end of the period of 5 years.

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Schedule 1 Savings, transitional and other provisions	1
(Section 56)	2
Part 1 General	3
1 Regulations	4
(1) The regulations may contain provisions of a savings or transitional nature consequent on the enactment of the following Acts:	5
this Act	6
(2) Any such provision may, if the regulations so provide, take effect from the date of assent to the Act concerned or a later date.	7
(3) To the extent to which any such provision takes effect from a date that is earlier than the date of its publication in the Gazette, the provision does not operate so as:	8
(a) to affect, in a manner prejudicial to any person (other than the State or an authority of the State), the rights of that person existing before the date of its publication, or	9
(b) to impose liabilities on any person (other than the State or an authority of the State) in respect of anything done or omitted to be done before the date of its publication.	10
(4) Regulations made as referred to in subclause (1) may have effect despite the terms of any savings or transitional provisions contained in this Schedule, if the regulations so provide.	11
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Part 2 Provisions consequent on enactment of this Act	22
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Division 1 Interpretation	24
2 Definitions	25
(1) In this Part:	26
<i>new electricity safety legislation</i> means:	27
(a) any provision of this Act (other than Schedules 2–4), and	28
(b) any provision of the <i>Electricity Supply Act 1995</i> inserted in that Act by an amendment made by Schedule 2 to this Act, and	29
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(c) any provision of the <i>Energy Administration Act 1987</i> inserted in that Act by an amendment made by Schedule 3 to this Act.	1 2
repeal date means the date on which the repealed Act is repealed by this Act.	3 4
repealed Act means the <i>Electricity Safety Act 1945</i> as in force immediately before its repeal by this Act.	5 6
(2) For the purposes of this Part:	7
(a) a provision of the new electricity safety legislation corresponds to a provision of the repealed Act if the provision is in the same (or in substantially the same) terms as the provision in the repealed Act, and	8 9 10 11
(b) a function under the new electricity safety legislation corresponds to a function under the repealed Act if the function is the same (or substantially the same) as the function under the repealed Act.	12 13 14 15
Division 2 Continuing operation of repealed Act	16
3 Repealed Act and regulations made under it continue to apply in certain circumstances	17 18
(1) The repealed Act and any regulations, approvals, exemptions, declarations or orders made under that Act continue to apply with respect to the following matters as if this Act had not been enacted:	19 20 21
(a) an offence or alleged offence against the repealed Act or the regulations made under that Act,	22 23
(b) any proceedings for any such offence,	24
(c) any notice given to a distribution network service provider (within the meaning of the <i>Electricity Supply Act 1995</i>) under section 19G of the repealed Act in force immediately before the repeal date,	25 26 27 28
(d) any application for a notification of a type specification pending under section 21B of the repealed Act immediately before the repeal date,	29 30 31
(e) any notification of a type specification given under section 21B of the repealed Act before the repeal date,	32 33
(f) any appeal to the Minister under section 21C (9) of the repealed Act that is pending (or any entitlement to appeal to the Minister under that subsection that has not been exercised) immediately before the repeal date,	34 35 36 37

Electricity (Consumer Safety) Bill 2003

Schedule 1 Savings, transitional and other provisions

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- (g) any notice or notification issued under section 21E of the repealed Act in force immediately before the repeal date, 1
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- (h) any notice issued under section 21F of the repealed Act in force immediately before the repeal date or any label affixed to an electrical article under that section before the repeal date, 3
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- (i) any electrical article seized under section 21F of the repealed Act before the repeal date, 7
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- (j) any search warrant issued under section 21I or 27I of the repealed Act in force immediately before the repeal date, 9
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- (k) any certificate issued under section 21H of the repealed Act before the repeal date, 11
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- (l) any application made under section 21G of the repealed Act that is pending in a Local Court (or any entitlement to make such an application to a Local Court that has not been exercised) immediately before the repeal date, 13
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- (m) any requirement made of a person under section 25 (4) of the repealed Act that had not yet been complied with before the repeal date, 17
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- (n) any order made under section 26 (3) of the repealed Act in force immediately before the repeal date, 20
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- (o) any serious electrical accident within the meaning of Part 6B of the repealed Act that occurred before the repeal date, 22
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- (p) any investigation, inspection, examination or testing of a thing, matter or place authorised to be begun but not commenced (or begun but not completed) under the repealed Act before the repeal date. 24
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- (2) For the purposes of the operation of this Part: 28
- (a) any notification of a type specification given under section 21B of the repealed Act (as continued in force by subclause (1)) on or after the repeal date in respect of a type of electrical article (within the meaning of that Act) is to have effect as if the notification had been given immediately before the repeal date, and 29
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- (b) any action taken by the Minister on an appeal under section 21C (9) of the repealed Act (as continued in force by subclause (1)) on or after the repeal date in respect of a determination under section 21C of the repealed Act is to have effect as if the action had been taken immediately before the repeal date. 35
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(3)	This clause is subject to any contrary provision in this Schedule.	1
Division 3	Electricity Development Fund	2
4	Electricity Development Fund	3
	Any money that, on the repeal date, was standing to the credit of the Electricity Development Fund established by section 15 of the repealed Act is to be transferred to the Consolidated Fund.	4 5 6
Division 4	Electrical articles	7
5	Electrical articles to which Part 4C of repealed Act applied	8
	Any class of electrical articles that was declared in an order in force under section 21 of the repealed Act immediately before the repeal date to be a class of electrical articles to which Part 4C of the repealed Act applied is taken to be a class of electrical articles that is the subject of an order under section 5 of this Act.	9 10 11 12 13
6	Existing class and type specifications	14
(1)	Any specification that was a class specification in relation to a class of electrical articles within the meaning of the repealed Act immediately before the repeal date is taken to be a class specification under this Act in relation to the same class of electrical articles.	15 16 17 18 19
(2)	Any specification that was a type specification in relation to a type of electrical article within the meaning of the repealed Act immediately before the repeal date is taken to be a model specification under this Act in relation to any model of electrical article having the same specifications as that type of electrical article.	20 21 22 23 24 25
7	Existing certification schemes approved by Minister	26
	Any certification scheme that was approved by the Minister for the purposes of Part 4C of the repealed Act and the approval of which continued in force immediately before the repeal date is taken to be a scheme for the approval or certification of models of electrical articles declared by the Minister under section 15 of this Act.	27 28 29 30 31

