

CANBERRA ELECTRIC SUPPLY REGULATIONS.<sup>(a)</sup>

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Canberra Electric Supply Regulations. Short title.

2. In these Regulations, unless the contrary intention appears— Definitions.

“Approved” means approved by the Electrical Engineer;

“Electrical Engineer” means the Electrical Engineer in charge of electric supply in the City Area, and includes inspectors and other persons authorized to carry out inspections and tests of electrical installations whilst acting within the scope of their authority;

“Electric Line” means a wire or wires, or conductor, or other means of distributing or transmitting electricity, together with any casing, coating, covering, tube, pipe, pole, post, frame, bracket, or insulator enclosing, surrounding or supporting the wire or wires, or conductor, or other means of distributing or transmitting electricity, or any part thereof, or any apparatus connected therewith, for the purpose of distributing or transmitting electricity;

“Electrical Energy” means the capacity for doing work electrically;

“Officer” means any person acting under the authority of the proper authority, or of the Electrical Engineer;

“Supply Area” means the area throughout which electrical energy from the Canberra Power Station is from time to time available for use for Government or private purposes;

“Telegraph” and “Telegraphic” include telephone and telephonic respectively;

“Telegraph Line” means line of communication of electric telegraph constructed and maintained for or by Commonwealth Government Departments, or by the New South Wales State Railway Department;

“The City Area” means the city area specified under the *City Area Leases Ordinance 1924*;

“The proper authority” means the person or persons appointed as such by the Minister;

“Wireman” means persons who, for gain or reward, carry on or are engaged in the work of installing wires, fittings, and other apparatus for conveying, controlling, or utilizing electrical energy for light, heat, power, or any other purpose within the supply area;

“Works” means and includes electric lights, and any buildings, machinery, engines, works, matters, or things of whatever description, required to supply electrical energy.

3. Subject to these Regulations, electricity may be supplied by the proper authority to any person upon receipt of an application in accordance with the form in the Schedule to these Regulations. Form of application for supply.

4. Before supplying electricity to any person, the proper authority may require him to lodge a deposit of a sum not less than One pound as security for the payment of charges as they become due, and for the proper care and custody of the meter. Security.

(a) Made on 16th October, 1924, and deemed to have come into operation on that date; published in the *Gazette* on 18th October, 1924, p. 2008.

Special apparatus.

5. Arc lamps, motors, or special apparatus shall not be used except by special permission of the proper authority, and subject to such conditions as the proper authority determines.

Charges.

6. Electrical energy will be supplied at such rates as are respectively fixed from time to time by the Minister, by notice in the *Gazette*, for light or power or other purposes, provided that the minimum charge shall be nine shillings per quarter.

Connexion with mains, &c.

7.—(1.) The service main, main fuse meter, and maximum demand indicator shall be supplied and fixed by the proper authority.

(2.) No charge will be made for the service main, provided the premises are situated not more than 25 feet from the building line in the case of an underground service, or 75 feet in the case of an overhead service, but any length in excess of the 25 feet or 75 feet, as the case may be, shall be laid at the expense of the consumer.

(3.) The positions of the main fuse meter and maximum demand indicator shall be determined by the Electrical Engineer, and shall be as near as possible to the supply mains.

(4.) If the consumer requires the service main to be laid beyond the point decided upon by the Electrical Engineer, the cost of the additional length of main shall be borne by the consumer.

(5.) No extension of any service shall be permitted unless an application for the extension has been submitted to, and approved by, the Electrical Engineer.

(6.) The service main, main fuse meter, and maximum demand indicator shall remain the property of the Commonwealth.

Switchboard to be supplied.

8. The consumer's wiring contractor shall provide a board of suitable size and character, in an approved position within the building, to which meters and fuses can be attached, and shall have wires ready so that the officer connecting the service has merely to connect instruments and fuses.

Testing, &c., of installations.

9.—(1.) The electrical engineer shall not undertake any work inside the consumer's premises, except as specified in these Regulations.

(2.) On completion of the consumer's installation, and before connexion to the supply mains, an officer shall inspect and test the installation.

(3.) If the test and inspection show that the installation has not been carried out in accordance with these Regulations, no connexion shall be made until the Electrical Engineer is satisfied that these Regulations have been complied with.

