



July 2013

DISTANCE FROM POWER LINES

AS2550.1:2011

EWPs must not be closer than the following distances to power lines:

- Distribution lines up to and including 133kv (usually poles)
6.4m or 3.0m with a qualified 'spotter'
- Transmission lines greater than 133kv (towers)
10m or 8m with a qualified 'spotter'

NOTES:

- EWPs must not work directly over power lines unless prior approval has been obtained from the supply authorities.
- A 'spotter' is a competent person. Check with each state authority for their spotter requirements.
- To work closer than the specified distances requires approval from the relevant electrical authorities and may include additional qualifications and specification of insulated EWPs.
- Do NOT let the EWP and operator enter the 'no go zones' (ie 6.4m and 10m) without obtaining the appropriate approval.

STATE REGULATIONS

Each State has its own regulations that take precedence over the Australian Standards. Below is a State by State summary of their current positions.

NSW: Workcover NSW - www.workcover.nsw.gov.au –
Code of Practice 2006: Work Near Overhead Power lines

EWP operation may not be any closer than the following distances to power lines:

Up to 132kv	3.0m
132kv up to 330kv	6.0m
more than 330kv	8.0m

To work closer than these distances requires authority from the relevant electrical authority and adherence to cl.64(2)(e) of the regulations.

QLD: Electrical Safety Office - www.eso.qld.gov.au

The Electrical Safety Regulation 2002 covers this area and breaks down the distances in detail. Exclusion zones are broken down not only by size of power line but also by the competency level of the operator. This means that the requirements should be clarified with the electrical authority before work commences even if the distance appears to be outside the zones.

The Code of Practice gives the following minimum distances as guidance:

Up to 132kv	3.0m
132kv to 330kv	6.0m
330kv to 500kv	8.0m

WA: Worksafe Western Australia – www.commerce.wa.gov.au/energysafety

This falls under Regulation 316A from the Electricity Regulations 1947 and states the following as the minimum distances:

Less than 33kv	3.0m
Over 33kv	6.0m
Over 133kv	8.0m



NT: Work Health Authority - www.nt.gov.au

This falls under the Electricity Reform (Safety and Technical) Regulations. Table 2, Schedule 3 gives the following minimum distances:

Up to 33kv	1.5m
Above 33kv to 132kv	3.0m
Above 132kv to 275kv	4.0m
Above 275kv to 330kv	6.0m
Above 330kv to 500kv	8.0m

In addition, the operator must check with the network operator to ensure other distances are applicable.

ACT: ACT Workcover - www.actew.com.au and www.workcover.act.gov.au

At this stage, use AS2550.1.2011 as no clear answer has been received

VIC: Office of the Chief Electrical Inspector - www.ocei.vic.gov.au

As per AS2550.1.2011

Note: Spotter is defined as a competent person who shall have successfully completed an endorsed training course.

TAS: Electricity Standards and Safety - www.dier.tas.gov.au


As per AS2550.1.2011

SA: Workplace Services - www.sa.gov.au

As per AS2550.1.2011 and SA Electricity Regulations 2012


EWPA Inc advises that when you are working from an EWP, if you or any part of the EWP will be nearer than the minimum distance of 6.4m from distribution lines and 10m from transmission lines, permission must be obtained from the appropriate energy authority.

Clearance Requirements for Operating Non-Insulated Mobile Plant Including Elevating Work Platforms Near Power Lines While in Operating Mode



EWPA

Overhead Power Lines on Poles



NO GO ZONE
For the platform or the person located in the platform

Spotter Required Between 3-6.4m of Power Lines

Anywhere Above Power Lines and Within 3m Each Side and 3m From the Bottom

See Special Provisions

Spotter Required Between 3-6.4m of Power Lines

Open Area Outside 6.4 m of Power Lines

Open Area Outside 6.4 m of Power Lines

Special Provisions

For Operating Elevating Work Platforms Seeking to Operate in the No GO Zone

No.1 _____

No.2 _____
Notify the power authority before commencing work.


No.3 _____
Obtain written permission from the power authority

DO NOT commence work until a pre-start site/job meeting and a risk assessment have been completed.

The term "Spotter" is defined as a safety observer who is a person competent for the sole task of observing and warning against unsafe approach to overhead power lines and other electrical apparatus.

Note:
These special provisions are not applicable to workers in or engaged by companies in the electricity supply industry.

Overhead Power Lines on Towers



NO GO ZONE
For the platform or the person located in the platform

Spotter Required Between 8-10m of Power Lines

Anywhere Above Power Lines and Within 8m Each Side and 8m From the Bottom

See Special Provisions

Spotter Required Between 8-10m of Power Lines

Open Area Outside 10m of Power Lines

Open Area Outside 10m of Power Lines

Note: If the boom is insulated and has a current test certificate issued by a NATA approved laboratory, no spotter is required in the yellow area. The 3.0m clearance is from the top of the bucket of the elevating work platform.