8 Existing relevant authorities	1
Until a regulation is made for the purposes of the definition of <i>relevant authority</i> in section 3 (1), any authority that was prescribed as a relevant authority for another State or a Territory for the purposes of the definition of <i>relevant authority</i> in section 20 (1) of the repealed Act immediately before the repeal date is taken to be a relevant authority for the same State or Territory for the purposes of this Act.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8
9 Existing exemptions for prohibitions against sale of declared electrical articles	9 10
Any exemption in force under section 21A (3) of the repealed Act immediately before the repeal date is taken to be an exemption given by the Director-General under section 16 (2) of this Act in respect of all of the provisions of section 16 (1) in relation to the same person (or class of persons) to which it was originally given and subject to the same conditions on which it was originally given.	11 12 13 14 15 16
10 Approvals under section 21C of repealed Act	17
(1) Any approval of a type of electrical article given under section 21C of the repealed Act that was in force immediately before the repeal date continues in force under this Act as if the approval had been given by the Director-General under section 11 of this Act for a model having the same specifications as the type of electrical article originally approved.	18 19 20 21 22 23
(2) If any approval under section 21C of the repealed Act is the subject of a suspension in force immediately before the repeal date:	24 25
(a) subject to paragraph (b), subclause (1) applies to the approval, and	26 27
(b) the suspension continues in force as if it were a suspension under section 13 of this Act due to expire at the same time as the original suspension.	28 29 30
(3) Section 12 applies to an approval to which subclause (1) applies as if the approval taken to be given under this Act had been given by the Director-General for the same period specified in the original approval and that period had commenced at the same time as the original approval commenced.	31 32 33 34 35

11 Applications for approvals under section 21C of repealed Act	1
The Director-General may deal with any application made under section 21C of the repealed Act that had not been determined immediately before the repeal date as if the application had been made under section 11 of this Act in respect of a model of electrical article having the same specifications as the type of electrical article specified in the original application.	2 3 4 5 6 7
12 Prescribed guarantees under repealed Act	8
Any prescribed guarantee within the meaning of section 21D (2) of the repealed Act given in respect of an electrical article or type of electrical article before the repeal date is taken to be an acquisition guarantee for the purposes of this Act in respect of the same article or the model of article having the same specifications as that type (as the case may be).	9 10 11 12 13 14
13 Persons authorised under section 21F of repealed Act	15
Any person authorised under section 21F (2) of the repealed Act whose authorisation was in force immediately before the repeal date is taken to have been appointed as an authorised officer by the Director-General under section 39 of this Act for the purposes of section 26 (1) of this Act.	16 17 18 19 20
Division 5 Electrical installations	21
14 Persons authorised under section 25 of repealed Act	22
Any person authorised under section 25 (1) of the repealed Act in respect of the examination of electrical installations whose authorisation was in force immediately before the repeal date is taken to have been appointed as an authorised officer by the Director-General under section 39 of this Act in respect of the provisions of this Act and the regulations relating to electrical installations.	23 24 25 26 27 28 29
Division 6 Electrical accidents	30
15 Inspectors under section 27F of repealed Act	31
Any person authorised under section 27F (1) of the repealed Act to carry out inspections in respect of serious electrical accidents involving electrical installations or electrical articles (within the meaning of that Act) whose authorisation was in force immediately	32 33 34 35

before the repeal date is taken to have been appointed as an authorised officer by the Director-General under section 39 of this Act in respect of the provisions of this Act and the regulations relating to serious electrical accidents.

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Division 7 General

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16 Certificates under section 21H of repealed Act

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Section 46 is taken to extend to any matter arising under the repealed Act that could have been the subject of a certificate under section 21H of the repealed Act if that Act had not been repealed.

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17 Delegations under section 28 of repealed Act

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Any delegation under section 28 of the repealed Act in force immediately before the repeal date in respect of any function under the repealed Act concerning electrical installations or electrical articles (within the meaning of that Act) is taken to be a delegation given by the Minister under section 54 of this Act in respect of a corresponding function (if any) of the Minister under this Act.

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18 Disclosure of information prohibited by section 21K of repealed Act

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Section 50 is taken to extend to the disclosure of any information on or after the repeal date that would have been prohibited by section 21K of the repealed Act if that Act had not been repealed.

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19 Construction of references

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(1) In any other Act or instrument:

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(a) subject to paragraph (b), a reference to the repealed Act is taken to be a reference to this Act, and

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(b) a reference to a provision of the repealed Act is taken to be a reference to the corresponding provision or provisions (if any) of the new electricity safety legislation.

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(2) Subclause (1) does not apply to:

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(a) section 135 (b) of the *Home Building Act 1989*, or

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(b) any other provision of another Act, or an instrument made under another Act, prescribed by the regulations.

