DEFINITIONS FOR THE GENERAL GUIDE FOR WORKING IN THE VICINITY OF OVERHEAD AND UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC LINES AND SUPPORTING SPECIFIC GUIDES

Cable means an insulated conductor or two or more such conductors laid together, whether with or without fillings, reinforcements or protective coverings.

Conductor means a wire, cable or form of metal designed for carrying electric current.

De-energised means separated from all sources of supply but not necessarily isolated, earthed, discharged or out of commission.

Earthed means directly electrically connected to the general mass of earth to ensure and maintain the effective dissipation of electrical energy.

Exposed energised part means a part is:

- exposed where it is bare or not effectively insulated or guarded by a fixed barrier or an earthed metal shield; or
- energised until it is isolated and proven to be de-energised and not likely to become re-energised; if the part is a high-voltage conductor, it is considered energised until it is earthed.

Electrical work means connecting electricity supply wiring to electrical equipment or disconnecting electricity supply wiring from electrical equipment; or installing, removing, adding, testing, replacing, repairing, altering or maintaining electrical equipment or an electrical installation.

Electricity Supply Authority means a person or body engaged in the distribution of electricity to the public or the transmission or supply, directly or indirectly, to the public. An Electricity Supply Authority may also be known as a network operator, network service provider or electricity entity.

Energised means connected to a source of electrical supply or subject to hazardous induced or capacitive voltages.

Envelope means the space encapsulating an item of plant including attachments like rotating or flashing lights or radio aerials, categorised as:

Design: the space encapsulating all possible movements of the plant and a load attached under maximum reach, or Transit: the area encompassing the normal height and width of a vehicle or plant when travelling to or from a site.

High voltage means a voltage that exceeds low voltage.

Insulated means separated from adjoining conducting material by a non-conducting substance which provides resistance to the passage of current, or to disruptive discharges through or over the surface of the substance at the operating voltage, and to mitigate the danger of shock or injurious leakage of current.

Isolated means separated from all possible sources of electrical energy and rendered incapable of being energised unintentionally.

Load is a substance, material or object being moved, carried, lifted or supported or which is in rotary or vertical motion, in association with a crane or mobile plant. A load includes people and equipment located on an elevating work platform.

Low voltage means voltage that exceeds extralow voltage and does not exceed 1000 volts alternating current (1000 V AC) or 1500 volts direct current (1500 V DC).

Plant means machinery, equipment, appliances, containers, implement and tools and includes all components or anything fitted or connected to any of those things. Plant is diverse and includes, for example cranes, lifts, computers, forklifts, vehicles and power tools.

Tiger tails are plastic pipe type cable covers, used to provide a useful visual indication to people working in the vicinity of overhead electric lines or stay wires. Tiger tails do not insulate wires.

Voltage means a potential difference between conductors or between conductors and earth.



Safe Work Australia Contact Information Phone 1300 551 832 | Email info@swa.gov.au | Web www.swa.gov.au