(4.) No charge will be made for the first test and inspection, but a charge of five shillings will be made for every subsequent test and inspection.

Defects.

10. If any defect in a consumer's installation is at any time discovered, the Electrical Engineer may, if he thinks fit, disconnect the installation until the defect is made good.

Additions.

11.—(1.) No addition to the wattage or horsepower of motors, lamps, cooking or heating apparatus shall be made unless notice of intention to make the addition has been given to the electrical engineer, and the addition shall not be connected until it has been tested and inspected, and passed by, the Electrical Engineer.

(2.) If any addition is connected without compliance with this regulation, the consumer's supply may be cut off or discontinued without notice.

12.—(1.) Accounts shall be rendered quarterly, monthly, or weekly, at the discretion of the proper authority, and payments shall be made within fourteen days in the case of quarterly and monthly accounts, and seven days in the case of weekly accounts, after the delivery of the accounts. Accounts.

(2.) No receipt shall be valid unless issued on an official receipt form.

(3.) If the consumer refuses or neglects to pay any account within the stipulated time, the proper authority may discontinue the supply until the account has been paid together with a fee of Ten shillings for reconnexion.

13.—(1.) Every meter used for ascertaining the quantity of electricity supplied shall be under the control of the proper authority. Maintenance of meters, &c.

(2.) The proper authority shall do all things reasonable to keep all meters on hire to consumers in proper order for correctly registering the quantity of electricity consumed.

(3.) Any person who, without authority, alters, or attempts to alter, the index of any meter, or prevents, or attempts to prevent, any meter from duly registering the quantity of electricity supplied, shall be guilty of an offence.

(4.) In the case of the destruction or damage by fire or otherwise of, or the loss of, any meter, maximum demand indicator, or other apparatus, the consumer shall forthwith replace the apparatus, or pay the value thereof to the proper authority; or, in the case of damage only, shall pay to the proper authority such amount as the Electrical Engineer considers reasonable for the repair of the apparatus.

14.—(1.) The register of the meter fixed by the proper authority shall be *prima facie* evidence of the quantity of electricity consumed. Accuracy of meters.

(2.) If the accuracy of the meter is questioned, it shall be tested by the Electrical Engineer, or by an arbitrator agreed upon by the Electrical Engineer and the consumer.

(3.) Before any test is made, the consumer applying for the test shall pay to the proper authority a fee of One pound, together with the amount of the fee to be paid to the arbitrator (if any), which fees shall be returned to the consumer without any reduction if it is found that the meter has been registering incorrectly.

(4.) If the meter registers within 2 per cent. of the correct quantity, above or below, it shall be deemed to be correct, and the proper authority shall pay over to the arbitrator (if any) the amount of his fee, and shall pay the fee of One pound into the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

(5.) Any inaccuracy shall be charged or allowed only on the current quarter, month, or week, as the case may be, and the account shall be paid in full before the meter in dispute is tested.

Officers to have access to premises.

15. Any officer shall have access, at all reasonable times, to any place or building to which electrical energy is, or has been, supplied, for the purpose of inspecting or testing electric wires, meters, instruments, and apparatus belonging to the Commonwealth, and of ascertaining the quantity of electricity consumed, or (where a supply of electrical energy is no longer required, or where the officer is authorized to take away apparatus or cut off the supply of electricity) for the purpose of removing any wires, meters, instruments, and apparatus belonging to the Commonwealth, and of repairing all damage caused by the entry, inspection, or removal.

Notice of discontinuance.

16.—(1.) Every consumer who intends to discontinue the use of electricity, shall give 48 hours' notice in writing to the proper authority of his intention in order that the meter may be inspected and read, and the account be accurately charged.

(2.) Any consumer who fails to give notice in accordance with sub-regulation (1) of this regulation, shall be responsible for all electricity registered by the meter, or for any minimum accounts, or portion thereof, that have accrued up to the time when the meter is inspected and read.

Discontinuance for purposes of testing, &c.

17. The proper authority may, from time to time, discontinue the supply of electricity for such time as is necessary for the purpose of testing, or for any other purpose connected with the efficient working of the undertaking.

Liability of proper authority.

18. The proper authority shall not be liable for any loss suffered by any person in consequence of any delay in connecting any installation with the supply mains, or for any failure or defect in the supply from whatever cause arising, and the consumer shall hold the Commonwealth, and its officers and servants, harmless against the consequences of any such delay, defect or failure.

