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THE TELIT

The TITAB Cabling Newsletter

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Editorial

Customer Premises Cabling. Still the essential link!

TITAB Australia Cabler Registry Services and other registrars and industry stakeholders, including carriers, contractors and RTOs made submissions to the most recent ACMA Review of the CPR System. ACMA have responded and have continued their support for the cabling provider rules registration system.

In submissions from industry there was universal support for continuation of a registration system based on national competencies, improved training, technical standards (wiring rules) and most called for more audits and inspections. (Refer to the ACMA website at www.acma.gov.au for a copy of the submissions and the subsequent ACMA response.

In the ACMA response they take note of the acute safety issues raised by registrars in particular and in virtually all other submissions. ACMA have now also alerted state and territory "electrical" regulators to the risks identified in the submissions.

There are documented fatalities as reported by NECA, as well as serious injuries to cablers, even though national telecommunications data does not readily show this up, due to fragmented collection methodologies.

Nationally recognised training on electrical theory should be delivered at the start of employment in conjunction with the core telecommunications subjects. Relying on electrical safety devices is flawed and in any event, retrofitting of safety switches in Australia may take decades.

Of course, from an industry perspective, we want stronger all round regulatory supervision by ACMA with improved monitoring, audits and inspections. Adherence to mandatory technical standards is essential.

Recent catastrophic events in Australia such as the fires, floods, cyclones and Covid 19 show clearly the critical role telecommunications plays and that it should be recognised by government in a formal sense, as an essential service.

Alarms for health, security and fire may be evolving more to radio back to base concepts, but customer premises cabling is still essential for most services and will continue so for the foreseeable future.

Households with multiple high usage residents are already finding that Wi-Fi has its limits. Again, quality customer premises cabling is the crucial solution to this problem.

As 5G comes on stream it gets a lot of marketing attention, but the core activities of telecommunications are as always - service to the consumer across all platforms in an affordable and reliable way. And although high end mobiles are important services, we should not lose sight of the core role of cabling in the end to end infrastructure.

The updated technical standard AS/CA S009:2020 is being phased in. It is the ACMA CPR cablers "bible." Our website has links to free copies from the Communications Alliance website. It is mandatory and there are risks of penalties and litigation if breached! It is also mandatory to issue a compliance certificate like any other essential service, such as power, water and gas. The compliance certificate, TCA1 can be supplemented with the TCA 2 to clarify the situation for a customer with legacy cabling.

For any who may criticise us for always highlighting cabling issues, we will continue to represent to ACMA, ministers and other stakeholders on cabling regulation!

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Installation requirements for Customer Cabling (Wiring rules AS/CA S009:2020)

Unfortunately, in many of the modern training programs, too little emphasis is given to the Installation Requirements for Customer Cabling (Wiring Rules AS / CA S009:20). This industry standard explains the installation and maintenance practices that you must follow. It covers the requirements for fixed or concealed cabling or equipment that is connected, or is intended to be connected, to a telecommunications network. And when it is designated Wiring Rules that is exactly what it means, in the same way that wiring rules in the electrical sector, are also mandated.

RTO Short Cuts!

Unfortunately, there is pressure on RTOs (Registered Training Organisations) due to competitive factors to take shortcuts on the Wiring Rules, which if studied in depth, would take days, but in courses as short as 4 to 5 days it is difficult, if not impossible, for an RTO to deliver a meaningful understanding of the Wiring Rules. TITAB has consistently worked to have training programs delivered to the hours allocated by the states and territories but unfortunately we have not been able to achieve a satisfactory outcome. And course shortfalls continue to the detriment of the industry as a whole in a race to the bottom.

Litigation Risks

TITAB along with other registrars and industry bodies in telecommunications has consistently advised that failure to work to the wiring rules can be catastrophic if there is an alarm system failure or some other breakdown in an essential service, that can be traced to a cabler not adhering to the wiring rules. Insurance coverage and litigation come to mind. TCA 1 Forms are also mandatory and can be useful for a legitimate cabler, in a legal situation.

