

**OP-FRM-0008 | Application for Approval to Operate Machinery Closer than 4m to Electric Power Lines form**  
 Operations | System Control



Security Class: Public – Social Media

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**As required by The Electricity Act 1992 and NZECP 34:2001 Section 5  
 Completed by Contractor – 20 working days’ notice required for power shutdowns**

**Name of Contractor**..... **Name of Operator**.....

**Address** .....

**Telephone No**..... **Fax No** .....

**Contractor Email Address**.....

**Permission is granted to operate**

.....  
 (type of machine)

**from** ..... **to** .....  
 (date) (date)

**at the following times** .....  
 (working hours)

**at** .....  
 (location)

**at the following minimum working clearances from the conductors:**

To be completed by PowerNet (Strike out those not applicable)		
Voltage of Overhead Lines	Minimum Working Clearance	Remarks
Low (230/400V)	1.0 m	
High (11,000V)	1.0 m	
Extra High (33,000V)	1.0 m	
Extra High (66,000V)	1.5 m	

Subject to the following conditions:

	(Tick Boxes)	
A Network Safety Supervisor is required	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
A Power Shutdown is required	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Other:		

Network Contact Person:.....Phone.....

Approved by: .....Phone.....

The distance between any live overhead and any mobile plant or load carried shall be “AT LEAST 4.0 METERS” unless the operator has received written consent from the overhead electric line owner allowing a reduced distance.

Where any mobile plant is likely to be used at any time in the proximity of overhead lines, the owner or operator of such device shall affix an approved warning notice in a conspicuous place as near as practicable to the operator’s position. The notice shall be maintained in a legible condition and shall state: WARNING, KEEP CLEAR OF POWER LINES’.

## NEW ZEALAND ELECTRICAL CODE OF PRACTICE 34:2001

### SECTION 5

#### SAFE DISTANCES FOR THE OPERATION OF MOBILE PLANT NEAR CONDUCTORS

##### 5.1 GENERAL

- 5.1.1 This section does not apply to live line work or to any conductor forming part of the mobile plant or any collector wire, insulated cable, or flexible cord used for the purpose of supplying electricity to the mobile plant.
- 5.1.2 Mobile plant working near an electric overhead electric lines can damage the line and be hazardous for the plant operator, the mobile plant and people in the vicinity.
- 5.1.3 Conductors can be displaced from their normal position by wind or temperature change. This requires special consideration by mobile plant operators.
- 5.1.4 This section does not apply while mobile plant is in transit on a road and the relevant requirements of the Traffic Regulations 1976 are observed.

##### 5.2 MINIMUM APPROACH DISTANCE

- 5.2.1 The distance between any live overhead electric line and any part of any mobile plant or load carried shall be “AT LEAST 4.0 METRES”, unless the operator has received written consent from the overhead electric line owner allowing a reduced distance.
- 5.2.2 When an approval has been obtained pursuant to clause 5.2.1 and subject to clause 5.5.1, the minimum approach distance between a conductor and any mobile plant shall not be less than specified in Table 6.
- 5.2.3 Figure 5 provides a quick reference guide to the minimum safe distances for use of mobile plant near conductors of overhead electric lines.

##### 5.3 WORKING ABOVE OVERHEAD ELECTRIC LINES

- 5.3.1 Mobile plant or any load carried shall not operate above the conductors of any overhead electric line unless the operator has received written consent from the overhead electric line owner to work above the overhead electric line.
- 5.3.2 The use of helicopters above overhead electric lines is governed by the Civil Aviation Rules.

##### 5.4 CONSENT FOR REDUCED MINIMUM APPROACH DISTANCES

- 5.4.1 The application for written consent from the overhead electric line owner shall be made with reasonable notice.

- 5.4.2 The overhead electric line owner’s written consent shall advise:
- (a) The voltage of the overhead electric line and the minimum approach distance to be observed, which shall not be less than the requirements of table 6.
  - (b) Any other reasonable conditions to be observed while working in proximity to, or above, the overhead electric line.
  - (c) The section of line to which the consent applies.

#### TABLE 6 REDUCED MINIMUM APPROACH DISTANCES

(where written consent has been obtained)

Circuit voltage	Minimum approach distance (m)
Not exceeding 1 kV – insulated conductor	0.15
Not exceeding 1 kV –conductor not insulated	1.0
Not exceeding 1 kV –conductor not insulated	1.0
Exceeding 66kV but not exceeding 110kV a.c or d.c	1.5

#### 5.5 REDUCED MINIMUM APPROACH DISTANCES FOR COMPETENT EMPLOYEES

- 5.5.1 Where the operator of any mobile plant is a competent employee working on, or in the proximity of, an overhead electric line, the approach distances may be reduced in accordance with the safety practices determined by the overhead electric line owner.
- 5.5.2 Direct contact of insulated elevating work platform with live conductors shall be acceptable only under approved live working procedures. Whenever a special reduced minimum approach distance is applied, the maximum practicable clearance from conductors shall be maintained.

#### 5.6 OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- 5.6.1 Where any mobile plant is likely to be used at any time in the proximity of overhead electric lines, the owner or operator of such device shall affix an approved warning notice in a conspicuous place as near as practicable to the operator’s position.

The notice shall be maintained in a legible condition and shall state:

“WARNING, KEEP CLEAR OF POWER LINES”

- 5.6.2 Any mechanically operated hedge cutter used under or in close proximity to any overhead electric line shall be operated to prevent hedge clippings or other material being thrown into contact with the conductors or creating any other hazard.