

SAFETY STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES GROUP WORK PROGRAMME



PRIORITY

P1	MUST COMPLETE
P2	SHOULD COMPLETE
P3	MAY COMPLETE

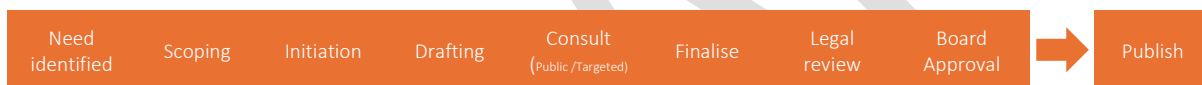
ETA

BAU	ONGOING
Q1	JUNE
Q2	SEPT
Q3	DEC
Q4	MARCH

The Safety Standards and Procedures Group (SSPG) is a pan industry, innovative, inclusive, and trusted group that provides leadership, guidance, and expertise to support continual improvement on health, safety and wellbeing in the electricity supply industry.

TECHNICAL BEST PRACTICE

The publication development process will generally follow the below steps. In general, the end-to-end process spans a number of months. Individual development processes can be staggered and run in parallel.



New Guides

The SSPG has identified the development of new industry guide(s) as necessary to strengthen workplace safety, support consistent practices, and enhance the management of critical risks across the Electricity Supply Industry.

Worker Safety around Solar

Solar was initially included in the BESS Guide, but with the substantial increase in solar being installed and connected to our Generation and networks there is a need to have a standalone guide for worker safety when working near solar or on connected equipment.

P2	Q4
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Publication Review/Update

With a growing number of publications, reviews must be focused and efficient to keep guidance current. Where a publication remains fit-for-purpose, significant change is not expected. SSPG will include a standing agenda item to review guides published more than five years ago.

This year, SSPG will review selected publications to confirm their relevance and value by analysing usage data, seeking targeted industry feedback, and assessing whether more current guidance exists (for example, from WorkSafe). Recommendations will be made to retain, update, or retire each publication, with any updates completed in accordance with the EEA Guide review template.

Safety Manual – Electricity Industry SM-EI Project 30 - Ongoing

Progress the review and restructure of the Safety Manual – Electricity Industry (SM-EI) to improve usability, clarify requirements, and ensure the rules focus on

P1	Q2
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<p>areas where the EEA is the appropriate subject matter expert. This includes removing or referencing material better governed elsewhere, undertaking extensive industry engagement, and completing user acceptance testing to support sector confidence and adoption, with the aim of launching the updated SM-EI at the Health and Safety Workshop in August.</p>		
<p>Critical Risks to Health and Safety (2020)</p> <p>Review the Critical Risks to Health and Safety Guide to confirm the identified risks remain current and relevant. Map the EEA Safety Manual – Electricity Industry (SM-EI) and associated guides as controls to each risk, identify any gaps, and investigate enhancements such as Critical Risk Control Verification aligned with the HASANZ critical risk guidance due for release in June.</p>	P1	Q4
<p>Switching Instructions and Communications (2019)</p> <p>Undertake a review of the Switching Instructions and Communications Guide to ensure it remains current, reflects industry practice, and supports clear, consistent switching communication. Update the guide as required to improve usability, address any gaps, and align with relevant EEA procedures and expectations.</p>	P2	Q3
<p>Work on Poles and Pole Structures (2016)</p> <p>Review emerging technologies for poles and pole structures, including composite poles and associated hardware, to understand implications for worker safety. Identify any need for updated guidance to support safe and consistent industry adoption.</p>	P2	Q4
<p>Use of Mobile Plant – ESI Employees (2014)</p> <p>Review the guide to remove duplicated legislative requirements, confirm ongoing relevance, and update content where necessary to reflect current industry practice and expectations.</p>	P2	Q4
<p>Line Mechanic and Cable Jointers Handbook (2013)– Additional cost</p> <p>Engage MITA Consulting to undertake an independent review, of the updated material, provide recommendations for improvement, and develop supporting media such as photos, diagrams, and videos to enhance clarity and usability. SSPG will then complete a final review and undertake targeted industry consultation to confirm fitness for purpose and support sector alignment prior to publication.</p>	P1	Q3 \$15k

