

TAGGING AND TESTING WORRIED ABOUT THE COST?

COGSO FORM LETTER FOR YOUR USE

The cost of tagging and testing of electrical items and equipment in Northern Territory Government Schools has recently been brought to our attention by a number of School Councils across the regions.

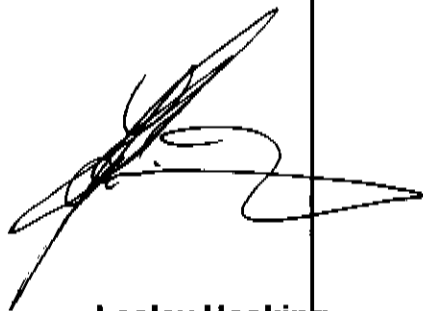
Tagging and Testing is an OH&S requirement, with the cost (either in terms of staff time, or school budgets) now beginning to impact on school operations for some schools.

Whilst the Department of Education and Training will provide training for staff to undertake Tagging and Testing, we have been advised that schools often attempt to conduct the activity during school hours which increases the expectation of staff, who already deal with an overcrowded curriculum and reporting requirements.

Additionally, we have been advised that some schools are concerned about the level of liability for staff should anything go wrong.

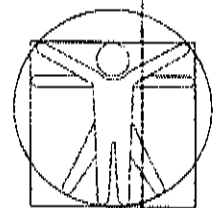
In light of these concerns, a draft letter to the CEO, Department of Education and Training seeking additional funds to cover the cost of Tagging and Testing has been copied at back of this page, should your Council wish to utilize it.

Regards



Lesley Hosking

Executive Officer



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SCHOOL LETTERHEAD

Ms Margaret Banks
Chief Executive Officer
Department of Education and Training
PO Box 4821
Darwin NT 0801

Dear Margaret

Re: Cost of Tagging and Testing electrical items and equipment

Tagging and testing of all electrical and related equipment, is required to be conducted by schools under OH&S legislation.

We are concerned about this matter as our current level of funding does not cover the cost of Tagging and Testing.

Whilst we are aware that training is provided to staff to conduct Tagging and Testing, this activity has to be conducted during school hours to save on overtime costs, which are not covered by the current level of funding to schools. If teaching staff are trained to conduct Tagging and Testing they are placed under more stress given the already overcrowded curriculum.

Tagging and Testing conducted by school staff also raises the question of liability should any electrical item or piece of equipment prove to be faulty beyond the level of their expertise to deal with.

Given the above concern, outsourcing of Tagging and Testing is the remaining option, but again, the cost of doing so is not incorporated into departmental funding for our school.

On behalf of our school community, we write to you to seek your support for reimbursement of all costs associated with outsourcing of Tagging and Testing of electrical items and equipment in our school.

Your attention to this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Yours Sincerely

Chair
.....School Council