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20 Effect of this Part

Nothing in this Part prevents the amendment or revocation of any delegation, authorisation, appointment, approval, exemption, declaration or order.

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**Schedule 2 Amendment of Electricity Supply Act 1995
No 94**

(Section 58)

[1] Section 3 Objects

Insert at the end of section 3 (c):

, and

- (d) to promote and encourage the safety of persons and property in relation to the generation, transmission, distribution and use of electricity.

[2] Section 54 Powers of entry

Insert at the end of section 54 (1) (e):

, or

- (f) inspecting or disconnecting an electrical installation that the network operator is required or permitted to inspect or disconnect by or under this or any other Act or law.

[3] Part 5C

Insert after Part 5B:

Part 5C Removal of electricity structures

63K Director-General may direct distribution network service provider to remove structure

- (1) The Director-General may, by notice in writing served on a distribution network service provider, direct the service provider to remove or relocate an electricity structure specified in the notice if:
- (a) the structure is erected within the service provider's distribution district, and
- (b) the structure is on or adjacent to a public road that is:
- (i) a traffic route, or
- (ii) a public road that the Director-General has, for the purpose of traffic safety and having regard to the volume and nature of the vehicular traffic carried on it, determined requires the removal or relocation of the structure.

(2)	A distribution network service provider must comply with a notice served on it under subsection (1).	1 2
(3)	In this section: <i>electricity structure</i> means any structure erected or maintained by a distribution network service provider for the purpose of the transmission or distribution of electricity or for the purpose of public lighting.	3 4 5 6 7
[4]	Part 5D	8
	Insert before Part 6:	9
	Part 5D Electricity safety	10
	Division 1 General	11
	63L Interpretation	12
(1)	For the purposes of this Part, <i>place</i> includes land (whether or not covered with water), premises, buildings and other structures.	13 14 15
(2)	For the purposes of this Part, a person or thing is <i>in a place</i> if the person or thing is located in, on, over or under the place.	16 17
	Division 2 Inspectors	18
	63M Inspectors	19
(1)	The Director-General may appoint any person as an inspector for the purposes of any or all of the provisions of this Act or the regulations.	20 21 22
(2)	The Director-General may at any time and for any reason revoke a person's appointment under subsection (1).	23 24
(3)	An inspector is to be provided by the Director-General with a certificate of identification.	25 26
(4)	An inspector must, when exercising in any place any function of the inspector under this Act or the regulations, produce the inspector's certificate of identification to any person apparently in charge of the place who requests its production.	27 28 29 30

63N Obstruction etc of inspectors 1

(1) A person must not: 2

(a) without reasonable excuse, refuse or fail to comply with 3
any notice given or requirement made, or to answer any 4
question asked, by an inspector under this Act or the 5
regulations, or 6

(b) provide information or give evidence in purported 7
compliance with a requirement made or question asked 8
by an inspector under this Act or the regulations 9
knowing the information or evidence to be false or 10
misleading in a material particular, or 11

(c) wilfully delay, hinder or obstruct an inspector in the 12
exercise of the inspector's functions under this Act or 13
the regulations, or 14

(d) falsely represent himself or herself to be an inspector. 15

Maximum penalty: 500 penalty units (in the case of a 16
corporation) and 150 penalty units (in any other case). 17

(2) If an inspector makes a requirement under section 63O (2) (c) 18
of a person who appears to the inspector to be doing electrical 19
wiring work, that person is not guilty of the offence of failing 20
to comply with that requirement if it is proved that the person 21
was not actually doing the electrical wiring work. 22

(3) It is sufficient defence to a prosecution for an offence arising 23
under subsection (1) (a) by reason of the failure of a defendant 24
to answer a question asked by an inspector under a power 25
conferred by this Act or the regulations if the defendant 26
satisfies the court that the defendant did not know, and could 27
not with reasonable diligence ascertain, the answer to the 28
question. 29

Division 3 Electrical equipment 30

63O Inspection of certain electrical equipment 31

(1) An inspector may enter any place at any reasonable time for 32
the purpose of inspecting any electrical installation, corrosion 33
protection system or stray current source (*relevant electrical* 34
equipment) in the place. 35

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- (2) An inspector may require: 1
- (a) the relevant distribution network service provider for an electrical installation to disconnect the installation if the inspector reasonably believes that it is necessary for the installation to be disconnected in the interests of safety, or 2
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 - (b) any person who claims to be an authorised electrician to produce for inspection by the inspector, within such time as the inspector specifies, the person's licence or other authority to do electrical wiring work, or 7
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 - (c) any person who appears to the inspector to be doing electrical wiring work to satisfy the inspector, within such time as the inspector specifies, that the person is not prohibited under the *Home Building Act 1989* from doing that electrical wiring work. 11
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- (3) If the Director-General believes on reasonable grounds that there are in any place documents evidencing conduct in connection with relevant electrical equipment in contravention of this Act or the regulations, an inspector may, with the written authority of the Director-General, enter the place, inspect any documents and make copies of them or take extracts from them. 16
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- (4) An inspector may not exercise the inspector's functions under this section in relation to a part of any premises being used for residential purposes except: 23
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- (a) with the permission of the occupier of that part of the premises, or 26
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 - (b) under the authority conferred by a search warrant issued under this Part. 28
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- (5) In this section: 30
- relevant distribution network service provider***, in relation to an electrical installation, means the distribution network service provider that owns or controls the distribution system that is used to convey and control the conveyance of electricity to the installation. 31
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63P Examination and testing of electricity delivery equipment	1
(1) The Director-General may from time to time cause any electricity delivery equipment to be examined and tested for the purpose of determining whether the equipment can be used safely.	2 3 4 5
(2) An inspector may enter any place at any reasonable time for the purpose of examining or testing any electricity delivery equipment that is in the place.	6 7 8
63Q Orders prohibiting the use of unsafe electricity delivery equipment	9 10
(1) If the Minister is satisfied that electricity delivery equipment cannot be used safely, the Minister may, by order served on the network operator or retail supplier using or proposing to use the equipment, prohibit the use of the equipment.	11 12 13 14
(2) An order under this section may permanently prohibit the use of the electricity delivery equipment concerned or prohibit the use of the equipment until such time as it is repaired or altered to the satisfaction of the Minister.	15 16 17 18
(3) The Minister may make an order under this section only on the recommendation of the Director-General.	19 20
(4) A person must not use any electricity delivery equipment in contravention of an order made under this section.	21 22
Maximum penalty (subsection (4)): 200 penalty units.	23
Division 4 Accident reporting and investigation	24
63R Notification of serious electricity works accidents	25
(1) A serious electricity works accident must be notified in accordance with subsection (2) to the Director-General by the distribution network service provider or transmission operator that owns or controls the distribution system or transmission system of which the electricity works concerned forms part.	26 27 28 29 30 31
Maximum penalty: 500 penalty units.	32
(2) A notice of an accident must be given within 7 days after the accident in such manner as may be prescribed by the regulations.	33 34 35

