機電工程署 Electrical and Mechanical Services Department NOV · 2017

電力快訊 ELECTRICITY NEWS

Special Issue

Full Implementation of Code of Practice for the Electricity (Wiring) Regulations (2015 Edition) on 30 November 2017

Members of the trade should already know that the Code of Practice for the Electricity (Wiring) Regulations (2015 Edition) ("the new Code") was published on 31 December 2015. We would like to remind you that, after a grace period of around two years, the new Code would be fully applicable to those fixed electrical installations being completed and connected to electricity supply on or after 30 November 2017. In addition, the new Code applies only to the newly installed electrical installations and altered installations, with no retrospective effect on other existing installations.

In the 27th and 28th Issues of Electricity News, we have already introduced some of the major revisions to the Code of Practice for the Electricity (Wiring) Regulations (2015 Edition). Now let us revisit these major revisions:

1. The new Code adds a number of safety guidelines with respect to high voltage electrical installations, including the addition of procedures for conducting electrical works on different high voltage electrical installations in Code 4H(3). In addition, technical guidelines on 11kV and 22kV main switches are added in Code 8A(7); the safety guidelines on the issuance of sanction-for-test (Appendix 16B) is added in Code 21D while high voltage tests are to be undertaken; and a sample of "H.V. Padlock Movement Log book" is added in Appendix 17B.

2. A safety requirement for Miniature Circuit Breakers (MCB) and Moulded Case Circuit Breakers (MCCB) to be equipped with lockable function is added in Code 9A(3)(d). The relevant requirement applies only to the newly installed or altered devices. Existing switches do not need to be replaced for compliance with this new requirement. However, for those existing MCB and MCCB without the lockable function during manufacturing, in order to protect yourself and to prevent the electrical incident caused by accidentally switching on the breaker during the electrical work, it is recommended to add lock by using additional assistive device if possible.

3. The "Permit-to-Work" (Appendix 16A) has been optimised in the new Code for the convenience of use by trade workers.

4. The past "Risk Assessment Report on Live Work" has been replaced by the simplified "Electrical Safety Assessment Form" (Appendix 15B) in the new Code to reduce the inconvenience of word writing and allow the required assessment work to be conducted by trade workers following simplified procedures.

   Please refer to the feature article in the 28th issue of Electricity News on how the permit-to-work and Electrical Safety Assessment Form are to be used: http://www.emsd.gov.hk/en/electricity_safety/information_for_the_electrical_trade/electricity_news/28th_issue_sep_2016/index.html

5. The requirement on power suspension before carrying out periodic inspection, testing and certification work on a main switchboard that is connected to the power company's transformer is officially included in the new Code and is described in Code 21F.

6. Technical requirements on electric heating systems installed in building structures and charging facilities for electric vehicles are added in Codes 26R and 26S respectively.

7. Certain diagrams and illustrations have been updated based on the latest revisions of the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) Wiring Regulations 17th Edition Amendment Number 3:2015, including: Tables 11(8) and 11(11) regarding maximum earth fault loop impedance; Tables A5(1)-(3) and A5(6) in Appendix 5 regarding rating factors; the current carrying capacity and voltage drop tables for PVC insulated and XLPE insulated cables (Tables A6(1)-A6(8)) in Appendix 6; and the typical installation method for cables in Appendix 7.

For more information on the new Code of Practice, please browse EMSD's webpage:
(www.emsd.gov.hk ▸ Electricity Safety ▸ New Edition of the Code of Practice for the Electricity (Wiring) Regulations)

www.emsd.gov.hk

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The English and Chinese versions of the Electricity News may be viewed on the above website.

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