

Established in 1999, the NGZ Rules describe minimum safety requirements that are dependent on the distance between overhead powerlines and the work being performed.

1. For work outside **6.4m** of overhead power lines no specific requirements are established other than those described in established regulation, primarily the Victorian Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2007.
2. For any work between **3.0m** and **6.4m** of an overhead power line, a registered spotter is required.
3. For any work within **3.0m** of an overhead power line, permission from the relevant network operator is required.

## Exclusions

Other activities not covered under the NGZ Rules include, but are not limited to:

- Work performed by persons working for or under the control of a Network Operator on their network asset.
- Vegetation pruning work near power lines that are performed by Authorised Persons under existing Regulation 318 and 319 of Electricity Safety (Installation) Regulations 2009 and or the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2010.
- Work performed by others deemed to comply with the “safe system of work” and minimum conditions as defined in the [WorkSafe Victoria Framework for Undertaking Work near Overhead & Underground Assets](#) (excluding works within transmission easements).
- Work performed by others with written authority obtained from the Network Operator (for works on Transmission Easements).
- Work undertaken by persons working for or under the control of the owner of a railway or tramway systems.
- Emergency works where the Network Operator is managing the electricity safety requirements on site and/or when assisting emergency services exercising their powers under the Emergency Management Act.

## Work in the Spotter Zone

A spotter can be defined as a worker whose specific role at a job site is to monitor the activities of mobile plant and equipment when operating near overhead assets.

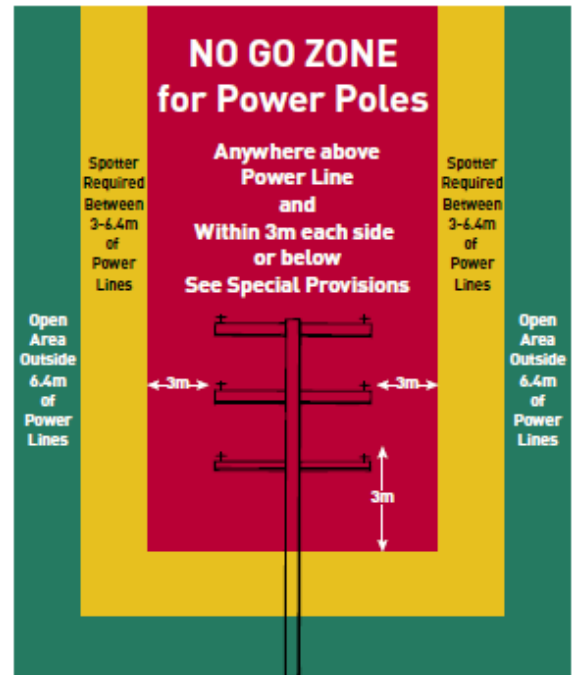
Industry has considered that it is appropriate for all Spotters to receive training and have an awareness of the hazards associated with working near overhead electrical assets.

Spotters for overhead electrical assets must have completed a Spotter training program that has been endorsed by ESV. Trained Spotters are registered with Energy Safe Victoria to ensure any changes in the No Go Zone procedures are passed onto the Spotter during the refresher training which is undertaken at the expiry of each three year registration period.

Spotters for underground assets do not have to be a registered with ESV but must be competent to undertake the work being observed.

A list of training providers can be found at this [link](#) to the ESV website. ESV have also published a list of FAQ's regarding the NGZ which can be found at this [link](#).

Where work is to be undertaken in this zone and a safety concern is evident, the network operator should be contacted for assistance and any clarification that may be needed. Following an inspection and possible negotiations, the issue of a 'Permit to Work' may be considered appropriate to assist in declaring required safety clearances and safety related matters and any other precautions taken.



## Work in the No Go Zone

A person is prohibited from working within the **RED** area (or within 3.0m), without first obtaining written permission from the Network Operator.

Upon request for permission to work near UE's supply network, an assessor will determine if a site inspection is required based on the information provided by the applicant.

This determination will be based on details regarding the likelihood of the plant and equipment to encroach the NGZ under anticipated conditions. If UE are advised by an applicant that:

- The plant and equipment is likely to encroach the red zone clearances
- The applicant has established a Safe System of Work but cannot comply with Table A of the Framework then an on-site technical assessment shall be carried out. The site assessment shall:
  - Identify the Network Assets involved
  - Define the work to be employed by the applicant, and how the NGZ could be encroached
  - Consider an appropriate course of action.

