

Definition of misunderstood electrical terms

The following definitions are extracts from the AS/NZS 3000:2007 (Amd1) Wiring Rules, the standard called up by regulations related to electrical safety and consumer protection.

1.4.3 Accessory

Any device, such as a switch, fuse, plug, socket-outlet, lampholder, fitting, adaptor or ceiling rose that is associated with wiring, luminaires, switchboards or appliances; but not including the lamps, luminaires, appliances or switchboards themselves.

1.4.6 Appliance

A consuming device, other than a lamp, in which electricity is converted into heat, motion, or any other form of energy, or is substantially changed in its electrical character.

1.4.7 Appliance, fixed

An appliance that is fastened to a support or otherwise secured in a specific location.

1.4.8 Appliance, hand-held

A portable appliance intended to be held in the hand during normal use, the motor, if any, forming an integral part of the appliance.

1.4.9 Appliance, portable

Either an appliance that is moved while in operation or an appliance that can easily be moved from one place to another while connected to the supply.

1.4.10 Appliance, stationary

Either a fixed appliance or an appliance having a mass exceeding 18 kg and not provided with a carrying handle.

1.4.46 Electrical equipment

Wiring systems, switchgear, controlgear, accessories, appliances, luminaires and fittings used for such purposes as generation, conversion, storage, transmission, distribution or utilization of electrical energy.

1.4.47 Electrical installation

Electrical equipment installed for the purposes of conveyance, control, measurement or use of electricity, where electricity is or is to be supplied for consumption. It includes electrical equipment supplied from a distributor's system or a private generating system.

NOTES:

1 An electrical installation usually commences at the point of supply and finishes at a point (in wiring) but does not include portable or stationary electrical equipment connected by plug and socket-outlet (other than where a socket-outlet is used to connect sections of the fixed installation).

2 Unless the context otherwise requires, the term 'installation' is used to mean electrical installation.

1.4.58 Installation coupler

A connecting device, in accordance with AS/NZS 61535, consisting of an installation socket and an installation plug designed for permanent connection and not intended to be engaged or disengaged under load

4.3.2.2 Installation coupler

An installation coupler, enclosed or unenclosed, that meets the requirements of AS/NZS 61535 is a suitable method for the electrical connection of cables, including flexible cords, flexible cables and rigid (solid or stranded) cables.

NOTES:

1 Installation couplers are intended for permanent connection between sections of wiring, particularly in 'soft' wiring systems, in which case they are treated in the same manner as a junction box.

2 Installation couplers require a deliberate act to disengage the latching mechanism and are not to be engaged or disconnected under load or to be used as socket-outlets.

Wiring from an installation coupler to electrical equipment is regarded as installation wiring

1.4.91 Switchboard

An assembly of circuit protective devices, with or without switchgear, instruments or connecting devices, suitably arranged and mounted for distribution to, and protection of, one or more submains or final subcircuits or a combination of both.

1.4.92 Switchboard, main

A switchboard from which the supply to the whole electrical installation can be controlled

1.4.98 Voltage

Differences of potential normally existing between conductors and between conductors and earth as follows:

- (a) Extra-low voltage: Not exceeding 50 V a.c. or 120 V ripple-free d.c.
- (b) Low voltage: Exceeding extra-low voltage, but not exceeding 1,000 V a.c. or 1,500 V d.c.
- (c) High voltage: Exceeding low voltage.

1.4.102 Wiring, installation

A system of wiring in which cables are fixed or supported in position in accordance with the appropriate requirements of this Standard.