

Wind Turbine Safety Rules

What do I need to know? | June 2015

The Wind Turbine Safety Rules (“WTSR” or the “Rules”) are a model template of rules and procedures to help formalise a safety system of work to manage the LV electrical and mechanical risks associated with working and testing on wind turbines.

- They represent good practice for protecting employees from the inherent dangers of the equipment in wind turbines
- They can assist in the development and application of safe systems of work in a consistent manner
- They can provide a robust approach to demonstrating legal compliance with relevant health and safety regulations

What the law says?

All employers have a duty to establish and maintain systems of work that are safe and without risks to health. This would include having systems for:

- The control of work activities during normal operation and maintenance activities
- Managing the interaction between different activities
- Keeping people safe from the inherent hazards that plant & equipment present

The Rules, guidance and procedures should be regarded as integral component of how you manage health & safety risks.

The Rules and their scope and application to your company should therefore be clearly set out within your health & safety management systems.

Scope of the Rules

The Rules can be:

- Applied to onshore & offshore projects
- Applied to all mechanical and LV electrical systems on a wind turbine

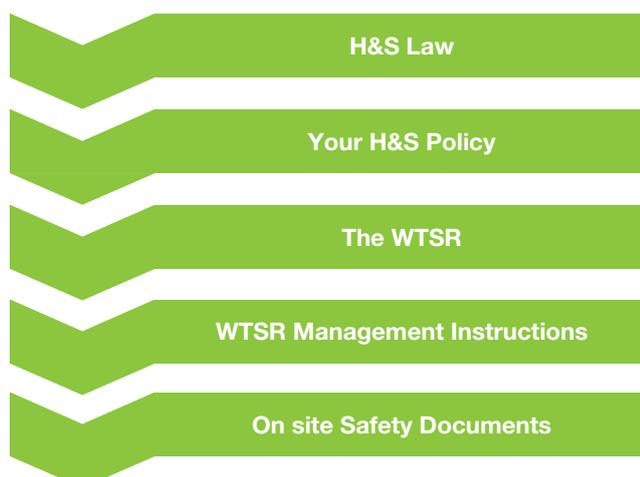
The Rules cannot be used to:

- Manage HV plant & equipment
- Replace duties set out under UK health & safety law
- Contract out of responsibility for managing risks to a 3rd party

Some wind turbines can include HV generators and/or substations for which additional rules and procedures apply.

What do the Rules do?

1. When followed the Rules support the development of a safe system by safeguarding persons from the mechanical and LV electrical hazards on equipment that had not been isolated, blocked or de-energised – this is referred to as “Safety from the System”.



2. The Rules assign responsibilities for managing General Safety. The Rules DO NOT state how General Safety Hazards (e.g. work at height, lifting, noise, hazardous substances etc.) are managed. General Safety is satisfied when:

- A safe means of access and egress is available at all times
- The place of work is safe for the work or testing to progress
- Appropriate tools and equipment are available
- Any necessary PPE is available
- A safe method of work is available
- Relevant support documentation (e.g. risk assessments & method statements) are available



Note: This is a simplistic representation as a wider range of factors will in many cases need to be taken into account based on the work tasks involved and risk assessments performed when formalising a safe system of work.

Your H&S management system should detail how General Safety considerations have been controlled.

Note: The safe system of work developed under the Rules do not mean you have automatically fulfilled all of your health and safety responsibilities. Unless already fully addressed by the controls for achieving General Safety, you may still need to ensure that any additional risks and precautions have been properly taken into account. This could include:

- Access risks (e.g. work at height, lifting operations)
- Incidents and emergencies (e.g. first aid and confined spaces)
- Health risks (e.g. noise, vibration, chemicals, EMF, manual handling)
- Remote & lone working (onshore & offshore)
- Travel and logistics (e.g. driving to/from wind farms or vessel transit offshore)

What do we need to do?

The key action is to ensure you have access to competent advice and support. The appointments may be internal or external – but in every case the individual(s) should have sufficient training, knowledge and experience that would include:

- Knowledge and understanding of the Rules and all supporting guidance and procedures
- Understanding how the Rules are aligned to the organisations own health & safety management systems
- Understand how turbine, site or project specific circumstances have been taken into account

Areas that will need to be considered when implementing the Rules include:

- Ensuring the Rules are part of the organisations H&S management system
- Appointment of properly trained and authorised persons for all nominated roles
- Producing procedures for defined activities
- Ensuring procedures are included in company's own Management Instructions
- Carrying out initial and periodic training for all appointed persons
- Undertaking periodic audits and reviews to confirm the effectiveness of implementation of the Rules

Company management need to ensure that adequate time and resources are allocated to enable the above items to be adequately addressed.

Further Information

For further details please go to: www.renewableuk.com/en/our-work/health-and-safety/wind-turbine-safety-rules.cfm

Disclaimer

The contents of this circular are intended for information and general guidance only, do not constitute advice, are not exhaustive and do not indicate any specific course of action. Detailed professional advice should be obtained before taking or refraining from action in relation to any of the contents of this circular or the relevance or applicability of the information herein.



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