



## FACT SHEET 012

# WORKPLACE HEALTH & SAFETY - Electrical Safety

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The Queensland Chamber of Agricultural Societies (Queensland Ag Shows) takes Workplace Health & Safety seriously and provides the following to assist Shows in meeting their obligations in this area and provide a safe environment in which to conduct their events.

### SHOW SOCIETY ROLE IN WORKPLACE HEALTH & SAFETY

Show Societies need to have the following in place:

- Workplace Health & Safety Plan
- Workplace Health & Safety Officer (where applicable or appropriate)

### IDENTIFIED ISSUES IN RELATION TO ELECTRICAL SAFETY

The most common cause of notices being issued by WH&S inspectors is as a result of damaged or faulty equipment or failure to comply with basic electrical safety best practice. Identified areas of concern are:

- Damaged equipment with a potential risk
  - Switchboards
  - GPO (General Power Outlets)
  - Single insulation wiring
  - Other electrical infrastructure
- No Test and Tag of equipment
- Damaged or accessibility to equipment where access involves exposure to live parts
- Inappropriate use of equipment
  - Where equipment is being used for a purpose or in an environment that it was not intended for
  - Use of double adaptors
  - Use of domestic power boards not intended for outside use
  - Inappropriate routing of cabling
  - Inappropriate securing of cabling
- Slip, trip and fall hazards
  - Uncovered cables being run in public areas eg. across walkways
  - Uncovered and unprotected cables running across roadways or vehicle traffic areas

### RISK MITIGATION

One of the issues that Shows face is that a great deal of electrical equipment is brought onto the Showgrounds by external people whether they be exhibitors, competitors, stall holders, commercial displays etc. A Show should have a policy that ensures that anyone bringing electrical equipment onto the grounds has a responsibility to ensure compliance with safety requirements. Standard wording in all contracts, applications and entry forms should include wording to the following effect:

*"Anyone intending to bring electrical equipment to the Showgrounds will be required to ensure that such equipment is fitted with residual current protection (with rated residual current  $\leq 30$  mA) and that all electrical leads, tools and appliances have been inspected by a licensed electrical contractor and are currently tagged. The tag must be within the next test due date. The use of double adaptors and piggy-back plugs is prohibited and all power boards must also be tested and tagged. Domestic power boards are not to be used in an outside situation unless specifically approved for this purpose."*

As some electrical equipment may also have electrical motors and include drive belts it should also be ensured that they have adequate guarding in place for exposed parts. Regular inspections, particularly before an event, should be carried out by a competent person. Repair of damaged equipment and access to live parts should only be dealt with by an authorised person.

### MORE INFORMATION

- Electrical Safety codes of practice are available from:  
<https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice>

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