

Briefing

COVID-19 response on training for external participants

What is happening?

The situation with Coronavirus (COVID-19) is an unprecedented global and national health crisis.

As an organisation delivering critical services to communities throughout NSW and employing thousands of people across the State, it is crucial for rural, regional and remote NSW that Essential Energy responds effectively.

Essential Energy has enacted its Pandemic Management Plan and established a Pandemic Preparedness Team (PPT) to proactively manage our organisational response.

In line with our Pandemic Management Plan, the objectives guiding Essential Energy's ongoing response are to:

- Protect the health and wellbeing of Essential Energy employees, contractors, suppliers and the community
- Minimise the risk of Essential Energy being a source of infection for employees and the broader community; and
- Reduce the risk of operational disruption to Essential Energy and Essential Water.

In line with these objectives, we will be pausing all non-essential training activity for two weeks while we consider options for delivering the training without the need for personal attendance.

This will impact Accredited Service Provider's (ASP's) and Contract Service Provider's (CSP's) who require Essential Energy's training in order to become 'Authorised' to access the Network.

We regret the inconvenience this will cause but believe the health and safety of our employees, and mitigating the effects of the spread of COVID-19, are in the best interests of community well-being.

Continuing training courses

The following interim changes will be implemented from early April for our courses, until the immediate risk of COVID-19 is controlled:

ASP Inductions

This training was delivered as a face-to-face session over a half day and is usually followed by the Access Permit Recipient training on the same day.

The delivery will now be via Zoom (our video conferencing computer software), which removes the need to travel and provides 'social distancing'.

Access Permit Recipient Training

This training was delivered face-to-face, usually delivered on the same day as the ASP Induction.

The delivery will now be via Zoom (our video conferencing computer software), which removes the need to travel and provides 'social distancing'. This will incorporate a separate on-line assessment including a scenario-based access permit question.

Substation Entry Training (refresher only)

This training was delivered face-to-face for both initial training and refresher training. Initial training will remain paused at this stage.

The annual refresher delivery will now be an on-line course, which removes the need to travel and provides 'social distancing' to confirm understanding of Substation Entry requirements.

Vegetation Induction Training

This training was delivered face-to-face.

The delivery will now be via Zoom (our video conferencing computer software), which removes the need to travel and provides 'social distancing'. This will incorporate an on-line assessment involving scenario-based questions to confirm understanding our Electrical Safety Rules CEOP8030.

ASP Refresher Course

This training was delivered as a face-to-face session over 1 day and resulted in the issuance of the relevant National ESI refresher units of competence.

The annual refresher delivery will now be on-line knowledge assessment, which removes the need to travel and provides 'social distancing' to confirm understanding of network requirements including rescue and resuscitation procedures.

The delivery will not result in the issue of national Units of competency, but participants will be issued a certificate of completion that can be used to trigger reauthorisation.

ASP Electrical Safety Rules Initial Course

This training was delivered as a face-to-face session over a half day and results in the issuance of the relevant National ESI refresher unit of competence.

This course will remain paused at this stage. The delivery will be reviewed over the coming months to consider potential future options.

Work Near Overhead Powerlines Course

This training was delivered face-to-face for both initial training (two days) and refresher (one day) training. Both these courses will remain paused at this stage.

The annual refresher delivery will be reviewed over the coming months to consider potential options for next financial year.

Safe Work Practices Course

This training was delivered face-to-face for both initial training (two days) and refresher (one day) training. Both these courses will remain paused at this stage.

The refresher delivery will be reviewed over the coming months to consider potential options for next financial year.

We sincerely appreciate your support as work through this challenging period and will keep you updated with any changes.