

## Communiqué

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11 October 2019

### Standing Committee of Officials

Under the Electrical Equipment Safety System (EESS) Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA), the Ministerial Oversight Committee (MOC) is the national policy and governance body for the EESS. The MOC has oversight for the legislative framework, funding arrangements and all aspects of the EESS.

The Standing Committee of Officials (SCO), established by the MOC in the IGA is a collaborative governance forum responsible for managing and coordinating the day-to-day administration and operation of the EESS.

The IGA states that the SCO is comprised of officials from each of the participating jurisdictions. The current participating jurisdictions are: Queensland, Western Australia, Victoria and Tasmania.

New Zealand formally recognises the EESS as a means of meeting New Zealand requirements and is actively participating in SCO discussions.

The SCO has invited all jurisdictions throughout Australia and New Zealand to attend SCO meetings to participate and assist in the harmonisation of electrical equipment safety requirements and determination of on-going EESS activities.

This communiqué highlights key issues discussed from the second meeting of the SCO and other jurisdictions on 30 September 2019. This meeting was held via teleconference.

### Outcomes of SCO meeting

The 2019-20 annual distribution proposal was approved. Highlights of this proposal included:

- \$500,000 for 2019-20 electrical equipment check testing program. This will bring the amount of EESS check testing conducted over last three years to \$1.3M.
- \$255,825 for refund of some registration fees to identified responsible suppliers due to delay in full implementation of all EESS activities.
- \$410,000 for scoping redevelopment of EESS database to improve functionality, reporting and information available to industry, other stakeholders and the public.

Results of check testing, including the many non-compliances, were presented at the meeting. All jurisdictions agreed further action was imperative. All jurisdictions also agreed there is a need to engage with industry to use these results to enable industry to drive change to a higher compliance level. A project to engage with stakeholders on check testing outcomes and reporting methods will be undertaken to report back to SCO members and other jurisdictions for the next SCO meeting.

The SCO is working towards national progression of the EESS. In doing this, Queensland and Victoria have signed the IGA and have implemented legislation in accordance with the EESS. Tasmania and Western Australia have signed the IGA, recognise the EESS by gazette notice and

are progressing EESS legislative changes to be put before their respective parliaments. All jurisdictions present agreed to continue to progress efforts in working towards harmonising electrical safety regulatory systems throughout Australia and New Zealand.

A communiqué will be released following each SCO meeting and will be published on the EESS website. The SCO can be contacted through the SCO Secretariat at [EESS.Secretariat@oir.qld.gov.au](mailto:EESS.Secretariat@oir.qld.gov.au).

### **Attendees**

- Victoria Thomson, Queensland (SCO Chair)
- Andrew Goldsworthy, Tasmania
- Ian Burgwin, Victoria
- Adam Murdoch, Victoria
- Robert Faunt, South Australia
- Jodie Wright, New South Wales
- Matt Press, New South Wales
- Mark Wogan, New Zealand
- Peter Morfee, New Zealand
- Brian Richardson (SCO Secretariat)

### **Apologies**

- Saj Abdoolakhan, Western Australia
- Neil Burgess, Northern Territory
- Michael Mosslar, Australian Capital Territory

### **Next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 11 December 2019 in Melbourne, Victoria.