



Electra

HAZARDS FROM TREES

GENERAL INFORMATION NOTICE GIVEN BY ELECTRA LIMITED IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATION 5 OF THE ELECTRICITY (HAZARDS FROM TREES) REGULATIONS 2003

This notice is issued in accordance with regulation 5 of the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003. It provides information on:

- The dangers posed by contact between trees and live electricity lines when cutting and trimming of trees in the vicinity of live electricity lines;
- An explanation of the notice zone and growth limit zone as defined in the Trees Regulations; and
- A list of the offences specified in regulation 26(1) that may be committed by tree owners, and the penalties that may be imposed for committing any of those offences.

DANGERS

Trees growing near electricity lines are a potential hazard to humans, animals and property as well as being a potential risk to the security and reliability of the electricity supply system. If trees contact high voltage lines an electrical arc may result between the tree and the live conductor. This may have the potential to ignite the tree. The effect of a tree fire can be very severe in forest areas, as well as endanger people, animals and property.

The cutting, felling or trimming of trees near electricity lines is a hazardous activity. There is a significant risk to persons carrying out such an activity because of the possibility of contact with electricity lines. The cutting, trimming or felling of trees near electricity lines requires a safety observer, and the use of specialist safety equipment and procedures. The Department of Labour's Occupational Safety and Health service has issued an Approved Code of Practice for tree work and a Code of tree maintenance around power lines. Electra and the codes should be consulted before carrying out any tree trimming work.

It is also hazardous to build, construct, excavate, or operate mobile plant close to electricity lines and the support structures. The New Zealand Electrical Code of Practice 34:2001 must be complied with when carrying out activities near electricity lines and their supporting structures. Please contact Electra for further information or assistance with electrical safety distances, in relation to cutting, trimming, felling and planting of trees near electricity lines, using mobile plant in close proximity (within 4 metres) to overhead lines and when carrying out building or construction activities near electricity lines and support structures.

TREE OWNER OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

Regulation 26 sets out the offences and penalties that a tree owner can face under the Trees Regulations. A tree owner who is given a cut or trim notice but fails, without reasonable excuse, to have the tree cut or trimmed, or allows the tree to be cut or trimmed and fails to advise Electra of the time and location of the cutting or trimming of the tree, commits an offence. The possible penalty for either offence is a fine not exceeding \$10,000, and if the offence continues, a further fine not exceeding \$500 a day for every day or part of a day the offence continues.

NO-INTEREST TREE NOTICES

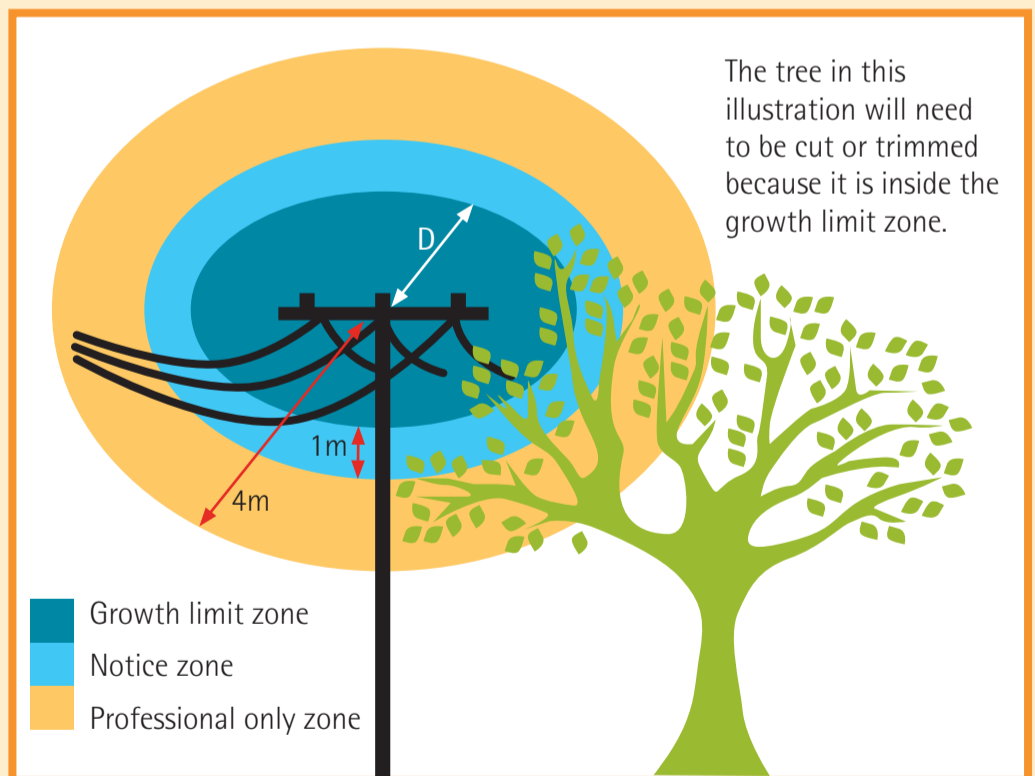
If a tree owner does not want to maintain an interest in any trees growing close to electricity lines, then they may give a no-interest tree notice to Electra in accordance with the Trees Regulations. (There are some trees for which a no-interest tree notice cannot be given.) This removes the obligation on the tree owner to cut or trim the tree, and the cost and responsibility falls on Electra to either trim or remove the tree. Please contact Electra for further information on giving a no-interest tree notice.

EXPLANATION OF THE ZONES

Under the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003, trees must be kept outside the growth limit zone around network lines.

- **Growth limit zone.** The growth limit zone is the area surrounding an electricity line which trees, shrubs, plants and vegetation must be kept clear of. The size of the growth limit zone depends on the voltage and span lengths of the lines (see table below).
- **Notice zone.** The notice zone extends 1 metre beyond the growth limit zone. When a tree is cut or trimmed under the regulations, it must be cut clear of the notice zone. For the health of the tree, proper tree trimming techniques may mean the tree needs to be cut or trimmed further than the notice zone.
- **Professional only zone.** Trimming trees near network lines is extremely dangerous work and, under the Electricity (Safety) Regulations 2010 and the Health Safety in Employment Regulations 1995, only approved arborists are allowed to trim trees within 4 metres of network lines.

A tree owner can only trim a tree themselves provided all parts of the tree are 4 metres or more away from electricity network lines - Save the on-going costs of complying with the regulations by having the tree trimmed to where you can maintain it yourself.



Voltage	Growth Limit Zone Distance in any direction from any point on the lines or equipment (D)
33,000 volts	2.5 metres
11,000 volts	1.6 metres
400/230 volts	0.5 metres

These distances apply to power lines with spans between poles up to 150 metres.