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- (3) The regulations may exclude a person, or a person belonging to a class of persons, prescribed by the regulations from any requirement under this section to notify the Director-General of a serious electricity works accident. 1
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- 63S Investigation of serious electricity works accidents** 5
- The Director-General may arrange for an inspector to investigate and report to the Director-General concerning a serious electricity works accident, whether or not notice of the accident is given to the Director-General. 6
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- 63T Powers of inspectors** 10
- (1) For the purposes of this Division, an inspector may, in any place where a serious electricity works accident has or may reasonably be expected to have occurred do any one or more of the following: 11
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- (a) enter and inspect the place, 15
 - (b) examine and test any electrical installation or other electrical equipment, 16
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 - (c) take photographs, 18
 - (d) take for analysis a sample of any substance or thing that in the inspector's opinion may relate to the accident, 19
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 - (e) require any person in the place to produce any record that may be of relevance to the occurrence of the accident, 21
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 - (f) take copies of, or extracts or notes from, any such record, 24
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 - (g) require any person in the place to answer questions or otherwise furnish information relating to the accident, 26
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 - (h) require the owner or occupier of the place to provide the inspector with such assistance and facilities as are reasonably necessary to enable the inspector to exercise the inspector's functions under this section. 28
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- (2) If the Director-General believes on reasonable grounds that there are in any place documents evidencing conduct in connection with a serious electricity works accident in contravention of this Act or the regulations, an inspector may, with the written authority of the Director-General, enter the 32
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	place, inspect any documents and make copies of them or take extracts from them.	1 2
(3)	An inspector may not exercise the inspector's functions under this section in relation to a part of any premises being used for residential purposes except:	3 4 5
	(a) with the permission of the occupier of that part of the premises, or	6 7
	(b) under the authority conferred by a search warrant issued under this Part.	8 9
63U	Interference with site of serious electricity works accident	10
	A person must not disturb or interfere with the site of a serious electricity works accident before it has been inspected by an inspector except:	11 12 13
	(a) to make it safe, or	14
	(b) with the permission of an inspector, or	15
	(c) as provided by the regulations.	16
	Maximum penalty: 500 penalty units (in the case of corporations) and 250 penalty units (in any other case).	17 18
63V	Publication of details of serious electricity works accidents	19
(1)	The Director-General may publish such details of serious electricity works accidents as the Director-General considers necessary in the interests of public information and safety.	20 21 22
(2)	The Minister, the Director-General, a member of staff of the Director-General or an inspector is not liable to any claim or action arising from any matter published under this section.	23 24 25
Division 5	Enforcement	26
63W	Search warrants	27
(1)	An inspector may apply to an authorised justice for a search warrant in respect of any place if the inspector has reasonable grounds for believing that:	28 29 30
	(a) an unsafe electrical installation is in the place, or	31
	(b) a serious electricity works accident has occurred in the place, or	32 33

(c)	a provision of this Part or the regulations made for the purposes of this Part has been or is being contravened in the place.	1 2 3
(2)	An authorised justice to whom an application is made under this section may, if satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for doing so, issue a search warrant authorising an inspector named in the warrant:	4 5 6 7
(a)	to enter the place, and	8
(b)	to search the place for evidence of the occurrence of a serious electricity works accident.	9 10
(3)	Part 3 of the <i>Search Warrants Act 1985</i> applies to a search warrant issued under this section.	11 12
(4)	In this section:	13
	<i>authorised justice</i> has the same meaning as in the <i>Search Warrants Act 1985</i> .	14 15
[5]	Section 106 Regulations	16
	Insert after section 106 (1):	17
(1A)	Without limiting subsection (1), regulations may be made for or with respect to any of the following matters:	18 19
(a)	the installation, use, maintenance and removal of corrosion protection systems and stray current sources, including but not limited to the following matters:	20 21 22
(i)	the examination or testing of such systems or sources,	23 24
(ii)	the approval or registration of such systems or sources,	25 26
(iii)	the stamping or labelling of such systems or sources,	27 28
(iv)	standards for such systems or sources,	29
(v)	fees for the approval, registration, examination or testing of such systems or sources,	30 31
(vi)	the provision of documents, reports or other information concerning such systems or sources,	32 33
(b)	the keeping by network operators of books, accounts or other records,	34 35
(c)	interference by persons with electrical installations or other electrical equipment,	36 37

