

Question on Notice

No. 1646

Asked on Thursday, 29 October 2009

MRS KEECH asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations (Mr C R Dick) -

QUESTION:

What is being done in Queensland to address the risks associated with the installation of foil insulation?

ANSWER:

On 30 October 2009, as the Minister for Industrial Relations I issued a Ministerial Notice under the *Electrical Safety Act 2002* outlining several important safety conditions for the installation of ceiling insulation effective from 1 November 2009.

The Notice requires:

- the use of non-metal or other non-conductive fasteners to install ceiling insulation;
- compliance with the provisions of the *Wiring Rules* that relate to recessed downlights;
- the training of installers in the assessment of electrical risk from the installation of ceiling insulation;
- a documented on-site operational assessment of the electrical risk from the installation of the ceiling insulation, and the implementation of any control measures necessary to prevent exposure to the electrical risk; and
- ceiling insulation business owners to keep a record of every on-site operational risk assessment for five years after the assessment is conducted.

To inform installers of their obligations under the Ministerial Notice, the Electrical Safety Office (ESO) has:

- written to all known Queensland installers;
- issued a fact sheet for insulation installers; and
- together with Workplace Health and Safety Queensland, issued a Safety Alert to almost 18,000 installers, electricians, and associated industry sectors.

The ESO takes immediate action should any reported matter present an immediate electrical risk, such as electric shock.

ESO and Workplace Health and Safety Queensland inspectors will conduct audits in the near future to ensure compliance with the Ministerial Notice.

Safety information for installers, electricians and consumers has also been placed on the Department's Electrical Safety and Workplace Health and Safety websites.

The above activity is in addition to any audits or information action being undertaken by the Australian Government in respect of its Home Insulation Scheme. The ESO has been active in advising the Australian Government on its planned testing and remediation.