CONNECTING THE SECTOR

As industry representatives it is imperative that the SSPG continues to promote best practice in safety around electricity supply industry assets and environments

The outline below shows the proposed engagement opportunities for 2026/27

<p>LOTO Webinar</p> <p>Host an industry webinar to support the introduction of the Lock Out Tag Out (LOTO) Guide, including practical examples of how the guide is being applied to strengthen understanding and promote consistent implementation across the sector.</p>	P1	Q2
<p>SM-EI Webinar(s)</p>	P1	Q3

Deliver a series of industry webinars to support SM-EI Project 30, providing updates on proposed changes, building understanding, and enabling sector feedback to inform final development.		
Topical Webinars Deliver topical webinars on emerging safety issues, industry developments, and areas of interest to provide timely guidance, support knowledge sharing, and maintain sector awareness.	P2	As req.
EEA Health and Safety Workshop 11-12 August, Christchurch Support the design and delivery of the EEA Health and Safety Workshop, including launching the restructured SM-EI and showcasing key SSPG projects to build awareness, understanding, and sector engagement.	P1	Q2
EEA Engineering Conference 22-24 September, Auckland Promote SSPG initiatives, including the restructured SM-EI, at the EEA Engineering Conference to increase visibility, strengthen sector understanding, and support industry adoption.	P1	Q2
Connexis Annual Connection 20-22 October, Pukekohe Promote SSPG initiatives, including the restructured SM-EI, at Connexis Annual Connection to build awareness and support industry adoption. Host and deliver the theory assessment and provide guidance to support the newly established Electrical Fitter competition.	P2	Q3
Member Company Visits / Roadshows Deliver member company roadshows, where requested, and promote this offering as a member value-add. Attend company safety days and industry events to promote the EEA, the SM-EI, and SSPG programmes and projects, strengthening engagement and sector alignment.	P3	As req.
EDI Health and Safety Forum Attend and promote the SSPG work activities at the EDI forum meetings and through EDI representatives on the SSPG.	P1	BAU
StayLive Attend and promote the SSPG work activities at StayLive meetings and through Generation representatives on the SSPG.	P2	BAU
Industry Queries Monitor and respond to industry queries, that arise from Knowledge Network, industry events or through other EEA channels.	P1	BAU
EEA Standing Committees Engage with other EEA standing committees, including PSWG, NCLW, CDG, and AMG, to collaborate on joint and overlapping projects, and areas of expertise, share insights, and support aligned outcomes across the sector.	P1	BAU

WORKFORCE CAPABILITY

Workforce capability is a pan-industry priority focused on strengthening worker safety by ensuring the Electricity Supply Industry understands its responsibilities, builds competence, and supports consistent safe work practices.

<p>UAV Symposium</p> <p>Facilitate an industry symposium focussed on the use of UAVs in the electricity sector, case studies, demonstrations, and in support of the rollout of the EEA UAV Guide.</p>	P2	Q2
<p>External Industry Engagement</p> <p>Engage with the ENA, Energy Safety, EWRB, EESA, and other relevant stakeholders to share and promote the current work programme, collaborate on projects, and identify emerging issues and opportunities to support aligned safety outcomes across the sector.</p>	P3	Q4
<p>EEA Workplace Safety Award</p> <p>Promote the EEA Workplace Safety Award recognising excellence in Workplace Safety initiatives in the ESI and identifying any opportunities to share the mahi throughout the industry.</p>	P2	Q2

SSPG Membership

Graeme Johnson - Chair	Omexom
Mark Adams	MITA Consulting
Peter Carr	Northpower
Earl Hasse	Connetics
Danny Kooyman	Transpower
Simon Parker	WEL Networks
Dean Stevenson	Powerco
Brian Ultee	Contact Energy
Gerry Versteg	Genesis

SSPG Meetings 2026/27

3 March	Online	7 April	Online
7 May	Auckland	2 June	Online
7 July	Online	13 August	Christchurch
1 September	Online	19 October	Hamilton
3 November	Online	1 December	Online
2 February	Online		