Hon Simeon Brown

Minister of Health
Minister for Energy
Minister for State Owned Enterprises

14 OCT 2026

Dr Richard Templer
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PEN (Protective Earth and Neutral) conductor switching

Dear Richard

Thank you for your letter of 27 July 2026 raising concerns about public and worker safety risks from PEN (Protective Earth and Neutral) conductor switching.

I have decided to amend the *Electricity (Safety) Regulations 2010* to remove the modification to the AS/NZS 3000:2018 that currently allows PEN switching and restore the full standard. This will reinstate the regulatory position that applied before the *Electricity (Safety) Amendment Regulations 2025* came into force on 13 November 2025, when PEN switching was prohibited.

This amendment has been progressed quickly to remove the potential risk of serious injury or death from electric shock, and to provide certainty to workers and businesses in the electrical industry and to WorkSafe New Zealand, the regulator for energy safety.

To resolve the different views on PEN switching, I have asked my officials to undertake further analysis, including undertaking an independent expert review of the evidence on PEN switching, to inform future decisions. Any future change proposals would be informed by consultation to obtain industry and expert views.

Thank you again for raising your concerns with me and contributing to electrical safety in New Zealand.

Yours sincerely

Hon Simeon Brown
Minister for Energy

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