Discontinuance on account of non-payment of charges, &c.

19.—(1.) If any person fails to pay any money due on account of the supply of electricity, or of hiring of apparatus, the proper authority may, without prejudice to any other remedy, cut off the supply of electricity from the premises of that person, and remove all apparatus the property of the Commonwealth.

(2.) If a consumer discontinues the use of electricity, or becomes bankrupt, or assigns his estate for the benefit of his creditors, or, being a company, goes into liquidation, the proper authority may disconnect the supply.

Unauthorized use of electricity.

20. No person shall abstract, or cause to be wasted or diverted, or shall consume or use any electricity from any Commonwealth electric line without permission of the proper authority or the Electrical Engineer.

Fittings, &c., not subject to distress.

21. No fittings, lines, meters, accumulators, apparatus, or works belonging to the Commonwealth shall be subject to distress, or be taken in execution under process of any court, or under any proceeding in connexion with the winding up of companies or in bankruptcy against the person in whose possession they are.

22. In the event of an extension of any electric line being made to supply electricity to the premises of any consumer, or those of the consumer and others, the proper authority may require the consumer to guarantee that the gross annual revenue to be received by reason of the extension shall be not less than 20 per cent. of the cost of, and incidental to, the extension, and to undertake to pay on demand, in each and any year in which there is a deficiency, the difference between the amount of revenue received by reason of the extension and the sum guaranteed.

Extensions.

23. Proceedings for the recovery of any damages incurred, or payments due under these Regulations, may be instituted by the proper authority in any Court of competent jurisdiction.

Institution of proceedings.

24.—(1.) Any person who—

- (a) wilfully obstructs any officer in the lawful exercise of his duties;
- (b) pulls up or removes any poles or stakes driven into the ground for the purpose of setting out works, or defaces or destroys any marks made for the same purpose, or extinguishes any light provided; or
- (c) takes down, alters or interferes with any bars, chains, fences, or hoardings erected or placed for protection of works or for guarding against accidents,

Obstructing officers, &c.

shall be guilty of an offence.

Penalty: Ten pounds.

(2.) This regulation shall not affect the liability of any person to pay compensation for damage to Commonwealth property, or to pay damages to any third person.

25.—(1.) Subject to the provisions of these Regulations, the Electrical Engineer may issue to any person a Wireman's Licence, authorizing the holder to carry out work as a wireman in the Territory.

Issue of wiremen's licences.

(2.) Every Wireman's Licence shall expire on the thirty-first day of December in the year in which it is issued, but may be renewed from time to time on payment of the prescribed fee.

(3.) Every Wireman's Licence shall be subject to cancellation or suspension at the discretion of the Electrical Engineer.

26. Before issuing any Wireman's Licence, the Electrical Engineer shall require the applicant—

- (a) to produce such evidence as he thinks fit as to his qualifications and character;
- (b) to sign a declaration, in a register to be kept for the purpose, that he will conform to, and comply with, the conditions of his licence, and the provisions of these Regulations, and
- (c) to pay the prescribed fee.

Conditions to be complied with before issue of licence.

27. The fees to be paid in connexion with Wiremen's Licences shall be as follows:—

Fees.

For issue of each licence, 10s. 6d.

For annual renewal, 2s. 6d.

Unlicensed wiremen not to carry out work.

28. No person, not being a duly licensed wireman, or working under the direction of a duly licensed wireman, shall carry out work of any description in connexion with the installation of electric lights, motors, wiring or fittings in the supply area.

Penalty: Ten pounds.

Wiring rules.

29.—(1.) All power and lighting installations shall conform to the Electrical Wiring Rules of the Institution of Engineers, Australia (in these Regulations referred to as "Institute Rules") subject to such additions and modifications as are from time to time prescribed.

(2.) No wooden casing, cleat wiring, or lead-covered wiring shall be used, unless the consent in writing of the Electrical Engineer has been obtained.

(3.) Distribution boards, in addition to complying with the Institute Rules, shall be arranged in such a manner that all sub-circuits are protected by double-pole switches, and a fuse on each pole.

Service of notices.

30. Any notice under these Regulations may be served by post, or by delivery on any premises to which the notice relates.

Penalties.