(d)	standards for the voltages to be maintained at the terminals of consumers of electricity,	1 2
(e)	safety in connection with the generation, transmission or distribution of electricity,	3 4
(f)	the fees to be charged by network operators for the inspection and testing of an electrical installation,	5 6
(g)	the connection and disconnection of an electrical installation to a supply of electricity,	7 8
(h)	the carrying out of work to remove a danger or to remedy a defect relating to the distribution or transmission of electricity,	9 10 11
(i)	standards for electrical installations and other equipment used for or in connection with the generation or supply of electricity and for materials used in the manufacture of such equipment, and the adoption of engineering standards for such installations, equipment and materials.	12 13 14 15 16 17
[6]	Section 106 (3A)–(3C)	18
	Insert after section 106 (3):	19
(3A)	The regulations may apply, adopt or incorporate (with or without modification) any publication as in force at a particular time or from time to time.	20 21 22
(3B)	A regulation made for the purposes of subsection (1A) prevails over a regulation made under the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> , to the extent of any inconsistency.	23 24 25
(3C)	A regulation made for the purposes of subsection (1A) binds the Crown if expressed so to do.	26 27
[7]	Schedule 5 Amendment of other Acts and instruments	28
	Omit Schedule 5.1.	29
[8]	Schedule 6 Savings, transitional and other provisions	30
	Insert at the end of clause 1 (1):	31
	<i>Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2003</i> , but only in relation to the amendments made to this Act	32 33

[9] Schedule 6, Part 6	1
Insert after Part 5:	2
Part 6 Provisions consequent on enactment of Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2003	3
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42 Definitions	5
In this Part:	6
<i>repeal date</i> means the date on which the repealed Act is repealed by the <i>Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2003</i> .	7
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<i>repealed Act</i> means the <i>Electricity Safety Act 1945</i> as in force immediately before its repeal by the <i>Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2003</i> .	9
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43 Continuation of certain Regulations made under repealed Act	12
(1) The <i>Electricity Safety (Corrosion Protection) Regulation 2003</i> , as in force immediately before the repeal date, continues in force and is taken to be a regulation made under this Act.	13
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(2) The Regulation continued in force by subclause (1) may be amended and repealed in the same way as any other regulation made under this Act.	17
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44 Appointments of existing inspectors etc continue under new provisions of this Act	20
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(1) Any person authorised under section 25 (1) of the repealed Act in respect of the examination of cathodic protection systems or stray current sources (within the meaning of that Act) whose authorisation was in force immediately before the repeal date is taken to have been appointed as an inspector by the Director-General under section 63M of this Act in respect of the provisions of this Act and the regulations relating to corrosion protection systems or stray current sources.	22
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(2) Any person authorised under section 26 (2) of the repealed Act whose authorisation was in force immediately before the repeal date is taken to have been appointed as an inspector by the Director-General under section 63M of this Act for the purposes of section 63P of this Act.	30
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(3) Any person authorised under section 27F (1) of the repealed Act to carry out inspections in respect of serious electrical accidents that do not involve electrical installations or electrical articles (within the meaning of that Act) whose authorisation was in force immediately before the repeal date is taken to have been appointed as an inspector by the Director-General under section 63M of this Act in respect of the provisions of this Act and the regulations relating to serious electricity works accidents.

45 Delegations under section 28 of repealed Act

Any delegation under section 28 of the repealed Act in force immediately before the repeal date in respect of any function under a provision of that Act (other than a function concerning electrical installations or electrical articles within the meaning of that Act) is taken to be a delegation duly given by the Minister under section 100 of this Act in respect of a function of the Minister under a corresponding provision (if any) of this Act.

46 Effect of this Part

Nothing in this Part prevents the amendment or revocation of any delegation, authorisation or appointment.

[10] Dictionary

Insert in alphabetical order:

authorised electrician has the same meaning as it has in the *Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2003*.

corrosion protection system means any appliances, wires, fittings or other apparatus designed, intended or used for the protection, by means of electrical currents, of metallic structures in contact with land, including water, from external corrosion and includes cathodic protection systems, drainage bonds, boosted drainage bonds and cross bonds.

Director-General means the Director-General of the Ministry of Energy and Utilities.

electrical wiring work has the same meaning as it has in the *Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2003*.

electricity delivery equipment means any machinery, apparatus, appliances, material or other equipment used or intended to be used by any network operator or retail supplier for or in connection with the generation, transmission or distribution of electricity.

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health care professional means a person registered under a health registration Act within the meaning of the *Health Care Complaints Act 1993*.

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inspector means any person appointed under section 63M by the Director-General as an inspector for the purposes of the provision in which the expression is used.

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serious electricity works accident means an accident:

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- (a) in which electricity works are involved, and
- (b) as a consequence of which a person dies or suffers permanent disability, is hospitalised, receives treatment from a health care professional or is unable to attend work for any period of time.

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stray current source means any appliance, equipment, fitting or other apparatus:

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- (a) that operates on direct electrical current or is designed or used to generate or transmit direct electrical current, and
- (b) that is attached, whether directly or indirectly, to a metallic structure in contact with land, including water.

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traffic route has the same meaning as it has in section 45E of the *Transport Administration Act 1988*.

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Schedule 3 Amendment of Energy Administration Act 1987 No 103

(Section 58)

[1] Section 3 Definitions

Insert in alphabetical order in section 3 (1):

corrosion protection system has the same meaning as it has in the *Electricity Supply Act 1995*.

electrical equipment means any appliance, wire, fitting, cable, conduit, meter, insulator, apparatus or material that uses, conveys or controls (or that is designed or intended to use, convey or control) electricity.

electrical installation has the same meaning as it has in the *Electricity Supply Act 1995*.

electricity supply authority has the same meaning as it has in the *Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2003*.

