Background

Clause 2.6.3 of AS/NZS 3000:2007 (the Australian Wiring Rules) details the requirements for using Residual Current Device’s (RCD’s). RCD’s are typically used to provide additional protection to electrical circuits to minimise the risk of electric shock.

The use of RCD’s in certain types of electrical installations is mandatory under the requirements AS/NZS 3000:2007.

Exemption for Traffic Signal Installations

However, under certain circumstances, as defined under Clause 2.6.3.2, an exemption may be applied to the use of RCD’s.

Clause 2.6.3.2
Exception: This requirement does not apply: .......... 

5. Where the disconnection of a circuit by an RCD could cause a danger greater than earth leakage current.

The disconnection of the mains power circuit to a traffic signal controller, creating an uncontrolled intersection, is deemed to cause a potentially greater risk than earth leakage current.

This exemption has been confirmed by Energysafe Victoria. See the attached letter from Energy Safe.

It must be noted however, that this exemption ONLY applies to the traffic signals. The socket outlet provided in the controller MUST be a type that includes an integral RCD.

For further information contact Stephen Purtill on 9854 2111.
Re: Exemption RCD’s, Controling Supply To Traffic Signal Installations

Dear Mr. Bean,

I refer to your correspondence received 29 January 2009, where you sought an exemption to the General Exemption for all traffic signals installations in respect of installations known as the ‘Traffic Lights’.

Provision of a residual curtailed current device (RCD) to provide additional protection by residual current protection having a residual current not exceeding 60 milliamps – clause 2.6.2 provides for such additional protection.

The following requirements are mentioned by the current edition of the Wiring Rules:

- Insulation to be General Exemption for all traffic signals installations is made in accordance with Regulation 416 of the Electricity Safety (Installation) Regulations 1999 for installations in Victoria (known as the ‘Traffic Lights’) who are not in the scope of the above-mentioned regulations.

I would be grateful if I could receive your request in writing by 4 February 2009.

Steve Beam

Victorian Energy Safety

EXEMPTION: RCD’S, CONTROLLING SUPPLY TO TRAFFIC SIGNAL INSTALLATIONS

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