

# CFMEU SAFETY GUIDANCE

## TEMPORARY POWER and PORTABLE ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

Authored by Bob Benkesser on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2017

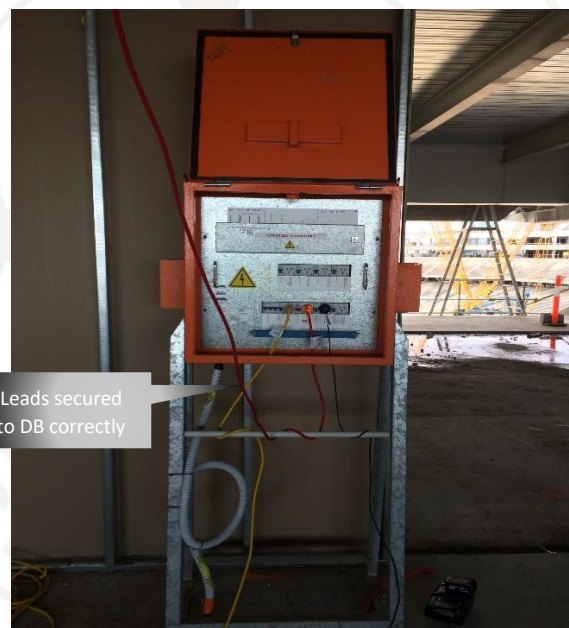
The use of temporary electrical equipment must be in accordance with AS 3012 – 2010 Electrical wiring on construction and demolition sites.

### Temporary electrical wiring

Must be identified by iridescent yellow tape marked with the words “construction wiring”, spaced at intervals not exceeding 5 meters. If live permanent wiring is located near where construction activity is occurring it shall be marked with the words “live wiring” at intervals not exceeding 5 meters.

### Distribution boards (DB's)

Must be located on each level and positioned so that the work being performed can be reached by one extension lead not exceeding 30 meters. The DB board must be secured on a stable surface and the lid must be closed. The lid must have stickers and signage identifying the power rating i.e. 250V, 450V, the hazard (electric shock sticker) and how leads are attached to the board. The electrical supply to the DB must be protected by conduit or mechanically means against damage from contact by plant. Where multiple DB's are used on a job they should be identified by a number i.e. DB 001, DB 002 etc.



REPORT UNSAFE WORK PRACTICES CALL (08) 9228 6900 OR EMAIL [SAFETY@CFMEUWA.COM](mailto:SAFETY@CFMEUWA.COM)

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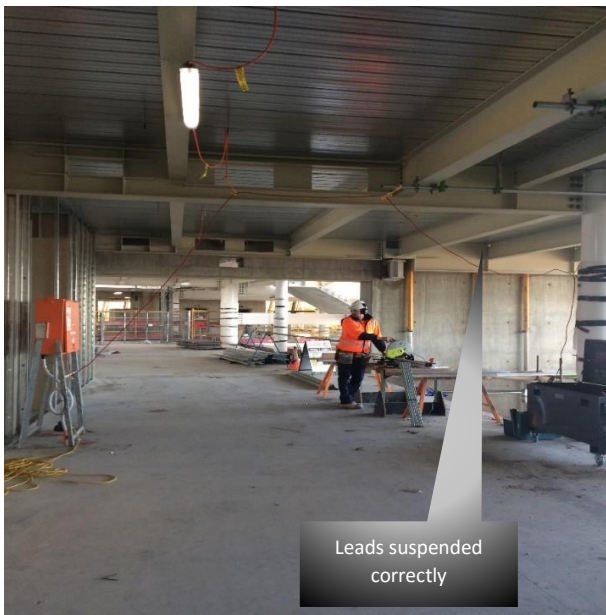
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## Electrical leads and Portable electrical Equipment

Electrical extension leads must be a maximum of 30m in length, not joined together, not run from one level to another and not used in a coiled or reeled configuration. They must be plugged into the DB, run through the hole at the bottom of the DB wrapped around the insulated bar on the DB and then supported off the ground on insulated hooks or lead stands. The lead can then be directly plugged into a portable electric power tool or a portable residual current device (RCD) and then a portable electric power tool can be plugged into the RCD.

You cannot run a lead to an RCD and then another lead out of the RCD (piggy backing). Double adaptors and 3 pin plug adaptors (piggy backs) and domestic type connectors, RCD's etc are not to be used on construction or demolition sites.



**Testing and tagging** all portable electrical equipment (PEE) must be tested and tagged every 3 months by a trained competent person. PEE to be tested includes, power tools, flexible leads, lead extension sets, portable DB's & RCD's. RCD's on welding units and EWP's must also be inspected tested and tagged. A register recording testing and tagging must be kept on site. There is a 2 week grace period for retagging PEE. Any PEE that is not tagged after the 2 week grace period must be taken out of service until it has been retested and tagged for the appropriate period and then entered on the register.

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Red	December - February
Green	March - May
Blue	June – August
Yellow	September – November

If the weather forecast is for rain don't leave portable electrical equipment out where it may get wet, and exchange any portable electrical equipment that has been exposed to rain. Keep portable electrical equipment away from water, everyone knows the consequences can be fatal.

Inspect all PEE prior to use for damage, like cuts to insulation, insulation pulled from plugs, cracked or damaged casings of portable electrical tools. Any damaged PEE must be tagged out of service and taken to a dedicated quarantine area for repair, retesting and retagging if required.



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