



# eTELIT

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# A practical look at the ACMA-mandated wiring rules

*(This article was extracted from the Autumn 2023 edition of the Electrical Connection magazine)*

**After an 18-month phase-in period, AS/CA S009:2020 is now mandated for registered cabling and telecommunication workers. Kevin Fothergill looks at what this means for those on the tools.**

Almost all Australian industries have technical or industry standards. Telecommunications has one of critical importance to customer equipment and cabling and it is mandated by the Australian Communications & Media Authority (ACMA).

If breaches occur, there is a risk of severe penalties from the regulator, ACMA, and from litigation that could arise if there is an alarm failure, for example, resulting in harm or loss of property.

Probably the most important standard cabling providers should be aware of is what is commonly known as *AS/CA S009:2020 Installation requirements for customer cabling (Wiring Rules)* or just *ACMA Wiring Rules* or *S009*. This Australian Standard came into full effect on 29 February 2022 when the 18 months phase-in period expired.

Accordingly, all ACMA Cabling Provider Rules (CPR) registered cabling providers must comply with the changes - CPR registration is mandatory - when working on communications customer cabling and equipment. CPR registration and compliance with standards are mandatory, regardless of whether you are a telecommunications technician, data cabling provider or electrician.

Probably the most significant revised section is on heat rise with remote power/Power over Ethernet (PoE) and associated personnel and property safety risks, particularly in legacy cabling that may have been installed long before any consideration was given to remote powering.

The key changes to the previous 2013 edition have been notified in Cabling Registrar newsletters, mainly based on analysis by BICSI's Paul Stathis.

All cabling providers should have access to the revised standard which is available widely from a registrar website, Comms Alliance and Standards Australia. Some of the changes are summarised below:

- New Electrical Energy Source classifications ES1, ES2 and ES3 and how these impact telecommunications circuits and particularly on remote power, PoE, power over HDbaseT (PoH) and there are new requirements for conductor sizes linked to temperature recommendations for generic cabling and cabling linked distributor circuits.
- Updated separation and subducting of hazardous service requirements; revised requirements for protection against contact with live parts of sockets and the

appendices have been rewritten to address power feeding in telecommunications networks and ES3 separation of telecommunications and electrical circuits.

- New guidance and definitions on NBN Interconnections including fibre, HFC and fixed wireless network boundaries; “generic cabling”, “movable cabling”, “types of persons”, “registered engineers” and “RFT circuits”; new requirements for cabling, including flexibility and strain relief; updated optical fibre requirements; new movable and dependent telecommunications outlet (TO) requirements; revised cable flammability and fire stopping requirements.

- Cable flammability and fire-stopping requirements are of major significance given the industry’s move towards PoE/remote powering and the intention is to better align with the National Construction Code of Australia.

- Other significant updates apply to cabling between buildings; pit and access holes and for installing an earthing bar/terminal at distributors terminating outdoor customer cabling.

TITAB Australia and other registrars have published in their newsletters a more detailed analysis of the wiring rules changes developed by Paul Stathis for industry distribution and also the ACMA formal advice of the expiry of the transition period and formal date of effect of 29 February 2022.

All technical standards have review dates and already there is work being undertaken by committees looking at industry developments. The key advice given by registrars and the ACMA is to access a copy of the new standard which is readily downloadable and that in the long run, compliance is really protection against future risk to the customers, users, cablers and the business model.





## TOP 5 reported scam calls to avoid

*The Australian Communications and Media Authority has revealed the top five phone scams currently being reported in Australia and given tips on how to avoid them.*

The Australian Communications and Media Authority has revealed the top five phone scams currently being reported in Australia and even though they are working with the Telecommunications industry to block these types of calls - scammers are still getting through.

### Top 5 scam calls

1. Amazon impersonation: Scam calls about an issue with your Amazon account. They claim funds will be taken from your account if you do not act immediately by providing personal information.
2. Banking/finance impersonation: Scam calls, emails and SMS claiming suspicious activity, unauthorised debits, or that your account has been suspended. They request personal details to verify your identity.
3. NBN impersonation: Scam callers posing as someone from technical support. They claim there is a fault with your internet to get access to your computer and personal information.
4. Telstra impersonation: Similar to the NBN scam. Callers pose as Telstra technical support and claim you have issues with your service or internet to access your computer and personal information.
5. eBay impersonation: Scammers use a recorded message to claim you have made a purchase that requires a charge to your account. This is to get you to provide to personal information.

### How to avoid scams

- Do not provide your personal information to an unsolicited caller or sender of a message.
- Do not open links in any unsolicited messages you receive.
- If the brand has an app you can use instead of receiving messages, consider whether this will work for you. Messages you receive via the app are much more likely to be legitimate.
- Even if a message slips into a legitimate message stream on your phone, double-check it's from the brand concerned.
- If in doubt, always contact the business via their publicly available contact details (or the details on your regular bill or transaction record) rather than the details provided by the caller or in a message.

Learn more about 'how to spot a scam' – on the [Scamwatch website](#).

