

REES BULLETIN NO. 10  
STANDBY POWER CONTROLLERS

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Each of the minimum specifications for the Residential Energy Efficiency Scheme (REES) energy efficiency activities include various requirements that must be complied with to enable an energy efficiency activity to be counted in fulfilment of a REES target. The minimum specification for the installation of Standby Power Controllers (SPC) can be found in Schedule 4 of the REES Code (refer <http://www.escosa.sa.gov.au/library/111130-REESCode04.pdf>), which operates from 1 January 2012 (REES Stage 2).

This Bulletin provides guidance on the Essential Services Commission of South Australia (the Commission) approval processes for both Audio Visual (AV) and Information Technology (IT) SPC installation and training requirements.

The success of this technology in reducing energy consumption will be dependent on the skill with which the SPC installer can assess the resident's use of all relevant appliances, advise the resident is given on what an SPC is and how it operates, and advice the resident is given on which appliances should be attached to the SPC. Failure to adequately instruct the resident on the correct use of the SPC may risk the resident subsequently rendering the SPC inoperable, resulting in the deemed energy savings not being achieved.

REES Code SPC specification 4 (AV & IT) requires prior written approval from the Commission to:

- ▲ install a particular model of SPC in excess of the minimum requirements; and
- ▲ assign that model a deemed value.

REES Code SPC specification 5 (AV & IT) requires prior approval from the Commission for the:

- ▲ manner of installation for an SPC; and
- ▲ the form and manner of training (including on-going support) that must be provided to the residential customer.

Some of the requirements for the manner of installation are stated in REES Code SPC specifications, such as the:

- ▲ description of the SPC activity requires that installation must be physically carried out by the retailer or contract third party operator (SPC installer);
- ▲ SPC must be connected to at least two controlled appliances at the time of installation; and
- ▲ SPC installer shall use best endeavours to ensure any installations are targeted at high usage applications in the first instance.

It should be noted that Schedule 5 of the REES Code, which sets out the requirements for REES Activity Records, obliges an SPC installer to:

- ▲ provide the resident with adequate instruction on the working of the SPC(s) at the time of installation;
- ▲ leave the resident with printed instructions, including a helpline number;
- ▲ advise the resident of any reduction or removal of surge protection to existing appliances resulting from the SPC installation; and
- ▲ advise the resident of the minimum warranty period.

The Commission's additional requirements on the manner of SPC installation and the form and manner of training for the purposes of REES Code SPC specification 5 are set out below.

## *Manner of Installation*

Additional minimum installation requirements for an SPC installation are that:

- 1) The SPC installer must:
  - a) advise the resident on the optimal operation of devices connected to the SPC;
  - b) gain an adequate understanding of the resident's use of relevant appliances from interviewing the resident; and
  - c) in general, install the SPC(s) in a manner that meets all the specifications, addresses the resident's needs, whilst also maximising the potential for energy savings.
- 2) In order to be able to install an SPC in an appropriate manner, an SPC installer must receive:
  - a) sufficient safety training, with the level of training consistent with that achieved from meeting the REES Code mandatory safety training requirements as necessary for the safe installation of SPCs;

and sufficient operational training for SPC installers to:

- b) be fully conversant with the REES SPC specifications;
- c) enable them to engage appropriately with residents;
- d) be able to fully instruct residents on the operation of SPCs to be installed and be able to answer any operational questions posed by residents;
- e) be able to assess the residence's use of AV, IT and peripheral appliances and advise on which appliances would be suited to be connected into the SPC and which appliances should not be connected to an SPC (and therefore remain directly connected to a power source); and
- f) be able to install the SPC device safely and to maximum effect, having regard to the needs of the resident.

The SPC(s) must not be left to the resident to install, even after providing instructions to the resident.

The principal appliance plugged into an SPC needs to be:

- ▲ in the case of an IT SPC, a desktop computer or laptop; and
- ▲ in the case of an AV SPC, a television or projector.

## *Form and Manner of Training for Residents*

Additional minimum form and manner of training for residents is that:

- 1) The level of customer training should be designed to minimise the risk of residents subsequently removing, or otherwise rendering inoperable, the SPC due to a misunderstanding of the operation of the SPC.

A REES-obliged retailer should provide copies of its internal documentation (e.g. systems and training manuals) and other supporting materials to the Commission, to assist the Commission in considering approval for the manner of installation and the form and manner of training.

## Approved Laboratory Test

Finally, REES Code SPC specification 1 sets out a number of standards that must be met by an SPC device in the absence of an applicable Australian Standard, to be verified by an approved laboratory test.

The SPC specifications further define an *approved laboratory test* as “a test approved by the Commission, and in the absence of the Commission specifying an approved laboratory test a test that meets the Essential Services Commission of Victoria published testing requirements”. The Commission is not proposing to specify an approved laboratory test at this time, instead relying on a test that meets the Essential Services Commission of Victoria’s published testing requirements.

The provision of a copy of an Essential Services Commission of Victoria official approval letter to the Commission for all SPCs approved under the VEET scheme that are to be installed under REES (i.e. including for those SPCs only meeting minimum requirements) will be taken as evidence that the laboratory test requirements have been met for these SPCs, and would also assist the Commission with compliance checking on other specifications for these SPCs.

### Summary:

- ▲ REES-obliged retailers must obtain prior approval from the Commission for the manner of installation for a Standby Power Controller (SPC); and the form and manner of training (including on-going support) that must be provided to the residential customer (REES Code SPC specification 5).
- ▲ The Commission’s additional requirements on the manner of SPC installation and the form and manner of training for the purposes of REES Code SPC specification 5 are set out in this Bulletin

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