



Supervision Guideline for Electrician to Lineworker Apprentices

This Guideline has been developed by the Victorian Electricity Supply Industry (VESI) Skills and Training Reference Committee to provide guidance to employers and apprentices.

*In the Victorian
Electricity Supply
Industry*

September 2014

DATE	VERSION	AMENDMENT	NAME
July 2013	1	Original	VESI STRC
November 2013	2	New section in regards to the application of safe approach distance - special	VESI STRC
March 2014	3	Changed trainee to apprentice	VESI STRC
September 2014	4	Updated the supervision level definitions Updated plant type table to reflect two year time frame for the apprenticeship Adjusted Table 1 - Work Types; Public Lighting - PL Maintenance & Repair (live) to reflect the same as Live Low Voltage Work.	VESI STRC

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	3
PURPOSE	3
SCOPE.....	3
RESPONSIBILITIES.....	3
Employer	3
Supervisors/Crew Leaders.....	3
Apprentice.....	3
SUPERVISION FRAMEWORK	4
Direct Supervision	4
General Supervision	4
Broad Supervision.....	4
RECOGNITION OF PRIOR COMPETENCIES.....	5
SAFE APPROACH DISTANCE - SPECIAL	5
APPRENTICES SHALL NOT APPLY THE USE OF SAFE APPROACH DISTANCE – SPECIAL.	5
LIVE WORK	5
SAFETY OBSERVER ROLE	5
AVAILABILITY.....	5
ACCESS AUTHORITIES	6
First Year Apprentice.....	6
Second -Year Apprentice.....	6
Post Apprenticeship	6
TABLE 1 - WORK TYPES	7
TABLE 2 - PLANT TYPES	8
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS.....	9

INTRODUCTION

This Guideline has been developed and established by the Victorian Electricity Supply Industry, (VESI) Skills and Training Reference Committee (STRC). Any changes to these Guidelines can only be made with the agreement of the VESI STRC.

PURPOSE

This Guideline has been developed to assist employers and Electrician to Lineworker (E2L) Apprentices to understand the obligations and expectations in regards to workplace supervision, taking into consideration the welfare of the Apprentice in terms of safety and competency development.

SCOPE

This Guideline applies to the supervision of E2L Apprentices employed in the VESI who are undertaking the National Distribution Lineworker Qualification.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Employer

- Ensure that employees meet the requirements of this Guideline
- Shall take all reasonable steps to ensure supervision of Apprentices is carried out by a person that is competent to carry out the work.
- Establish effective coaching/mentoring practices for their Apprentice
- Provide opportunities for the Apprentice to develop their knowledge and skills

Supervisors/Crew Leaders

- Ensure that Apprentices and relevant employees meet the supervision requirements of this Guideline
- Apply this Guideline when planning or allocating work functions and activities in the work place for Apprentices
- Take into consideration the kind of work being undertaken, especially with regard to live low voltage work or work in the vicinity of live apparatus
- Have regard to the level of competence of the Apprentice for the particular task, skill or activity to be performed

Apprentice

- Only undertake work or activity for which they have been trained and/or supervised in accordance with this Guideline.

SUPERVISION FRAMEWORK

The Supervision framework describes the criteria and supervision levels that the employer and Apprentice shall allow for when planning work.

In determining the appropriate level of supervision to apply the following criteria shall be considered:

- Safety of the Apprentice
- The work to be carried out
- The experience of the Apprentice
- When the knowledge and skills is attained (off job training)

Apprentices should not undertake tasks unless they have received the relevant training. However this does not restrict an apprentice from observing or assisting qualified personnel undertaking tasks, for which the apprentice is not trained. For example, a first year apprentice can assist a qualified tradesperson under direct supervision by:

- hanging and wiring a meter
- hanging a service at the house end in preparation for testing

Refer to Table 1 which provides guidance on the supervision requirements for types of work and activities that apprentices can undertake.

