

HAZARDS FROM TREES

GENERAL INFORMATION NOTICE GIVEN BY ELECTRA LIMITED IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATION 5 OF THE ELECTRICITY (HAZARDS FROM TREES) REGULATIONS 2003

This notice is issued in accordance with regulation 5 of the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003 (Trees regulations). It provides information on:

- A general description of the dangers posed by contact between trees and live electricity lines and on cutting and trimming of trees in the vicinity of live electricity lines;
- An explanation of the notice zone and growth limit zone as defined in the Trees Regulations; and
- A list of the offences specified in regulation 26(1) that may be committed by tree owners, and the penalties that may be imposed for committing any of those offences.

DANGERS

Trees growing near electricity lines are a potential hazard to humans, animals and property as well as being a potential risk to the security and reliability of the electricity supply system. If trees contact high voltage lines an electrical arc may result between the tree and the live conductor. This may have the potential to ignite the tree. The effect of a tree fire can be very severe in forest areas, as well as endanger people, animals and property.

The cutting, felling or trimming of trees near electricity lines is a hazardous activity. There is a significant risk to persons carrying out such an activity because of the possibility of contact with electricity lines. The cutting, trimming or felling of trees near electricity lines requires a safety observer, and the use of specialist safety equipment and procedures. The Department of Labour's Occupational Safety and Health service has issued an Approved Code of Practice for tree work and a Code of tree maintenance around power lines. Electra and the codes should be consulted before carrying out any tree trimming work.

It is also hazardous to build, construct, excavate, or operate mobile plant close to electricity lines and the support structures. The New Zealand Electrical Code of Practice 34:2001 must be complied with when carrying out activities near electricity lines and their supporting structures. Please contact Electra for further information or assistance with electrical safety distances, in relation to cutting, trimming, felling and planting of trees near electricity lines, using mobile plant in close proximity (within 4 metres) to overhead lines and when carrying out building or construction activities near electricity lines and support structures.

EXPLANATION OF THE ZONES

The growth limit zone is an area around an electricity line into which a tree cannot encroach. The growth limit zones vary for different voltages, span lengths, and parts of spans. The Schedule to the Trees Regulations sets out the distances that apply in the different circumstances.

As an example, for Electra's 33,000 Volt lines, on spans less than 150 metres in length, the growth limit zone is 2.5 metres from the tree and any point on the conductor, taking into account the maximum design sag of the conductor. (The maximum design sag is the potential position of the line both vertically and horizontally under worst case conditions.)

The notice zone is the space extending not more than 1 metre beyond the growth limit zone. If a tree encroaches into the growth limit zone then Electra will issue the tree owner a cut or trim notice. The tree must then be cut back so it no longer encroaches into the notice zone. This means, for the example given above that the outer edges of any trees would need to be trimmed to at least 3.5 metres away from where the line could be positioned at maximum design sag or during strong winds or extreme temperatures etc.

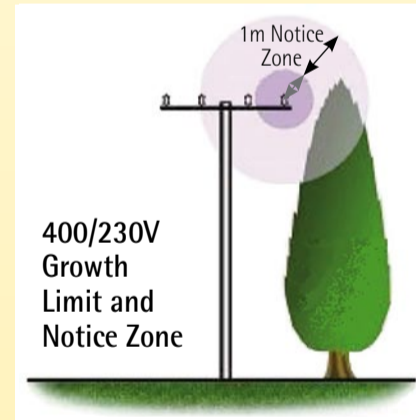
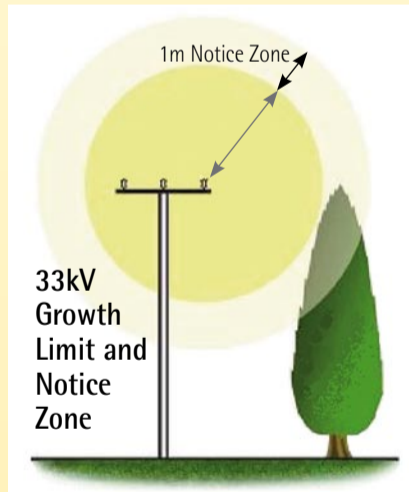
TREE OWNER OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

Regulation 26 sets out the offences and penalties that a tree owner can face under the Trees Regulations. A tree owner who is given a cut or trim notice but fails, without reasonable excuse, to have the tree cut or trimmed, or allows the tree to be cut or trimmed and fails to advise Electra of the time and location of the cutting or trimming of the tree, commits an offence. The possible penalty for either offence is a fine not exceeding \$10,000, and if the offence continues, a further fine not exceeding \$500 a day for every day or part of a day the offence continues.

NO-INTEREST TREE NOTICES

If a tree owner does not want to maintain an interest in any trees growing close to electricity lines, then they may give a no-interest tree notice to Electra in accordance with the Trees Regulations. (There are some trees for which a no-interest tree notice cannot be given.) This removes the obligation on the tree owner to cut or trim the tree, and the cost and responsibility falls on Electra to either trim or remove the tree. Please contact Electra for further information on giving a no-interest tree notice.

Growth Limit Zone Distances for spans less than and equal to 150 metres in length

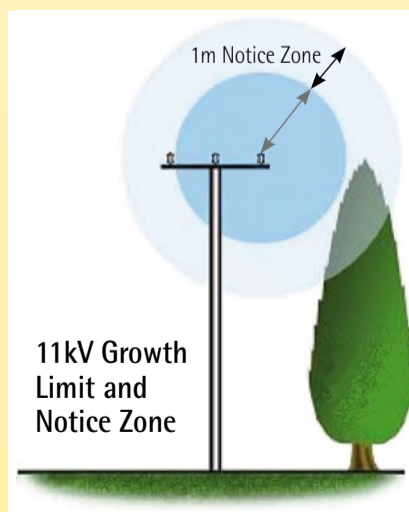


Growth Limit Zone

In relation to the space surrounding a conductor, means the space that extends no more than the distance from the conductor as specified for that conductor voltage as specified in the Schedule.

Notice Zone

In relation to the space surrounding a conductor, means the space that extends no more than 1 metre beyond the growth limit zone.



Voltage	Distance in any direction from any point on any conductor
33kV	2.5m
11kV	1.6m
400/230V	0.5m