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RACGP FACT SHEET

REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTRICAL WIRING WHEN BUILDING OR RENOVATING A GENERAL PRACTICE

When building or renovating a general practice, it is important to understand the legislative requirements that may apply, whether federal or specific state/territory legislation.

If building a new practice, or undertaking renovations to an existing practice which involves changes to the electrical wiring of patient areas with medical equipment, practices must meet the requirements of Standards Australia AS/NZS 3003:2011 *Electrical Installations – Patient Areas* (AS 3003). This standard is a subset of AS/NZS 3000 *Electrical Installations* (AS 3000) and applies to all states and territories.

Even though builders, architects, and engineers should be aware of the requirements of this standard, compliance with any legislative requirements remains the responsibility of the consumer. In this instance, this is the general practice owner or landlord that is undertaking the building works.

RACGP encourages those that are considering building a new practice, or renovating their existing practice, ensure they are engaging appropriately licensed tradespeople to undertake this work. It is also advised that these licensed tradespeople have experience working with medical facilities. A list of licensed Electrical Inspectors with experience in medical facilities should be available from your state/territory electrical body.

The regulation and application of AS 3003 is the responsibility of each state and territory. In some circumstances, practices may be able to apply for an exemption from AS 3003. To find out more, or for any further information, please contact your state/territory body listed below.

State	Body	Website
Australian Capital Territory	Department for Environment and Sustainable Development	www.actpla.act.gov.au
New South Wales	Office of Fair Trading	www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au
Northern Territory	NT WorkSafe	www.worksafe.nt.gov.au
Queensland	Electrical Safety Office – Department of Justice	www.justice.qld.gov.au
South Australia	Department for Manufacturing, Innovation, Trade, Resources and Energy	www.technicalregulator.sa.gov.au
Tasmania	WorkSafe Tasmania	www.worksafe.tas.gov.au
Victoria	Energy Safe Victoria	www.esv.vic.gov.au
Western Australia	EnergySafety WA	www.energysafety.wa.gov.au

Relevant RACGP resources***Rebirth of a Clinic – a design workbook for architecture in general practice and primary care***

The RACGP *Rebirth of a Clinic* is a guide which provides information on designing a general practice, from the initial concept to detail of each room. This resource can be purchased from the RACGP.

Further information is available at:

<http://www.racgp.org.au/your-practice/business/design/architectural-design/>

General Practice Management Toolkit – Module 4: Starting a medical practice

This resource is designed to assist general practitioners when setting up a medical practice. The resource includes information regarding practice location, practice design, business structures, financial management, staffing arrangements, quality improvements and risk management systems. This resource can be purchased from the RACGP, or is available for members electronically for free.

Further information is available at

<http://www.racgp.org.au/your-practice/business/managementtoolkit/module4/>

RACGP Standards for general practices (4th edition) (the Standards)

The Standards are a template for quality care and risk management in Australian general practice. Criterion 5.1.1 of the Standards relates to Practice facilities. Practice facilities must be safe for GPs, other practice staff and patients.

The Standards are available on the RACGP website at <http://www.racgp.org.au/your-practice/standards/standards4thedition/>