[2] Section 12 Functions

Insert at the end of the section:

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), the Corporation may:

(a) promote and regulate the adoption of standards of plant, equipment, frequency and voltage for the generation, transmission, distribution and supply of electricity, and

(b) promote and encourage the safety of persons and property in relation to electricity, and without limiting the generality of that function, promote and encourage the safety of persons and property in relation to:

(i) the installation, maintenance and use of electric lines, works, electrical installations and corrosion protection systems, and

(ii) the sale or hire of electrical equipment, and

(c) without limiting the generality of paragraph (b), issue or publish public statements or warnings relating to:

(i) electrical equipment, electrical installations or corrosion protection systems that, in the opinion of the Corporation are, or are potentially, unsafe, and

(ii) safety in relation to electricity generally, and

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| (d) | promote and encourage the development and use of the natural resources of the State in connection with the generation of electricity, and | 1
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| (e) | promote and encourage the use of electricity, especially its use for industrial and manufacturing purposes and for the purpose of primary production, and | 4
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| (f) | advise any person engaged in the generation, transmission, distribution or supply of electricity on all matters of and concerning such generation, transmission, distribution and supply, and | 7
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| (g) | consider the advisability of amending the law relating to the generation, transmission, distribution, supply and use of electricity, and report on that to the Minister, and | 11
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| (h) | do such other acts as may be necessary or expedient for those purposes. | 14
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| (3) | The Corporation may exercise, in its own name, any function of an electricity supply authority under this or any other Act as if it were such an authority, if the Corporation is of the opinion that it is necessary to do so in order to protect the life or health of any person. | 16
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| (4) | Except as provided by subsection (5), nothing in this Part limits or otherwise affects the functions of TransGrid (or any other energy transmission operator under the <i>Energy Services Corporations Act 1995</i>). | 21
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| (5) | The Corporation may, in relation to TransGrid (or any other energy transmission operator under the <i>Energy Services Corporations Act 1995</i>), exercise the functions referred to in subsection (2) (a) and (b). | 25
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| [3] | Section 38 Testing and labelling of appliances | 29 |
| | Omit section 38 (1) (d) and (e). Insert instead: | 30 |
| (d) | the registration of appliances that consume energy, | 31 |
| (e) | prohibiting the fraudulent or improper use of marks, labels or tags similar to those required by the regulations or of marks, labels or tags so nearly resembling those required by the regulations as to be likely to deceive, and | 32
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| (f) | the fees payable in relation to the registration or the labelling of appliances that consume energy. | 37
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[4] Section 38 (3)–(5)	1
Insert after section 38 (2):	2
(3) A regulation made for the purposes of this section prevails over a regulation made under the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> , to the extent of any inconsistency.	3 4 5
(4) A regulation made for the purposes of this section binds the Crown if expressed so to do.	6 7
(5) In this section, <i>appliance</i> includes electrical equipment.	8
[5] Section 46A	9
Insert after section 46:	10
46A Penalty notices	11
(1) An authorised officer may serve a penalty notice on a person if it appears to the officer that the person has committed an offence against this Act or the regulations, being an offence prescribed by the regulations as a penalty notice offence.	12 13 14 15
(2) A penalty notice is a notice to the effect that, if the person served does not wish to have the matter determined by a court, the person can pay, within the time and to the person specified in the notice, the amount of the penalty prescribed by the regulations for the offence if dealt with under this section.	16 17 18 19 20
(3) A penalty notice may be served personally or by post.	21
(4) If the amount of penalty prescribed for an alleged offence is paid under this section, no person is liable to any further proceedings for the alleged offence.	22 23 24
(5) Payment under this section is not to be regarded as an admission of liability for the purpose of, and does not in any way affect or prejudice, any civil claim, action or proceeding arising out of the same occurrence.	25 26 27 28
(6) The regulations may:	29
(a) prescribe an offence for the purposes of this section by specifying the offence or by referring to the provision creating the offence, and	30 31 32
(b) prescribe the amount of penalty payable for the offence if dealt with under this section, and	33 34

(c)	prescribe different amounts of penalties for different offences or classes of offences.	1 2
(7)	The amount of a penalty prescribed under this section for an offence is not to exceed the maximum amount of penalty that could be imposed for the offence by a court.	3 4 5
(8)	This section does not limit the operation of any other provision of, or made under, this or any other Act relating to proceedings that may be taken in respect of offences.	6 7 8
(9)	In this section, <i>authorised officer</i> means a person authorised in writing by the Corporation as an authorised officer for the purposes of this section.	9 10 11
[6]	Section 47 Proceedings for offences	12
	Insert at the end of the section:	13
(2)	Proceedings for an offence against this Act or the regulations may be instituted at any time within 2 years after the commission of the offence.	14 15 16
[7]	Section 49	17
	Insert after section 48:	18
	49 Savings, transitional and other provisions	19
	Schedule 2 has effect.	20
[8]	Section 53 Regulations	21
	Omit “10 penalty units” from section 53 (3).	22
	Insert instead “20 penalty units”.	23
[9]	Section 53 (3A)	24
	Insert after section 53 (3):	25
(3A)	The regulations may apply, adopt or incorporate (with or without modification) any publication as in force at a particular time or from time to time.	26 27 28