At all times during the term of their apprenticeship, the apprentice shall be under Direct, General or Broad Supervision as defined below and in Table 1 Work Types and Table 2 Plant Types. The goal is for supervision to progressively diminish from direct to broad in the third or fourth year of the apprenticeship dependant on experience gained and the task with the exception of performing "Live Low Voltage work". Note: Where 'No' is indicated in Tables 1, 2 & 3 this means the task is not permitted.

Direct Supervision

The onsite supervising tradesperson shall be in direct visual and audible contact with the apprentice, providing constant instruction and inspection of tasks being performed.

Note: All Live Low Voltage work requires Direct Supervision.

General Supervision

The onsite supervising tradesperson shall make regular face to face contact with the apprentice, delivering progressive instruction and inspection on tasks being performed.

Broad Supervision

The onsite supervising tradesperson shall provide instruction and inspection of tasks being performed by the apprentice.

RECOGNITION OF PRIOR COMPETENCIES

There are situations where an apprentice has previously been assessed as competent and/or authorised to undertake certain activities (e.g. Licence to perform high risk work and/or Network Authorisations).

Exemptions are permitted for these activities provided that the licence to perform high risk work and/or Network Authorisations and appropriate refresher training records are current and with Network Operator approval.

SAFE APPROACH DISTANCE - SPECIAL

Apprentices shall not apply the use of Safe Approach Distance – Special.

LIVE WORK

Under no circumstances shall any Apprentice undertake Live Low Voltage Work until they have successfully completed training in the national competency standard unit (Maintain Overhead Energised Low Voltage Conductors and Cables). All Live Low Voltage work requires Direct supervision.

SAFETY OBSERVER ROLE

Apprentices who are new entrants into the industry and who have not acquired relevant skills and knowledge are not to be used as safety observers in their initial 12 month period.

Apprentices may be utilised, after the initial 12 month period, as a competent safety observer but only if they have:

- a) Successfully completed training in Maintain Overhead Energised Low Voltage Conductors and Cables
- b) been trained in rescue and/or escape techniques applicable to the task being performed
- c) been trained in Safe Approach Distances
- d) have an understanding of the task or work practice being observed
- e) an understanding of the functions and movements of plant and equipment.

Under no circumstances shall a Apprentice perform, assist or act as a Safety Observer for a live High Voltage work party.

AVAILABILITY

To be considered for availability the apprentice must have successfully completed training in the national competency standard unit (Maintain Overhead Energised LV Conductors and Cables) and have started the 2nd year of their apprenticeship.

An apprentice can only take on the duties of a second call availability Lineworker and cannot sign on to an Access Permit as a recipient in charge (RIC).

The supervising tradesperson must be able to adequately supervise the apprentice at all times as outlined in Table 1.

ACCESS AUTHORITIES

An apprentice Lineworker cannot be a 'Recipient in Charge' of an Electrical Access Permit.

First Year Apprentice

If working under an access authority the apprentice shall be bracketed on to the Access Permit as an Instructed Person with an authorised Access Permit recipient.

Second -Year Apprentice

An apprentice can be Authorised as a holder of Receive Access Permits. This means that they can sign onto access permits and work within the bounds of the access permit but shall remain under supervision.

Prior to being authorised, an apprentice shall have successfully completed:

- the first year of the apprenticeship
- Apply Access procedures to work on or near electrical network infrastructure (Receive Access Permits)

Post Apprenticeship

Upon successful completion of the Distribution Lineworker Apprenticeship and with approval from the Network Operator the holder can sign on to an Access Authority as a Recipient in Charge.

TABLE 1 - WORK TYPES

This table provides guidance on the supervision requirements and the activities apprentices can undertake. It has been aligned to the training package as delivered for the Certificate III in ESI – Distribution qualification.

