

Note to electricians and electrical contractors about the introduction of fees for electrical inspections

This note is to advise you that from 1 August 2009 the ACT Planning and Land Authority (ACTPLA) will introduce fees for new residential and commercial electrical installation inspections.

The new inspection fees are determined by the Minister for Planning under Section 64 of the *Electricity Safety Act 1971*, which helps to ensure the safe use of electricity by legislating compliance and testing and reporting of electrical wiring work.

The fees will be due at the commencement of planned electrical wiring work. A Certificate of Electrical Safety (CES) is due 14 business days after work is completed and tested to AS/NZS 3017. Confirmation is required by the responsible licensed electrician that the installation is compliant with AS/NZS 3000.

The fees will fund ACTPLA's electrical inspections. They incorporate a flat fee for typical residential housing projects with a sliding scale fee for larger commercial projects based on the number of switchboard types in the project.

To determine the total fee to be paid a new form — *The Electrical Start of Work Notice*—has been created. Printed copies are available from ACTPLA or you can obtain a copy from ACTPLA's Website.

Fees are determined based on number of switchboard types nominated as 'units'. Each switchboard has its own assigned fee unit, e.g. it might be worth 1 unit or 2 units. All the fee units for a development are added up and multiplied by \$180 (the value of one unit).

The attached 'Notes for Schedule' sets out the electrical inspection fee structure. There are different fee structures for commercial and residential installations.

From 1 August (for work approved) the electrical inspection process will allow for Certificates of Electrical Safety (CESs) to be finalised in five business days for faxed forms and forms hand delivered to Mitchell. It will also allow five business days for electronic lodgement (emailed) of CESs. From 1 January 2010, the electronic lodgment process for CESs will reduce to four business days, then 3 days from 31 March 2010 and 2 days from 1 July 2010. When residential CESs are not finalised in the agreed time by ACTPLA the inspection fee will be credited back to the responsible licensee.

From time to time ACTPLA's Industry Zone Newsletter will include important electrical information regarding safety, licensing and amendments to the wiring rules. To subscribe go to www.actpla.gov.au and go to industry information on the home page.

Further information can be obtained from our website under Industry information, http://www.actpla.act.gov.au/customer_information/industry or from our Electrical information line on 026207 6267.

Quick guide to the electrical fees and charges

New

For new work a "Start of Work Notice" needs to be completed and sent to ACTPLA before you begin work. The form is available from our Shopfront and from our website under "Forms."

There are two Start of Work Notices. One residential housing and one for commercial buildings (including residential apartments/units).

The Start of Work Notice does not replace the Certificate of Electrical Safety (CES). As required under Section 6(b) of *Electricity Safety Act 1971*, a CES is required within 14 days of testing.

1. Residential House - For building of Class 1 and 10 when 10 is associated with class 1

A flat rate of \$180 applies. This will include the Temporary supply and Final inspection.

2. Commercial Buildings (including Residential Units)

For building of Class 2 to 10 (when 10 is not associated with class 1)

The fee will depend on the size of the electrical installation. The fee is set at \$180 per Fee Multiplier (FM).

A Fee Multiplier (FM) is used against the most common parts of an electrical installation. A list of the different types of Fee Multiplier (FM) are on the Start of Work Notice.

For example, a multi residential unit development of 8 apartments could have the following fee:

Temporary supply	1x FM
Main Switchboard under 3m	2x FM
Switchboard in each of the 8 apartments	8x FM
Mechanical services board under 3m	1x FM
	Total FM 12
	Total FM x Fee = 12 x \$180 \$2,160

Alternative energy supply (AES)

Solar photovoltaic (PV), backup generator, wind generator, and other AES, all come under the AES section of fees and charges. A Start of Work Notice is required for this type of installation.

For a typical solar PV installation where one inverter is used, there is a Fee Multiplier (FM) of 1. If 3 inverters were used then the FM is 3. If you connect into an existing Switchboard the FM is zero but if you create a new switchboard then the new switchboard will have a FM of 1.

Additions and alterations

There will be a fee for this class of work based upon the fee structure discussed above. At this stage the model for implementing this fee is still under development. Further advice will be sent out when the model is implemented.

Defects and re-inspection fees

1 st re-inspection of electrical installation	\$180
2 nd re-inspection of electrical installation	\$360
3 rd re-inspection of electrical installation	\$720
4 th and subsequent re-inspection of electrical installation	\$1440