[10] Schedule 2	1
Insert after Schedule 1:	2
Schedule 2 Savings, transitional and other provisions	3
	4
(Section 49)	5
Part 1 General	6
1 Regulations	7
(1) The regulations may contain provisions of a savings or transitional nature consequent on the enactment of the following Acts:	8
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	10
<i>Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2003</i> , but only in relation to the amendments made to this Act	11
	12
(2) Any such provision may, if the regulations so provide, take effect from the date of assent to the Act concerned or a later date.	13
	14
	15
(3) To the extent to which any such provision takes effect from a date that is earlier than the date of its publication in the Gazette, the provision does not operate so as:	16
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	18
(a) to affect, in a manner prejudicial to any person (other than the State or an authority of the State), the rights of that person existing before the date of its publication, or	19
	20
	21
(b) to impose liabilities on any person (other than the State or an authority of the State) in respect of anything done or omitted to be done before the date of its publication.	22
	23
	24
Part 2 Provisions consequent on enactment of Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2003	25
	26
2 Definitions	27
In this Part:	28
<i>repeal date</i> means the date on which the repealed Act is repealed by the <i>Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2003</i> .	29
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repealed Act means the *Electricity Safety Act 1945* as in force immediately before its repeal by the *Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2003*.

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3 Continuation of certain Regulations made under repealed Act

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- (1) The *Electricity Safety (Equipment Efficiency) Regulation 1999*, as in force immediately before the repeal date, continues in force and is taken to be a regulation made under this Act.
- (2) The Regulation continued in force by subclause (1) may be amended and repealed in the same way as any other regulation made under this Act.

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Schedule 4 Consequential amendment of other Acts and Regulations	1
	2
(Section 58)	3
4.1 Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2003	4
[1] Section 42 Search warrants	5
Omit “authorised justice” from section 42 (1) and (2) wherever occurring.	6
Insert instead “authorised warrants officer”.	7
[2] Section 42 (3)	8
Omit “Part 3 of the <i>Search Warrants Act 1985</i> ”.	9
Insert instead “Division 4 of Part 5 of the <i>Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act 2002</i> ”.	10
	11
[3] Section 42 (4)	12
Omit the subsection. Insert instead:	13
(4) In this section:	14
<i>authorised warrants officer</i> means an authorised officer within the meaning of the <i>Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act 2002</i> .	15
	16
	17
4.2 Electricity Safety (Corrosion Protection) Regulation 2003	18
[1] Clause 3 Definitions	19
Omit “cathodic” from the definitions of <i>approved system</i> , <i>foreign structure</i> , <i>interference test</i> and <i>primary structure</i> in clause 3 (1) wherever occurring.	20
	21
	22
Insert instead “corrosion”.	23
[2] Clause 3 (1)	24
Omit the definition of <i>cathodic protection system</i> .	25
Insert in alphabetical order:	26
<i>corrosion protection system</i> has the same meaning as in the Act.	27
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[3] Clause 3 (1), definition of “galvanic anode system”	1
Omit “cathodic” where firstly occurring. Insert instead “corrosion”.	2
[4] Clause 3 (1), definition of “the Act”	3
Omit “ <i>Electricity Safety Act 1945</i> ”.	4
Insert instead “ <i>Electricity Supply Act 1995</i> ”.	5
[5] Clause 3 (2)	6
Omit “cathodic” wherever occurring. Insert instead “corrosion”.	7
[6] Clause 4 Application of Regulation	8
Omit “cathodic” wherever occurring. Insert instead “corrosion”.	9
[7] Clause 5 Operation of corrosion protection systems requires approval	10 11
Omit “cathodic” wherever occurring. Insert instead “corrosion”.	12
[8] Clause 6 Approvals for corrosion protection systems	13
Omit “cathodic” wherever occurring (including the note to clause 6 (4)).	14
Insert instead “corrosion”.	15
[9] Clause 8 Suspension and cancellation of approvals	16
Omit “cathodic” wherever occurring. Insert instead “corrosion”.	17
[10] Clause 10 Examination and testing of corrosion protection systems	18 19
Omit “cathodic” wherever occurring. Insert instead “corrosion”.	20
[11] Clause 11 Fees	21
Omit “cathodic” wherever occurring. Insert instead “corrosion”.	22
[12] Clause 14 Register	23
Omit “cathodic” from clause 14 (1) (a). Insert instead “corrosion”.	24

4.3 Electricity Safety (Equipment Efficiency) Regulation 1999	1
[1] Clause 3 Definitions	2
Insert in alphabetical order in clause 3 (1):	3
<i>electrical article</i> has the same meaning as it has in the	4
<i>Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2003</i> .	5
[2] Clause 3 (1), definition of “the Act”	6
Omit “ <i>Electricity Safety Act 1945</i> ”.	7
Insert instead “ <i>Energy Administration Act 1987</i> ”.	8
4.4 Electricity Supply Act 1995 No 94	9
[1] Section 63W Search warrants	10
Omit “authorised justice” from section 63W (1) and (2) wherever	11
occurring.	12
Insert instead “authorised officer”.	13
[2] Section 63W (3)	14
Omit “Part 3 of the <i>Search Warrants Act 1985</i> ”.	15
Insert instead “Division 4 of Part 5 of the <i>Law Enforcement (Powers and</i>	16
<i>Responsibilities) Act 2002</i> ”.	17
[3] Section 63W (4)	18
Omit the subsection. Insert instead:	19
(4) In this section:	20
<i>authorised officer</i> has the same meaning as in the <i>Law</i>	21
<i>Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act 2002</i> .	22

