

29 January 2016

Orion to phase out 'yellow box' residential temporary power supply units

Orion has provided temporary power supply units as part of the network service for more than 20 years. The distinctive yellow boxes have proven to be a simple, convenient option for providing initial power supply to residential building sites until permanent electricity connections were in place.

Demand for this service post-earthquake grew significantly as the rebuild of the city gained momentum.

As part of a broad focus on improved worksite safety, Worksafe has notified that all new residential electrical installs are required to be treated as a full electrical installation on a work site, and not simply as part of the network. Electrical installations on all residential building sites must therefore meet the relevant industry requirements including AS/NZS 3000 and 3012.

In the light of this requirement, Orion's temporary supply of electricity to a site from a yellow box is no longer an option.

WorkSafe has advised that Orion's yellow boxes currently in use may remain in service until the temporary connection is no longer required, provided they are well maintained and correctly secured. Safety is of paramount importance to Orion. We will continue to regularly monitor the condition of the units in use to ensure that they comply with relevant requirements.

Orion is working with the residential construction sector to assist builders and electricians with the transition from the yellow boxes, and to access information about compliance with the relevant requirements.

Orion will process all current orders for its yellow boxes but will not be able to accept new orders after 29 January 2016. Installation of the units will cease from 29 February 2016.

If you have any questions or would like assistance with this matter, please call us on 0800 363 9898.