

# ISR SERVICES PTY LTD

## INDEPENDENT SAFETY & RISK SERVICES

▼ WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY

▼ RISK MANAGEMENT

▼ INSURANCE SURVEYING AND REPORTING

## TECHNICAL NEWSLETTER

### Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011 ELECTRICAL SAFETY IN THE WORKPLACE

#### Residual Current Device (RCD)

THIS NEW LAW COMMENCED 01 JANUARY 2013

Clause 164 of the WHS Regulation 2011 (which has replaced the OH&S Regulation 2000) requires that any electrical risk associated with the supply of electricity through a socket outlet (power point) at a workplace must be minimised by the use of an appropriate RESIDUAL CURRENT DEVICE (RCD, or Safety Switch).

Where death or serious injury results from an electrical socket outlet which is not RCD protected, prosecution and/or fines by WorkCover Authority would be severe.



Old Fuses



#### PCBU's and Officers (refer WHS Act 2011)

Persons Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU), Building Owners, Property Managers, Company Directors, Officers and Managers must ensure that all single phase and three phase 'plug-in' electrical socket outlet circuits in their workplaces are protected by RCD's.

RCD's reduce the risk of electrocution.

Old fuses and circuit breakers protect property from fire. RCD's protect property and people by their rapid operation and extremely low trip current.

The PCBU has the Primary Duty of Care to do all that is reasonably practicable to eliminate or reduce risks associated with hazards in the workplace. RCD's eliminate or reduce risks associated with electrical hazards.

**RCD protection should be in place in all workplaces.**

#### NOTE:

- RCD's are identified by a small coloured 'T' or 'Trip' button on each RCD (usually a blue test trip button).
- Old fuses and circuit breakers can be easily replaced at the electrical power board with a combined RCD/circuit breaker of the same size for each power point circuit.
- Existing three phase socket outlets can be replaced with three phase socket outlets which have a built-in RCD.



Circuit Breaker



Residual Current Device (RCD)



**PCBU's and/or Officers should discuss this legal requirement with their licensed electrician.**

The National WHS Act 2011 and WHS Regulation 2011 places many legal duties on PCBU's and Officers.

#### DO YOU COMPLY WITH THESE NEW LAWS?

THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ACT 2000 WAS RESCINDED ON 01-01-2012

THE NATIONAL WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT 2011 COMMENCED 01-01-2012