

TCN 002 – 2013

Exemption from Height Requirement for Main Switch

Background

Every electrical installation is required to have a switchboard in which are located the 'main switch' and all associated circuit breakers or fuses.

Clause 2.3.3.3 of AS/NZS 3000:2007 (Wiring Rules) details the requirements for accessibility of main switches.

Main switches shall be accessible as follows:

- (a) *General - Main switches shall be clearly accessible and the means of operating such switches shall be not more than two metres above the ground, floor or a suitable platform.*

Traffic Signals

The Wiring Rules does however, provide an exemption to this requirement in certain defined circumstances.

Clause 2.3.3.3 continues as follows:

Exception: A main switch need not be located on a switchboard nor be readily accessible where unauthorised operation may impair safety and the electrical installation is-

- (i) *located on public land; and*
- (ii) *associated with telephone cabinets, **traffic control signals** and street furniture, such as bus shelters and the like;*

This exemption clearly allows VicRoads to install main switchboards and the associated main switch at a height in excess of 2m.

VicRoads Traffic Signal Installation Specification specifies that the main switch shall be a minimum of 2.4m above ground level. This requirement is intended to minimise the risk of unauthorised persons switching power off to traffic signals or other VicRoads owned, on-road electrical assets.

For further information contact Stephen Purtill on 9854 2111.