

# An electrician's guide to flood affected installations and testing

This fact sheet is a short guide, designed to assist electricians advising owners of flood affected installations and the tests required to be carried out prior to restoring supply.

## Electrical testing of flood affected installations

All electricians should understand and conduct testing as per AS/NZS 3000 "Wiring Rules". The testing regime under this standard is primarily for new circuits and new installations, although it is the basis of testing regardless of the status of the installation. You will need to electrically test in accordance with Section 8 of the "Wiring Rules".

The testing will come under **AS/NZS 3019:2007 Electrical Installations – Periodic Verification**.

This standard outlines three methods of verification which are:

- Basic visual inspection
- Visual with limited testing
- Visual with full testing

This standard allows for a detailed inspection report to be completed and handed to your customer, the customer's electricity distributor, or your customer's insurer. This is important for your customer and for you if any unforeseen problems arise after you have tested. At the very least, you can prove what you did in writing.

The electricity distributor will not reconnect power to an installation without proof of testing. Depending on your supply authority region or State, the electricity distributor may request a regulated certificate of electrical testing. You should always attach the **Certificate of Periodic Verification** to this form.

NECA's recommendation for flood-affected installations is for a full visual and electrical test in accordance with AS/NZS 3019. The certificate of verification identifies what you have tested and any issues encountered that restrict the testing process, including major or minor defects. NECA has created an **Electrical Installation Testing Record Sheet**, available for free download.

Keep in mind that the testing that you are doing is for an existing installation. If you have to do repair work, according to the "Wiring Rules" it is like for like replacement based on the installation date. If there is any additional or new work done, this work will have to be completed to the current "Wiring Rules." Refer to the "Wiring Rules," Clauses 1.9.3.1 and 1.9.3.2.

**Scan the QR code to download your free:**

- **Certificate of Periodic Verification**
- **Electrical Installation Testing Record Sheet**



# Your **SAFETY** is in your hands

## STOP

Be cautious when entering floodwater. Do not rush. Step back and observe. Never assume that the installation is dead. Always test before touching in all cases.

## THINK

Look at the area, look at the installation. Look after your safety and fellow workers.

## IDENTIFY

Identify any obvious problems and potential hazards like debris, sewage, or live cables before entering a premise.

## PLAN

Have a plan of attack formulated, including a genuine hazard assessment and apply SWMS relevant to the task.

## PROCEED

Once you have done the above and have considered as far as is reasonably practicable all of the hazards and you are confident that you can perform the task, then you can start. Keep in mind of any changes that affect your safety.

## STOP

Update your hazard assessment, and take the necessary steps to ensure the safety of you and your team.

## More information

It is important to determine which level of testing you are going to carry out and detail this on the inspection checklist from AS/NZS3019. Some or all of the points below may be used depending on the site and inspection being carried out.

Refer to NECA Members Technical Knowledge Base for access to:

- Certificate of Periodic Verification
- Electrical Installation Testing Record Sheet
- Legal Obligations - Employer advice on Site shutdowns and inclement weather
- NECAGuard Flood Emergency Response Guide
- Ladder SWMS
- Verification Testing SWMS

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## NEED EXPERT INDUSTRY ADVICE?

All NECA members have access to phone and email support through NECA Member Services.

The NECA team can assist you with technical, WHS, IR & HR issues, PPE and unlimited basic phone enquiries with our legal team.

Connect with NECA Member Services

T: 1300 361 099

E: [memberservices@neca.asn.au](mailto:memberservices@neca.asn.au)

*Disclaimer: This information should be used as a guide only and may not be suitable to specific individual cases. Contact NECA for expert advice and further clarification on your individual circumstance.*