

Electricity

Overview

Electricity is a hazard that is common to most workplaces and is responsible for a significant number of work related fatalities and injuries each year.

The NSW OH&S Regulation 2001 Division 8, Electricity, makes the employer legally responsible for ensuring that “all electrical installations, electrical articles and associated equipment at a place of work are safe to use and are regularly inspected, tested and maintained to ensure they remain safe for use and are repaired or replaced if unsafe” ie defective or otherwise unserviceable.

General Safety Precautions

General safety precautions for all electrical equipment:

- Do not use faulty or damaged equipment
- Always ensure that faulty or damaged equipment is removed from service and tagged or disposed of correctly
- Use only “standards approved” equipment
- Do not overload circuits by using double adaptors
- Do not attempt to carry out repairs unless appropriately qualified to do so
- Do not allow water to come into contact with live electrical equipment
- Avoid using “make shift” electrical arrangements eg long extensions leads
- Regularly inspect equipment for damage

Dealing with Faulty Electrical Equipment

If you experience any difficulties with building related electrical equipment you should contact [Capital Works and Facilities](#) for advice and assistance.

If you are having problems with personal electrical equipment eg fans, do not try to use the appliance as it may cause an injury or interruption to the power supply.

Critical Point Summary

- Do not use or operate electrical equipment that is faulty or damaged
- Regularly inspect electrical equipment to ensure that it is not damaged – always remove damaged or faulty equipment from service
- Avoid using long extension leads as a temporary power supply
- Do not run extension leads across areas where they become a trip hazard or can be damaged
- Use a power board instead of a double adaptor