

Energy and Land Legislation Amendment (Energy Safety) Bill 2025

Increased and new penalties for contraventions of the *Electricity Safety Act 1998*

Increased and new penalties – commenced on 21 May 2025

The following table outlines the maximum penalty units for contraventions. The value of a penalty unit is set annually by the Victorian Treasurer and is updated on 1 July each year. For the financial year 2024-25 the value of one penalty unit is \$197.59.

Section	Description	Previous penalties				New penalties			
		Offence penalties (prosecution)		Infringement penalties (if applicable)		Offence penalties (prosecution)		Infringement penalties (if applicable)	
		Natural person	Body Corporate	Natural person	Body Corporate	Natural person	Body Corporate	Natural person	Body Corporate
32	Registered number – Registered electrical contractor must include registered number in advertisements or statement relating to electrical work they carry out	20	100	2	10	60	300	6	30
35(1)	Employees of registered electrical contractor – Registered electrical contractor must keep a register of licensed electrical installation workers they employ	10		1		20	100	2	10
43(1)	Safety of electrical installations – a person must not knowingly install any electrical equipment that is unsafe, will be unsafe if connected to an electricity supply, or if the installation will make any other electrical equipment safe or a building or structure unsafe if supplied with electricity.	40		-		240	1200	-	-

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43(1A)	Safety of electrical installations A person must not knowingly carry out electrical equipment work that will make electrical equipment unsafe, will be unsafe if connected to an electricity supply, or if the installation will make any other electrical equipment safe or a building or structure unsafe if supplied with electricity.	40		-		240	1200	-	-
43(3)	Safety of electrical installations An owner of premises who is notified by an occupier of any unsafe electrical equipment must cause the electrical installation to be removed from the premises or to be made safe.	40	200	-	-	240	1200	-	-
43A(1)	Safety of electrical installations - building work A person must not knowingly carry out building work at a premises which will make an electrical installation or a building at a premises unsafe if the premises is supplied with electricity.	40	200	-	-	240	1200		-
44(1)	Compliance and testing of electrical installation work A licensed electrical installation worker must ensure that all electrical installation work - they carry out complies with the Act and Regulations and is tested in accordance with and at intervals required by the regulations before it is connected to the electricity supply.	40		-		240		-	

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44(2)	<p>Compliance and testing of electrical installation work</p> <p>A licensed electrical installation worker who carries out electrical installation work must, within four business days after completing the work complete and sign a certificate of compliance in respect of that work and if the worker is not the person responsible for the carrying out of the work, give to the person who is responsible a signed certificate of compliance in respect of that work.</p>	10		1		60		6	
44(3)	<p>Compliance and testing of electrical installation work</p> <p>A licensed electrical installation worker must not sign a certificate of compliance in relation to any electrical installation work carried out by that worker unless the certificate— (a) describes the work; and (b) states that the work complies with this Act and the regulations; and (c) contains any other details in relation to the work required by the regulations.</p>	10		1		60		6	
45(1)	<p>Inspection of electrical installation work</p> <p>A person who is responsible for the carrying out of prescribed electrical installation work must ensure that that work is inspected by a licensed electrical inspector in accordance with the regulations before the electrical installation is connected to the electricity supply, or if the electrical circuits or electrical equipment handled in the course of the work were not disconnected from the electricity supply, before the work is first used after it is completed.</p>	40	200	4	20	120	600	12	60

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45(2)	<p>Inspection of electrical installation work</p> <p>Before an electricity supplier first connects an electrical installation to an electricity supply, the electricity supplier must ensure that a certificate of inspection of the prescribed electrical installation work in relation to that installation has been issued by a licensed electrical inspector in accordance with this section.</p>	40	200	4	20	120	600	12	60
45(3)	<p>Inspection of electrical installation work</p> <p>A licensed electrical inspector who carries out an inspection of prescribed electrical installation work must within 4 business days after the completion of that inspection, give to the person who is responsible for the carrying out of the work a signed certificate of inspection in respect of that work.</p>	10		1		60		6	
45(4)	<p>Inspection of electrical installation work</p> <p>(4) A licensed electrical inspector must not sign a certificate of inspection of any prescribed electrical installation work unless the certificate— (a) describes the work; and (b) states that the inspector has inspected the work; and (c) states whether or not the work complies with this Act and the regulations; and (d) contains any other details in relation to the work required by the regulations.</p>	50		5		120		12	

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45A(1)	Certificates of electrical safety The person who is responsible for the carrying out of electrical installation work must — (a) ensure that a certificate of electrical safety is completed in respect of that work; and (b) within the required time give the completed certificate of electrical safety in respect of that work to the person for whom the work was carried out and give a copy of that certificate to Energy Safe Victoria.	10		1		60		6	
45A(3)	Certificates of electrical safety The person who is responsible for the carrying out of electrical installation work must not give a certificate of electrical safety unless the certificate form used is a certificate form supplied to that person under section 45B.	10		1		60		6	
45B(7)	Supply of certificate forms A registered electrical contractor, a licensed electrical installation worker or a prescribed person must ensure that only one person has an authority at one time	5		-		60	300	-	-
83BA(1)	Submission of bushfire mitigation plans for acceptance Offence for specified operator to fail to submit a bushfire mitigation plan	300	1500	-	-	300	1500	-	-
83BBC	Offence to fail to submit revised bushfire mitigation plan on request Offence for specified operator to fail to submit a revised bushfire mitigation plan, on request by Energy Safe	-	-	-	-	300	1500	-	-

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83BBD	<p>Offence to modify matters related to bushfire mitigation plans in certain circumstances</p> <p>Offence for specified operator to modify matters related to bushfire mitigation plans in certain circumstances – undertake or permit undertake or permit a modification of an at risk electric line that has potential to increase overall levels of risk to safety of any person or property</p>	-	-	-	-	1200	6000	-	-
144(1)	<p>Offence not to comply with improvement notice</p> <p>A person to whom an improvement notice is issued must comply with the improvement notice.</p>	80	400			240	1200		

New penalties – to commence on 1 April 2026

The following table outlines the maximum penalty units for contraventions. The value of a penalty unit is set annually by the Victorian Treasurer and is updated on 1 July each year. For the financial year 2024-25 the value of one penalty unit is \$197.59.

Section	Description	New penalties	
		Offence penalties (prosecution)	
		Natural person	Body Corporate
138A(2)	Offence to refuse to allow person assisting authorised officer access to land or premises The occupier or person in management or control of the land or premises must not, without reasonable excuse, refuse to allow the person assisting an authorised officer access to the land or premises.	60	300
138A(3)	Offence to obstruct or hinder person assisting authorised officer The occupier or person in management or control of the land or premises must not, without reasonable excuse, obstruct or hinder the person assisting an authorised officer.	60	300
144B	Offence to not comply with prohibition notice Offence to not comply with prohibition notice issued for carrying on of an activity which involves or will involve an immediate safety risk to the safe supply or use of electricity	500 and/or 5 years imprisonment	2500