31. Any person who commits any offence against these Regulations, for which no penalty is expressly provided, shall be liable, on conviction, to a penalty not exceeding Twenty-five pounds.

### THE SCHEDULE.

#### CANBERRA ELECTRIC SUPPLY REGULATIONS.

##### *Application and Agreement in regard to the Supply of Electricity.*

To the proper authority under the Canberra Electric Supply Regulations,—

I/We hereby request to be supplied with electric energy at the premises, and for the purpose described below, and I/we agree to receive such electric energy subject to the printed General Conditions of Supply attached, and to the provisions of the Canberra Electric Supply Regulations.

Mr. ....

Name of the consumer in full Mrs. ....

Miss. ....

(To be written very legibly. Underline surname.)

Address of premises in which electricity is required .....

(Give number in street, or name of house, or nearest cross street. ....

N.B.—To save delay give address in very full detail.) .....

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SUPPLY.

1. A cash deposit of One pound shall be paid by the consumer as security for due payment for electricity. This deposit may, in the event of default on the part of the consumer, be applied by the proper authority in payment for electricity, services rendered, or damages, as the case may be.

2. Consumers will be charged for lighting at the rates from time to time fixed under the Canberra Electric Supply Regulations.

3. No additions or alterations to the number or wattage of lamps installed shall be made without the consent of the Electrical Engineer. If any addition or alteration is made without the consent of the Electrical Engineer, the consumer's supply may be cut off, or discontinued without notice, and any cost of testing, charging, and adjusting meters shall be paid by the consumer.

4. Accounts shall be rendered monthly, or fortnightly, at the discretion of the proper authority, and payment shall be made at the office of the proper authority within fourteen days after the rendering of any account. If the consumer neglects or refuses to pay an account within the stipulated time, the proper authority may discontinue the supply until the account shall have been paid, together with an additional fee of Ten shillings for effecting the temporary disconnection. This fee of Ten shillings shall be payable if any officer entrusted with the disconnection has called at the premises to be disconnected, although disconnection has not actually been effected.

5. The register of the electricity meter fixed by the proper authority shall be prima facie evidence of the electricity consumed. If the accuracy of the meter be questioned, it shall be tested by an authorized officer, or by an arbitrator agreed upon by the proper authority and the consumer. Before any test is made, the consumer applying therefor shall deposit a sum of One pound with the proper authority, and also an amount equal to the fee to be paid to the arbitrator, if an arbitrator be appointed. Should the meter be found, upon test, to be registering within 2 per cent. of the exact quantity, above or below, it shall be deemed to be registering correctly. If the test shows the meter to be registering correctly (as hereinbefore defined), then the proper authority shall pay over to the arbitrator (if appointed) the amount of his fee, deposited as aforesaid, and shall pay the sum of One pound, deposited as aforesaid, into the Consolidated Revenue. If, however, the test shows the meter to be registering more than 2 per cent. excessively, then the proper authority shall repay to the consumer the whole amount deposited as aforesaid, and shall, itself, pay the arbitrator's fee (if any). Any inaccuracy beyond the 2 per cent. limit before mentioned shall be allowed or debited on the account for the current quarter, month, or week only, as the case may be, and all accounts rendered shall be paid in full before the meter is tested.

6. The consumer shall allow the proper authority's officers access to his or her premises at all reasonable times, for the purposes of inspection, reading meter, &c.

7. Either party to this agreement may at any time determine the agreement by giving to the other party forty-eight hours' notice in writing of his intention so to do, whereupon the meter will be inspected and

## PART II.—SEAT OF GOVERNMENT—

read. Any consumer discontinuing the use of electricity, and failing to give such notice, shall be responsible for all electricity registered by the meter, or for any minimum accounts, or portion thereof, that may have accrued up to the time when the meter is inspected and read.

8. The proper authority reserves to itself the right, from time to time, to discontinue the supply of electricity at such times as it may desire, for the purpose of testing, or for any other purposes connected with the efficient working of the undertaking.

9. In case of the destruction, or damage by fire or otherwise of, or the loss of, any meter or other apparatus, the property of the Commonwealth, while situated on the consumer's premises, the consumer shall forthwith replace the meter or other apparatus, or pay the value thereof to the proper authority, or, in the case of damage only, shall pay to the proper authority such amount as the Electrical Engineer considers reasonable for the repair of the apparatus.