4.5 Electricity Supply (General) Regulation 2001	1
[1] Clause 14 Limitation on right to have premises provided with customer connection services	2 3
Omit “ <i>Electricity Safety Act 1945</i> ” from clause 14 (5).	4
Insert instead “ <i>Electricity Supply (Safety and Network Management) Regulation 2002</i> or <i>Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2003</i> ”.	5 6
[2] Clause 15 Limitation on right to have premises supplied with electricity	7 8
Omit “ <i>Electricity Safety Act 1945</i> ” from clause 15 (5).	9
Insert instead “ <i>Electricity Supply (Safety and Network Management) Regulation 2002</i> or <i>Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2003</i> ”.	10 11
[3] Clause 64 Commencement of discontinuance procedures by retailer of last resort	12 13
Omit “ <i>Electricity Safety Act 1945</i> ” from clause 64 (5).	14
Insert instead “ <i>Electricity Supply (Safety and Network Management) Regulation 2002</i> or <i>Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2003</i> ”.	15 16
[4] Clause 71 Conditions on exemptions for certain residential premises relating to disconnection from distribution system	17 18
Omit “ <i>Electricity Safety Act 1945</i> ” from clause 71 (8).	19
Insert instead “ <i>Electricity Supply (Safety and Network Management) Regulation 2002</i> or <i>Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2003</i> ”.	20 21
[5] Clause 72 Conditions for exemptions relating to new occupants of premises	22 23
Omit “ <i>Electricity Safety Act 1945</i> ” from clause 72 (7).	24
Insert instead “ <i>Electricity Supply (Safety and Network Management) Regulation 2002</i> or <i>Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2003</i> ”.	25 26
[6] Clause 86 Cancellation of accreditation	27
Omit “ <i>Electricity Safety Act 1945</i> ” from clause 86 (1) (b).	28
Insert instead “ <i>Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2003</i> ”.	29

[7] Schedule 2 Customer supply contracts	1
Omit “ <i>Electricity Safety Act 1945</i> ” from clauses 8 (3) and 12 (8) wherever occurring.	2 3
Insert instead “ <i>Electricity Supply (Safety and Network Management) Regulation 2002</i> or <i>Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2003</i> ”.	4 5
[8] Schedule 3 Customer connection contracts	6
Omit “ <i>Electricity Safety Act 1945</i> ” from clause 15 (7).	7
Insert instead “ <i>Electricity Supply (Safety and Network Management) Regulation 2002</i> or <i>Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2003</i> ”.	8 9
4.6 Eraring Power Station Act 1981 No 107	10
[1] Section 13 Certain electricity legislation not to apply	11
Omit “ <i>Electricity Development Act 1945</i> ”.	12
Insert instead “relevant electricity legislation”.	13
[2] Section 13	14
Omit “transmission line (within the meaning of that Act)”.	15
Insert “electricity transmission line”.	16
[3] Section 13 (2)	17
Insert at the end of the section:	18
(2) In this section:	19
<i>relevant electricity legislation</i> means:	20
(a) the <i>Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2003</i> , and	21
(b) Parts 5C and 5D of the <i>Electricity Supply Act 1995</i> and any other provisions of that Act prescribed by the regulations.	22 23 24
4.7 Fair Trading Act 1987 No 68	25
Schedule 1 Paramount legislation	26
Omit “ <i>Electricity Safety Act 1945</i> ”.	27
Insert instead “ <i>Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2003</i> ”.	28

4.8 Fines Act 1996 No 99	1
Schedule 1 Statutory provisions under which penalty notices issued	2 3
Insert in alphabetical order:	4
<i>Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2003</i> , section 47	5
<i>Energy Administration Act 1987</i> , section 46A	6
4.9 Home Building Act 1989 No 147	7
[1] Section 3 Definitions	8
Omit “ <i>Electricity Safety Act 1945</i> ” from the definition of <i>electrical wiring work</i> in section 3 (1).	9 10
Insert instead “ <i>Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2003</i> ”.	11
[2] Section 135 Proceedings for certain offences under other Acts	12
Insert after section 135 (a):	13
(a1) the <i>Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2003</i> , or	14
4.10 Home Building Regulation 1997	15
Clause 12 Exemptions relating to contracting and advertising	16
Omit the definition of <i>electrical installation</i> and <i>electricity supply authority</i> from clause 12 (1).	17 18
Insert instead:	19
<i>electrical installation</i> has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2003</i> .	20 21
<i>electricity supply authority</i> has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2003</i> .	22 23

4.11 Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act 2002 No 103	1
	2
[1] Schedule 2 Search warrants under other Acts	3
Omit “ <i>Electricity Safety Act 1945</i> , sections 21I and 27I”.	4
Insert instead:	5
<i>Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2003</i> , section 42	6
[2] Schedule 2	7
Omit “section 63” from the matter relating to the <i>Electricity Supply Act 1995</i> .	8
	9
Insert instead “sections 63 and 63W”.	10
4.12 Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 2001	11
Clause 33 Definitions (and application of certain provisions)	12
Omit the definitions of <i>electrical article</i> , <i>electrical installation</i> and <i>electricity supply authority</i> from clause 33 (1).	13
	14
Insert instead:	15
<i>electrical article</i> has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2003</i> .	16
	17
<i>electrical installation</i> has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2003</i> .	18
	19
<i>electricity supply authority</i> has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2003</i> .	20
	21
4.13 Search Warrants Act 1985 No 37	22
[1] Section 10 Definitions	23
Omit the matter relating to the <i>Electricity Act 1945</i> from the definition of <i>search warrant</i> .	24
	25
Insert instead:	26
section 42 of the <i>Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2003</i> ,	27

[2] Section 10, definition of “search warrant”

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Insert “or 63W” after “section 63” in the matter relating to the *Electricity Supply Act 1995*.

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