

SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT

Electrical Work Near Overhead Power Lines — Safe Work Method Statement

■ SWMS required under WHS Regulation 2011, s.299 for high-risk construction work as defined in s.291

Business Name:	[Your Business Name]	ABN:	[Your ABN]
Contact Person:	[Contact Name]	Phone:	[Phone Number]
Site Address:	[Site Address — ACT]	Date:	18 July 2026
Document No:	SWMS-OVERHEAD-L-001	Revision:	1.0

■ Your business details are automatically pre-filled into every document at purchase

1. SCOPE OF WORK

Safe work procedures for performing any construction or electrical work in the vicinity of overhead power lines, including safe approach distances, spotter requirements, and DNSP coordination per AS/NZS 4836.

High Risk Construction Work (s.291): Work Near Overhead Lines, Electrical Work

Regulatory Reference: WHS Reg 2011, Reg 166 (overhead lines) | WHS Reg 2011, Reg 291(1)(h) (SWMS high risk) | WHS Reg 2011, Reg 147 (electrical work)

■ Each SWMS identifies the specific high-risk construction work category under WHS Reg 2011 s.291 that triggers the legal requirement for this document

2. SITE-SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS

The PCBU must assess and document site-specific factors before commencing work. Considerations include but are not limited to:

- Site access and egress routes
- Underground services (gas, water, electrical, telecommunications)
- Overhead power lines and obstructions
- Adjacent activities and interface risks
- Weather conditions and environmental factors
- Emergency routes and assembly points

3. TASK STEPS, HAZARDS & CONTROL MEASURES

■ Control measures follow the Hierarchy of Controls per WHS Reg 2011, Reg 36: Elimination → Substitution → Engineering → Administrative → PPE. Risk ratings use a 5×5 matrix aligned with AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009

The full document contains task-by-task hazards, risk ratings, and prescribed control measures. To protect document IP, this sample shows the structural depth only. Summary of what the full document contains:

Document Structure	Count
Task steps documented	4
Hazards identified across all steps	4
Control measures specified	12
Hierarchy-of-control levels covered	Administrative, Elimination, Engineering, PPE
PPE items with AS/NZS standard references	4
Australian Standards referenced	4

■ Every hazard is mapped to its initial risk rating, control measures across the hierarchy, and a residual risk rating after controls are applied

4. PPE REQUIREMENTS

■ Every PPE item references the specific Australian Standard it must comply with — not just generic PPE categories

PPE Item	Australian Standard	Required
Hard hat	AS/NZS 1801	Yes
Safety footwear	AS/NZS 2210.3	Yes
High-visibility vest	AS/NZS 4602.1	Yes
Safety glasses	AS/NZS 1337.1	Yes

5. REQUIRED LICENCES & COMPETENCIES

- Construction Induction Card (White Card) — required for all construction work under WHS Reg s.317; recognised in all states and territories
- Electrician's licence issued by your state or territory regulator (restricted electrical licence where the work is limited in scope)
- Spotter competency for work near overhead electrical lines
- ARC Refrigerant Handling Licence (ARCTick) for any work that risks refrigerant emission from refrigeration or air-conditioning equipment
- Verify current licence and competency requirements with your state or territory WHS regulator before commencing work.

6. TOOLS, EQUIPMENT & PLANT

- Tiger tails and insulated covers
- Height limiting devices for plant
- Barricade tape and star pickets
- Signage (danger high voltage)
- Non-conductive measuring devices
- Two-way radio for spotter communication

All equipment must be inspected before use. Defective equipment must not be used.

7. LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES

■ This section auto-populates with your state's specific WHS/OHS legislation. ACT shown here — Victoria references OHS Act 2004 Reg 327, Western Australia references the WHS Act 2020. All 8 states and territories are supported.

Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (ACT)

Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011 (ACT)

SWMS required under: s.299

Regulator: WorkSafe ACT

- WHS Reg 2011, Reg 166 (overhead lines)
- WHS Reg 2011, Reg 291(1)(h) (SWMS high risk)
- WHS Reg 2011, Reg 147 (electrical work)

Applicable Australian Standards:

- AS/NZS 4836 — Safe working on or near low-voltage electrical installations and equipment
- AS/NZS 3000 — Wiring Rules
- Safe Work Australia Code of Practice — Managing electrical risks in the workplace
- Electricity Supply Authority safe approach distance tables

8. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Emergency Services:	000
Site Supervisor:	[Enter name and phone]
First Aid Officer:	[Enter name and phone]
Nearest Hospital:	[Enter hospital name and address]

In the event of an emergency: Stop work immediately. Secure the area. Call 000 if required. Administer first aid. Notify site supervisor. Do not resume work until authorised.

9. WORKER SIGN-OFF

■ Satisfies WHS Reg 2011 s.299(c) — workers must be able to access the SWMS and confirm understanding before high-risk construction work commences

I have read, understood, and agree to comply with this Safe Work Method Statement. I understand the hazards and control measures and will follow the procedures outlined.

Name (Print)	Signature	Date	Company

10. MONITORING & REVIEW PROCEDURES

Control measures outlined in this SWMS must be monitored to ensure they remain effective. The following monitoring arrangements apply:

Monitoring Responsibility:	Site Supervisor / PCBU representative
Monitoring Frequency:	Before each shift, during work activities, at completion
Review Triggers:	Incident, near-miss, change in conditions, new worker, change in scope
Worker Consultation:	Toolbox talk before commencing HRCW; workers to report issues immediately

11. REVIEW LOG

Review Date	Reviewed By	Changes Made	Approved By
18 July 2026	[Reviewer Name]	Initial issue	[Approver Name]

■ Record-keeping obligation under WHS Regulation s.303 — SWMS must be retained until work is completed, or 2 years after a notifiable incident

RECORD KEEPING: Under WHS Regulation s.303, this SWMS must be kept until the work is completed. If a notifiable incident occurs, the SWMS must be retained for at least 2 years from the date of the incident.

SAMPLE DOCUMENT — Get your own trade-specific, editable SWMS at getsiteready.com.au