Type of Work		1st Year		2 nd Year	
		1 st Six Months	2 nd Six Months	1 st six Months	2 nd six months
General	Yard / Ground work	General	Broad	Broad	Broad
	Ground work at job site	Direct	General	General	Broad
	Pole dressing	Direct	General	General	Broad
	Traffic Management	General	General	Broad	Broad
Working aloft	LADDER Work Aloft (Under EAP or Not Commissioned).	Direct	Direct	General	Broad
	EWP Work Aloft ¹ (Under EAP or Not Commissioned)	Direct (Not operating EWP)	Direct	General	Broad
Earthing	Install Substation Earthing	Direct	Direct	General	Broad
	SWER Earth Maintenance	Direct	Direct	General	Broad
Public Lighting	New PL pole Installations.	Direct	Direct	General	Broad
	PL Maintenance & Repair (live)	No	No	Direct	Direct
Metering & Servicing	Install / Replace Metering (De-energised)	Direct	Direct	Direct	General
	Install OH & UG Services (De-energised)	Direct	Direct	General	General
	Install OH & UG Services (Live)	No	No	Direct	Direct
	Undertake NST/Polarity Test	No	No	Direct	Direct
Live LV Work	Live Low Voltage Work	No	No	Direct	Direct
	Make LV Dead	No	No	Direct	Direct
	LV Switching	No	No	Direct	Direct
	Change LV Cross Arm Alive	No	No	Direct	Direct
HV Operating	HV Operating ²	No	No	No	Direct
Tree Clearing	Undertake Vegetation Control (EWP)	No	No	Direct	Direct
Cable Jointing	All LV & HV types	No cable jointing shall be undertaken unless the E2L Apprentice has successfully completed the relevant Unit of Competency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct supervision shall apply for all HV jointing and Live LV jointing • Direct supervision shall apply for the first six months of de-energised LV jointing and general supervision thereafter for the remainder of the apprenticeship 			

¹Must be 18 years of age and hold the relevant WorkSafe licence to perform high risk work, (boom-type elevating work platform operation).

²Network Operator issued HV Operating Authority must be held or work undertaken in consideration of restrictions outlined under Access Authorities on page 6

TABLE 2 - PLANT TYPES

During the course of an apprenticeship it is expected that apprentices will have worked across a representative range of plant and equipment, consistently and to industry requirements. They will also, have concurrently attained the relevant underpinning knowledge and skills to support workplace performance.

Type of Work	Year 1	Year 2
Chainsaw / Demo Saw	Broad	Broad
Self-Loading Cable Trailer	Broad	Broad
Small Capstan Winch	Broad	Broad
Cable Winch	Broad	Broad
Truck –mounted crane < 10mt tonne	Broad	Broad
Forklift	Broad	Broad
EWP	Broad	Broad
Truck- mounted crane > 10mt tonne	Broad	Broad

Prior to operation an apprentice must meet all regulatory requirements, age, training and hold the relevant WorkSafe licence to perform high risk work for the following:

- a) Forklift truck operation
- b) Boom-type elevating work platform operation
- c) Vehicle loading Crane > 10mt

(See Recognition of prior competencies on page 5 for further information)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Type of Work	1st Year		2 nd Year	
	1 st Six Months	2 nd Six Months	1 st six Months	2 nd six months
Can they go on availability? ³	No	No	No	Yes
Can they climb new poles and structures (not commissioned)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Can they climb commissioned poles and structures- Under EAP	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Can they work live (LV)	No	No	Yes	Yes
Can they be a safety observer - Live LV work? ⁴	No	No	No	Yes
Can they apply the use of Safe Approach Distance - Special	No	No	No	No
Can they be a safety observer – HV Live Line Work?	No	No	No	No
Can they undertake polarity/NST testing?	No	No	Yes	Yes
Can they perform LV switching?	No	No	No	Yes
Can they supervise contractors?	No	No	No	No
Can they perform Traffic Control?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Can they conduct a Safe to Approach test?	No	No	Yes	Yes
Can they undertake HV operating? ⁵	No	No	No	Yes
Can they sign on an Electrical Access Permit?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Can they be a Recipient in Charge of an Electrical Access Permit? ⁶	No	No	No	No

³Refer to Availability requirements on page 5

⁴Refer to Safety Observer requirements on page 5

⁵Refer to HV Operator requirements on page 7

⁶Refer to Access Authority requirements on page 6