



Electricity Engineers'
Association

HEALTH &
SAFETY

2026 SSPG Update

EEA.CO.NZ

30
YEARS
SM-EI
Safety Manual
Electricity Industry



2026 SSPG Business plan

- SM-EI Project 30
 - ESI Guide for Mobile Plant (2014)
 - Guide to Work on Poles and Pole Structures (2016)
 - Health and Safety Critical Risk Guide (2020)
 - Switching Instructions and Communications Technical Guide (2019)
 - Worker Safety Around Solar (New guide to be developed)
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- LOTO Guide – With EEA Board to determine way forward
 - Drone Guides x 2 – Approved for publication
 - BESS Guide – SSPG review process
 - Line Mechanic and Cable Joints handbook – Consultant engaged



30
YEARS

SM-EI

**Safety Manual
Electricity Industry**

1995 – 2020 Pre Digitisation

GENERAL SAFETY HANDBOOK ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY

RULES AND P
GENERAL S
NEW ZEALAN
GENERATION, T
DISTRIBUT

SAFETY RULES ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY

SAFETY RULES FOR THE NEW ZEALAND
ELECTRICITY GENERATION, TRANSMISSION
AND DISTRIBUTION INDUSTRY

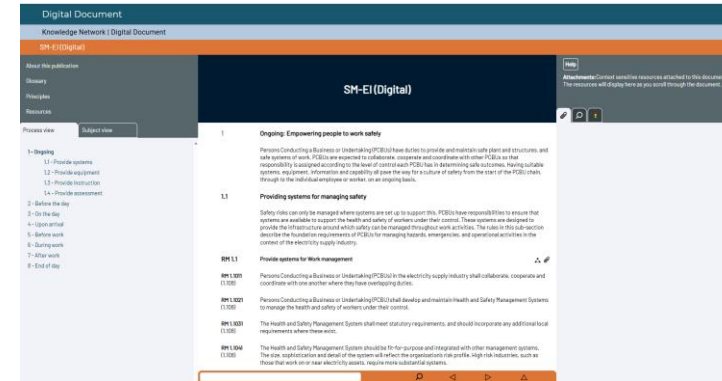
April 1995

1%



2020 SM-EI – *What changed*

- 266 duplications removed
- 1604 lines removed from merging
- 1303 rules redrafted
- New structure
- New numbering
- Digitisation
- New platform (Knowledge network)



2020 SM-EI – *The feedback over 5 years*

“A mature team doesn’t resist feedback; it welcomes it, reflects on it, and uses it to move forward stronger.” (GJ2025)

- Website – multifactor log in + other issues (not part of this discussion, but being resolved)
- Printed version – like a book version (lots and lots of this)
- Multiple views, stick to one view – break into chapters
- Layout confusion – hard to navigate, not intuitive, especially printed
- Numbering system cumbersome
- Digitisation – good for online searching and linkage but reliant on people having a digital device
- Not laid out in order – sequencing
- Rules can be read in isolation and not in the wider context
- Not the experts in a lot of areas talked about, stick to your knitting **(96%)**



2026 SM-EI – *Reshape - Objectives*

- Printer friendly, online – searchable (source of truth is always online)
- Structured layout
- Intuitive to navigate
- No individual rules, read sections to gain full understanding
- Sticking to our knitting, reference the rest
- Remove further duplication



2026 SM-EI – *Process to reshape*

“There’s strength in admitting you didn’t get it right — wisdom in reviewing, courage in rewinding, and growth in restructuring.” (GJ2025)

- Took all rules and decided on what to keep and what not to (are we the experts) 981 kept, 405 removed
- Broke rules in to specific topic areas
- Put the rules in to logical order - sequencing
- Rewrote the rules based on sequencing, removed further duplication (some rules said the same thing just shaped differently)
- Cross referenced each rule from 2020 version to new version to check content and intent carried through
- Sticking to our knitting, reference the rest



2026 SM-EI – Industry Experts Review

- 3 week review period
- 14 Contributors PAN industry
- 296 Lines feedback
- 55% of feedback accepted
 - Glossary location, additional items
 - Grammatical fixes
 - Removal of repeated legislative information
 - ECP34 inclusion
 - Index inclusion
- 36% of feedback reviewed and not adopted
 - Glossary items, not applicable to SM-EI
 - Additional rules or more prescriptive rules
 - Greater referencing to ACOPs / Standards and removal of content
 - Alternate structure (bullet pointing)
- 9% General observation statements