Scammers target everyone. Learn more about how to protect yourself from phone scams on the [ACMA website](#)

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### **Patch Panel cabling and Patch Panel cords. CPR for wiring!**

Queries come to the national office from time to time as to whether working on patch panels, which is increasingly common today, requires a CPR registration. The wiring requires a CPR registration and endorsement for structured cabling, while the patch cords may be moved by the customer.

Recently, on request from a cabling company, we reaffirmed the TITAB advice and an extract from the ACMA letter to us is reprinted below. The “...intended for use..” is particularly relevant as there are some misconceptions amongst cablers that if it is not actually connected at the time, you don't need a CPR registration. You do!

*“We note that there may be two separate aspects in relation to your query – requirements for the patch panels themselves and requirements for the work involving the connection of the patch panels.*

*To address your questions, we have reviewed relevant definitions in the legislative provisions and have provided some description of these provisions below.*

*Subsection 20 (4) of the [Telecommunications Act 1997](#) (the Act) provides the following definitions of customer cabling:*

· **customer cabling** means a line that is used, installed ready for use or intended for use on the customer side of the boundary of a telecommunications network. A "line" is defined in subsection 7 of the Act as follows:

· **line** means a wire, cable, optical fibre, tube, conduit, waveguide or other physical medium used, or for use, as a continuous artificial guide for or in connection with carrying communications by means of guided electromagnetic energy.

To the extent that the patch panels are consistent with those definitions they will be customer cabling for the purposes of the Act.

We note that subsection 418 of the Act provides the following definition of cabling work:

· **cabling work** is a reference to:

(a) the installation of customer cabling for connection to a telecommunications network or to a facility; or

(b) the connection of customer cabling to a telecommunications network or to a facility; or

(c) the maintenance of customer cabling connected to a telecommunications network or to a facility.

To the extent that the work on the patch panels is consistent with the above definition, it will be cabling work for the purposes of the Act.

We also note that sections 4.1 and 4.2 of the Telecommunications Cabling Provider Rules 2014 (the CPRs) specify the following requirements for the performance of cabling work:

#### **4.1 Performance of cabling work**

(1) Cabling work must be performed by:

(a) a registered cabling provider who:

(i) is registered to perform the type of cabling work being undertaken; and

(ii) has complied with the competency requirements that are specific to the type of cabling work being undertaken; or

(b) a supervised unregistered cabling provider .

#### **4.2 Compliance with Wiring Rules**

(1) Subject to subsection (2), a cabling provider who is performing or supervising the performance of cabling work must ensure that the cabling work being undertaken complies with the Wiring Rules.

(2) Cabling work that complies with clause 2 or 3 of Schedule 6 is not required to comply with clauses 9.1.2.1, 9.1.2.2 and 9.1.2.3 of the Wiring Rules. To the extent that the work on the patch panels is cabling work, the above requirements from the CPRs apply.

You may be aware that specified kinds of cabling work in Schedule 1, Item 4 of the Telecommunications (Types of Cabling Work) Declaration 2013 are not required to comply with the CPRs. Specified kinds of cabling work includes connection of labelled associated customer cabling products (e.g customer equipment connecting cords and pre-terminated patch cords) and this cabling work is not concealed in a building cavity.

Please note that it is not the ACMA's practice to provide interpretative legal advice and the ACMA has no legislative capacity to adjudicate on the meaning of the above legislative provisions as this is ultimately the role of a court.

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Please click [here](#) to open the **nbn New Developments Construction Industry Newsletter**.

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TRAINING ORGANIZATIONS



## **Open registration skill set in Western Australia**

### **Week 1**

OHS

Hand and power tools

Electrical Principles

### **Week 2**

Open Registration

### **There are two payment types**

1. Fee-free training must meet eligibility criteria below
2. Subsidised training

### **Eligibility criteria for fee-free training:**

- Are you aged between 15-24 years and not enrolled in secondary school?
- Are you receiving JobSeeker or JobKeeper?
- Are you receiving or a dependent of a person receiving Youth Allowance, AUSTUDY or ABSTUDY?
- Do you hold, or are you a dependent of a person who holds:
  - a Pensioner Concession Card or Health Care Card; or
  - a Repatriation Health Benefits Card issued by the Department of Veterans' Affairs?
- Are you a dependent of persons who are inmates of a custodial institution?

If you answered yes to any of the above eligibility requirements, you will be eligible for fee-free training.

**Please note students attending high school do not qualify for any subsidies**

If you did not answer yes, you are still eligible for subsidised training, please see the fee table below.



**Fee Type Amount** Eligible for fee-free training No charge Eligible for concession  
\$81.60 Eligible for subsidised training \$275.40

For more information log onto the [Comtech Website](#)

Or call our centre on 08 9355 5770

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#### Useful Links

[TITAB](#)

[nbn™](#)

[ACMA](#)

[ACMA Complaints line](#)

[Dial before you dig](#)

[A2A and Network Boundary Issues](#)

[Communications Alliance](#)

[Registered Cablers website](#)

[Smartwired](#)