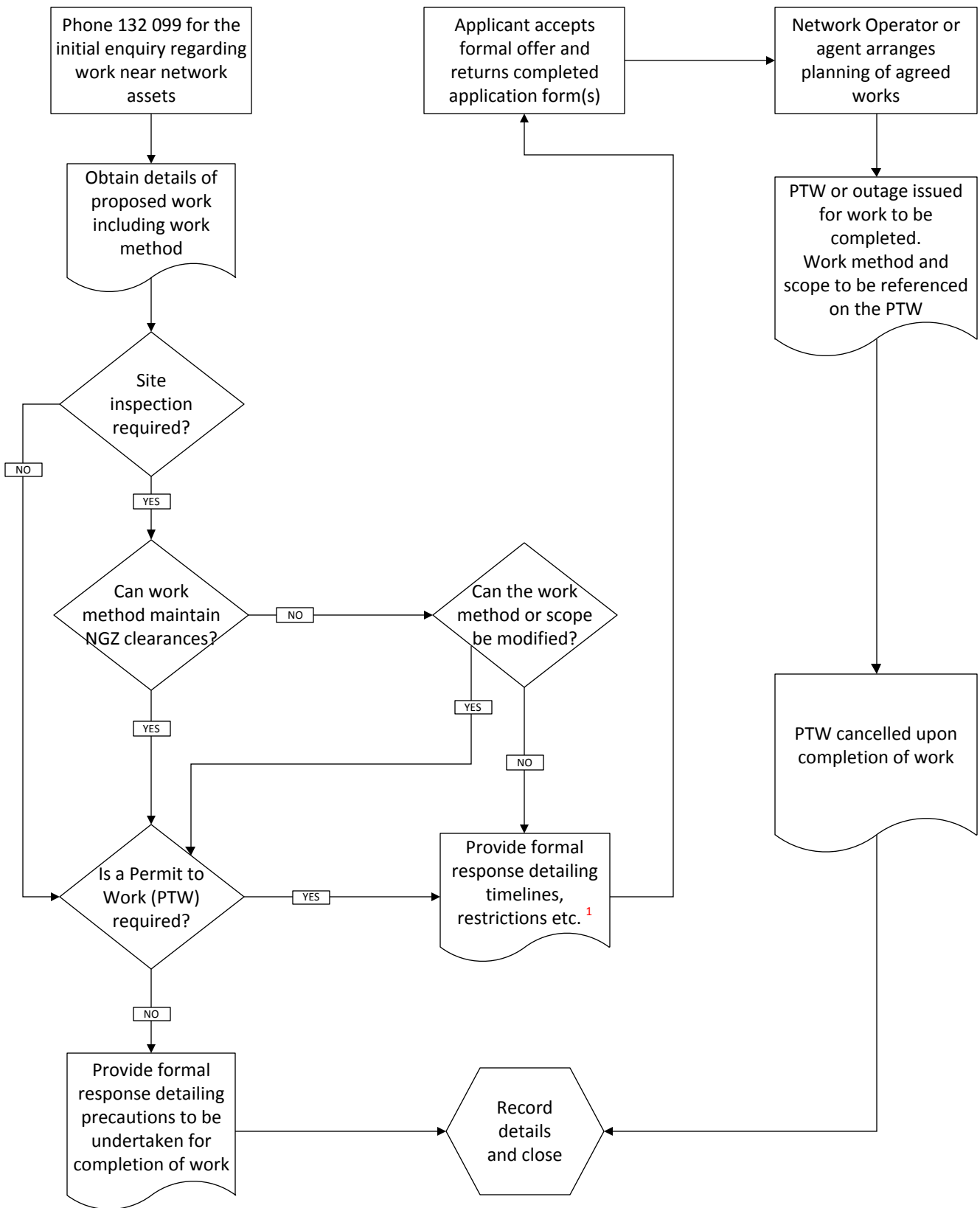
This process is summarised in the diagram at the end of this document.

## Controls for Work in the No Go Zone

The controls that may be implemented for work to be undertaken near powerlines are dependent on the plant and equipment utilised and the work to be performed. Examples of controls that may be implemented include:

1. The issue of a Permit to Work (PTW).
2. The installation of warning devices on overhead lines.
3. The isolation of overhead or underground conductors and cables to eliminate electrical hazards.
4. The relocation of overhead and underground lines.
5. The installation of insulated overhead lines (aerial bundled cables).

UNITED ENERGY NGZ PROCESS



<sup>1</sup> Note that to allow the works to proceed in a manner that meets the requirements of ESV, Worksafe and the Electricity Safety Act, additional activities may be required that may include but not be limited to:

- The installation of warning devices
- Electricity shutdowns to isolate supply
- The re-routing of overhead or underground power lines and cables
- The installation of insulated overhead cables