			Comments	Code	Final
4.9	4.9		1st Para Capitalise the A for access Permit	x	ACCEPTED - change mad
5.11	5.11		Aircraft and ATVs are as different as 'chick and cheese', i.e. aerial verse land-based, and ought to have separate sections. Change '5.11 Guidelines for Safe Operation of Aircraft and ATVs' into two sections: '5.11 Guidelines for Safe Operation of Aircraft' '5.11.11 Terrestrial Vehicles (ATVs)'	x	ACCEPTED - change mad
			The current SM-EI states that temporary security fencing, barriers or markings used near live conductors shall be non-conductive, of adequate strength and supported. The draft changes this to should. Consider retaining mandatory wording as this is a direct electrical safety control.	x	ACCEPTED - change mad
5.12	5.12		Suggest removing the date from the standard	x	ACCEPTED - change mad
5.13	5.13		"Plans for excavation must clearly mark the location of underground services to prevent accidental damage." This seems odd. Underground services may be recorded on plans sourced through the utility's service. Based on the following plans, the location of underground services is normally located and marked. Its not the plans for excavation that mark location of underground services.	x	ACCEPTED - change state
5.14	5.14		should there be an and in here	x	ACCEPTED - change mad
5.15.1	5.15.1		Change US spelling, i.e. change "motorised" to "motorized"	x	ACCEPTED - change mad
5.15.3	5.15.3		1st paragraph, capital A for Access	x	ACCEPTED - change mad
5.17	5.17		Capitalise document title, i.e. 'WorkSafe Approved Code of Practice for Management and Removal of Asbestos.'	x	ACCEPTED - change mad
5.18	5.18		Introduce acronym - 'WorkSafe Approved Code of Practice (ACOP)'	x	ACCEPTED - change mad
			Change statement to "Workers must wear appropriate ACOP"		
5.2	5.2		Should the Zs in authorized and me		
5.2	5.2		Please remove US spelling, i.e. char		
5.3	5.3		Missing MAD table that aligns with		
5.4.1	5.4.1		why are we allowing steel ladders in		
5.4.2	5.4.2		Please change "1000V" to convert thousands and a space between th		
5.4.2	5.4.2		No definition of what a transforme		
5.4.2	5.4.2		Second paragraph from bottom of c		
5.4.4	5.4.4		Second paragraph from top of page		
6.4.4	6.4.4				

ACCEPTED FEEDBACK THEMES				
No separate criteria, identify draft key themes proposed for the standard to include in the register				
Theme	Accepted	Rejected	What the accepted feedback covered	Representative accepted example
Editorial quality & consistency	61	32.4%	Capitalisation, spelling, punctuation, typography, acronym pronunciation, and consistent New Zealand or technical usage.	Capitalise Access Permit was NZ spelling; risk to overused and maintain consistency; define tests, units, and acronyms.
Technical safety controls & v	23	14.5%	Substantive operational controls for PPE, work at height, cutting, barriers, excavation, MEWP, ladders, and equipment use.	Remove mandatory non-conductive barriers; add MAD tables; strengthen PPE and fall-protection requirements; remove steel ladders in reinforced.
Standards, legislation & refs	22	13.5%	Alignment with NZSAS, WorkSafe guidance, ECP 34, AS/NZS standards, and consistent document referencing.	Link to NZSAS and WorkSafe guidance; remove date from standards where appropriate; align with ECP 34 definition and reference format.
Definitions & terminology cl	22	13.5%	Clearer glossary entries, defined technical terms, and recognition of ambiguous or inconsistent terminology.	Define Document, MAD, JSHOLD, Risk, Change, and Secondary Point of Contact; distinguish drop, confusion, and operational error.
Structure, navigation & web	17	10.4%	Indices, cross-references, section numbering, page layout, headings, and reducing content to where users expect it.	Create an alphabetical index; move the glossary from page 10 to the end of the document; improve heading and page layout.
Rules, permits & mandatory	11	6.7%	Accountability and authority across PCBAs, Supervisors, Safety Officers, Inspectors, and permit processes.	Clarify lower versus Principal authority; require permit sign-off; strengthen MADT or SMALL wording and risk reduction measures.
Scope, simplification & dept	7	4.5%	Removal of duplicated legal guidance, and sharper focus on electricity industry-specific content.	Reduce repeated legislative material; remove historical text and rely on specialist guidance for broader compliance matters.
Total accepted feedback	163	100.0%	Each approved row is counted once under its primary theme.	Coverage: all rows marked 'Y' in the feedback register.

REJECTED FEEDBACK THEMES				
No separate criteria, identify draft key themes proposed for the standard to include in the register				
Theme	Rejected	What the rejected feedback covered	Representative rejected example	
Definitions & terminology cl	41	28.7%	Proposed glossary additions, expanded definitions, and alternative terminology that was not adopted.	Add definitions for Employee, Equipment, Worksite, Excavation and Signaling terms; permit concepts, and numerous 'generalisation'.
Technical safety controls & v	23	27.4%	Requests for additional or more prescriptive controls covering live line, work at height, equipment, cutting, excavation, steel, and field structure.	Reinforce climbing barriers, add equipment inspection and use, work at height, equipment, cutting, excavation, steel, and field structure; reinforce previous MAD, expand accessories controls, and emergency situ



2026 SM-EI – *Industry Feedback*

- 7 week review period
- Industry webinars
 - This presentation
 - Hear feedback directly
 - Talk through changes
- October SSPG Review
- November Board signoff
- Publish 2027

04/05/26	Last update from SSPG to EEA Executive
25/05/26	Review feedback from lawyers
09/06/26	Industry Experts meeting 1
16/06/26	StayLive – SMEI engagement
17/06/26	Industry Experts meeting 2
18/06 – 06/07/26	Various other industry engagement pieces (SM-EI)
23/06/26	Industry Experts meeting 3
29/06/26	SSPG feedback review
06/07/26	SSPG feedback review
09/07/26	Industry Experts meeting 4 (feedback on feedback)
09/07 – 20/07/26	Lawyer review
09/07 – 20/07/26	Finalise document
20/07/26	SSPG approval to consult
21/07/26	EEA Exec update, seeking approval to consult
11/08/26	Project 30 SMEI released to industry for consultation (EEA HS Conference)
Consultation period (7 weeks)	Industry webinars on SMEI
29/09/26	Industry feedback closes
October 26	SSPG Review feedback
* Dependant on feedback there may be additional rounds of consultation *	
1 st week November	SSPG to recommend approval to publish
November 26	EEA Board approval to publish
TBC	Publish on website / Order printed versions