Free Download

The industry standard AS/CA S009: 2020 was published on 20 August 2020. An 18 month transition period commenced on that date during which time the AS/CA S009: 2013 industry standard can still also be used. A link can be found on the TITAB website to download the new standard, free. The Wiring Rules are also on the Communications Alliance website for free download. In this era of being able to access the Wiring Rules readily through the Internet there is no excuse for non-compliance!

TITAB is working with other registrars and CAG on what steps we can take to better publicise the Wiring Rules as these days with government cuts, ACMA does not run the same type of



NBNco-Authority to Alter Facilities in Residential and Small Business Premises

Telstra for many years was the main national carrier and as that role has now been taken over by NBNCo the formal responsibility for network "boundary" issues now rests with NBNCo.

As Telstra is now out of the carrier network role and only a service provider for the customer side of the network - and a mobile service provider - the Approval to Alter Telstra Facilities in homes and small business, usually known as A2A, should only be read in that context, but it still has some useful information for cablers.

The NBNCo website now has current information on *Authority to Alter Facilities in Residential and Small Business*. Registered cablers can make a number of changes and will need endorsements when working on fibre.

There is even some scope for changing NTD locations, which is an issue for many customers and a niche market for some cablers. The site is user friendly and the contents page quite expansive.

[A link to this document can be found on the TITAB website.](#)



Communications Advisory Group (CAG)

The Communications Advisory group is a follow on from the Cabling Advisory Group which was managed by different bodies over the year. The new format provides advice to CITT and TITAB on the full range of telecommunications issues.

The CAG meets every three months. If there are key issues cabler members want aired, then TITAB or CITT info e mail contact points can be used to add to the CAG agenda.

The CAG has representatives from most sections of the industry including carrier, contractors, consultants, cable suppliers, registrars, ACMA, broadcasting, radio and has members who are participants in a range of other industry bodies. It is a useful forum and can facilitate representations to government or agencies, if required.

TITAB website search

The TITAB website has had recent upgrades to incorporate an easier search function. This allows cablers to search their details to check on things such as their registration number, expiry date or endorsements.

Cablers can also access the TITAB website for access to technical information, forms or previous newsletters.

A snapshot of Industrial Manslaughter laws in Australia

(This article was written by Peter Lamont, NECA Senior Policy Advisor, Director of ACRS and Member of the Electrical Safety Board, Queensland)

The recent introduction of Industrial Manslaughter laws in Western Australia has reignited debate across Australia around what is the most effective way to protect workers.

There are now Industrial Manslaughter laws in the Australian Capital Territory, Queensland, Victoria, Northern Territory and Western Australia. Other states are at different stages in considering such laws. New South Wales has rejected industrial manslaughter, but has boosted WHS laws by including an offence of gross negligence. In South Australia, the Greens introduced a private members Bill into Parliament in October 2020, while in Tasmania the opposition has called for industrial manslaughter laws and the government is considering them.

The ACT was the first jurisdiction to initiate industrial manslaughter laws back in 2003 but the ACT added its new law to the Crimes Act and required a prosecution to establish that an officer was reckless about causing serious harm to an employee and/or criminally negligent about causing the death of an employee. The offence carried maximum penalties of 20 years imprisonment and up to \$1.6million in fines.

Queensland then became the first state to enact industrial manslaughter provisions into their WHS laws in 2017. This essentially followed the Dreamworld theme park tragedy. Prison sentences of up to 20 years and fines of up to \$10 million are the maximum penalties under the Queensland legislation.

After ACT and Queensland enacted their legislation, a review on the effectiveness of national WHS laws was undertaken in 2018 by Marie Boland on behalf of Safe Work Australia and presented to the Council of Australian Governments. Ms Boland found that the national WHS laws were largely operating as intended but that there needed to be a new industrial manslaughter offence for instances of gross negligence.

Since this time Victoria, and the Northern Territory have enacted industrial manslaughter laws within their respective WHS acts. These laws have all followed similar provisions to those in the ACT and Queensland with regard to the tests for negligence and in penalties.

