

**RISK CATEGORIES, AND DEFINITIONS FOR PRESCRIBED ELECTRICAL WORK (PEW)**

A number of enquires have been received to clarify the risk categories applying to types of PEW associated with electrical installations.

The following table is provided to give clarity to the provisions of the Regulations, noting that the three categories are determined by defining the PEW in the Low Risk category first, followed by the High Risk category. All PEW not assigned to the low or high risk categories is then defined as General Work.

Type of PEW	Relevant Regulation	Additional guidance
<b>Maintenance</b>	Established in Reg 6A	In all cases this is low risk work.  Maintenance is principally driven by Regulation 59.
Repair	Included in the definition of maintenance (Reg 4)	In all cases this is low risk work.
<b>Replacement</b>	Established in Reg 6A Allows relocation or extension <b>only</b> to replace a fitting.	In all cases this is low risk work.  Replacement is principally driven by Regulation 59.  Note: Reg 59(3) allows restoration to “Original condition”.
<i>Upgrade</i>		<i>When in accordance with manufacturer’s instructions, or AS/NZS 3000, upgrading is a replacement.</i>  <i>Upgrading to address increased supply fault rating is also a replacement.</i>  <i>The installation of higher capacity fittings to address increased usage of an installation is an alteration. (For mains work this becomes high risk).</i>
<b>Install</b>	Definition is established in Reg 4	In most circumstances this is general work except where Reg 6A defines it as high risk.
Construct	Included in the definition of Install (Reg 4)	
Alter	Included in the definition of Install (Reg 4)	Used in AS/NZS 3000  Includes overhead to underground conversions. (For mains work this becomes high risk)
Addition	Included as “add” in the definition of install (Reg 4)	Used in AS/NZS 3000
Relocate	Included in the definition of install (Reg 4)	Includes the extension of cables (conductors) and rerouting of existing cables.
<b>Revenue Meters</b>	Specific provisions apply to metering. See definition of “Mains work”. (Reg 4).	All metering replacements are low risk. Installation of new meters is general risk, except any meter installation that can affect the continuity of the mains neutral, or polarity of the mains, is defined as high risk.
<b>Reconnections and restoration of power</b>	Reconnections and restoration of power following a disconnection or isolation to allow safe work to be carried out is not subject to certification and is not assigned a risk category. (Reg 74).	Note: Reconnections and restoration of power following a disconnection or isolation of more than 6 months require certification in accordance with AS/NZS 3019.
<b>PEW on works</b>	Not subject to certification or an assigned risk category.	Note: An ESC is required for a connection made in works that is the final step that will allow electricity to flow in the installation on which other PEW work has been done. (Reg 73A).
<b>Periodic Assessments</b>	Periodic assessments are not PEW, however most are required to be performed by a licenced inspector. They are therefore not assigned a risk category. (Reg 75).	Note: Periodic Assessments are not an “inspection” and therefore not restricted to an independent person from the installer or “maintainer”.
<b>Inspection</b>	All High Risk PEW must be inspected. (Reg 70). The inspection must not rely on the certification issued by the installer and must independently verify the safety of the completed work.(Reg 71).	Installation Standards have references to “inspection”. These references relate to the visual and similar checks that the installer must carry out as part of their installation work. They may also act as a guide to an inspector.