Most recently Western Australia has enacted industrial manslaughter provisions within its WHS Act, with these laws to come into effect sometime in late 2021 after the new laws are proclaimed. This is likely to be when the corresponding regulations have been drafted.

While NSW has resisted introducing specific industrial manslaughter laws into their WHS legislation, they have instead confirmed that a person can be prosecuted under the NSW Crimes Act, punishable by 25 years imprisonment and added gross negligence to the WHS laws with a maximum of a 5-year jail term.

“To date, Queensland has been the first state to take a prosecution forward, when in June 2020 a Queensland

“It is likely that industrial manslaughter will at some time in the future, exist in all states and territories”

employer in auto recycling business was found to have failed to address obvious risks posed in using mobile plant in the workplace after an employee was crushed by a forklift operated by an unlicensed driver. The business was found to have no safety systems in place, no traffic management plans and the two company Directors were found to have lied to investigators and police on how the incident occurred. The Judge considered that the two Directors knew of the risks to staff but consciously chose to ignore the risks. The court fined the business \$3 million and sentenced the two Directors to 10 months imprisonment, but wholly suspended for 20 months.

It is likely that industrial manslaughter laws will, at some time in the future, exist in all states and territories. While NECA has advocated against these laws being introduced, NECA has consistently stated that good workplace health and safety practices are fundamental to our electrical and communications industry. Safety in the workplace is a priority for NECA given the potentially hazardous nature of our work. Dangers to our electrotechnology workers include exposure to live electricity, severe cuts from sharp edges, coming in contact with asbestos, slips, trips and falls and the risks from non-compliant building products.

So what can you do as contractors and directors in order to remove the risk of a fatality in your workplace and ensure you meet all your obligations to look after yourself and your workers.

The best way to operate your business without needing to worry about industrial manslaughter laws is to have good business policies and practices, a strong workplace safety culture and a reliable safety management system.

Investing in a safety management system is a critical first step. These systems can be tailored to both the size of your business and the type of work activities you undertake. Choosing a system fully backed by competent and highly trained WHS staff is also key, particularly in a complex industry.

Disclaimer: This summary is a guide only and is not legal advice.



Opportunities in the smart home sector

CEDIA – the global home technology trade association for companies that represent every facet of the ever-evolving technology market – recently conducted the first ever comprehensive analysis of the Australian smart home technology/home automation sector.

Called CEDIA Market Research Insights – Australia 2020/2021, the report seeks to identify the type of person and company installing smart home technologies, how they operate, and how optimistic they are about the future of this industry.

As in every other part of the globe, the attitude toward the connected home has changed dramatically in the past few years. Fifteen years ago, the industry was the exclusive domain of the rich and famous. Today, it is becoming a vital utility like power, telecommunications and water.

The report identifies that there are approximately 850 full-time home technology integrators in Australia today. 42% are also electricians; 73% are registered cablers.

Further, 50% of full-time home technology integrators earn more than \$1 million each year.

“The opportunities for electrotechnology professionals to enter the smart home technology market are staggering,” says CEDIA Regional Dev Consultant – Aust and N Z Paul Skelton.



“Further, CEDIA members are actively looking for new, capable technicians to work with to keep up with demand.”

To succeed in the smart home technology space, education is key. As a result, CEDIA is holding a 4-day intensive training block in June looking at the opportunities available to registered cablers and electricians looking to enter the home automation sector.

At the end of the training block, taking place 21-24 June, attendees will be eligible to sit for CEDIA’s new Cabling & Infrastructure Technician certification.

The cost for this one-week course for **TITAB** members (including four days of training, catering and a CIT textbook) is:

- \$999 for Smart Home Week
- \$200 for CIT exam coupon (optional)
- \$0 for CIT textbook (RRP: \$AU150)

To register for this seminar, please visit <https://cedia.net/education-events/education/asia-pacific/australia-smart-home-week>

For more information about joining CEDIA and access exclusive discounts, and globally developed education and certification programs, visit <https://cedia.net/membership/join-CEDIA>

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