

BWEA Wind Turbine Safety Rules



The Wind Turbine Safety Rules (WTSR) clearly specify actions and procedures which have to be followed in order that persons working on wind turbines are safeguarded from inherent dangers that exist from the installed electrical and mechanical equipment in wind turbines.

They have been developed jointly by owners and manufacturers of wind turbines. They have been in use since 2005 and are endorsed by the BWEA as representing industry best practice for operational wind farms.

The WTSR provide a single way of managing operational safety, giving owners and wind turbine maintenance service providers a consistent and auditable process across their UK portfolios. They are a fine example of how key members of BWEA have been working together for the good of the industry and represent a world leading approach to managing operational safety in wind turbines.

A wind farm consists of two distinct systems: the high voltage (HV) infrastructure and the wind turbines with their associated low voltage (LV) infrastructure.

The WTSR apply only to the wind turbine and associated LV infrastructure.

To carry out work on equipment in a wind turbine, the WTSR require Approved Written Procedures (AWP's) to be put in place for each work package significant enough to warrant it. An AWP is a procedure which specifies how work on plant & apparatus below 1000V AC or 1500V DC, will be carried out safely – it is similar to a method statement and it includes checkpoint signatures as auditable proof that safety precautions were applied for the duration of the work.

The WTSR's also give guidance on when AWP's are required; and when they are not necessary.

The WTSR are currently implemented in the UK at over 100 wind farms. Major industry players advocate their use. The BWEA supports a WTSR review group whose remit is to review their use and recommend improvements based on operating experience. The WTSR were updated in June 2009 to incorporate changes suggested by the group.

An implementation support package consisting of the WTSR, support and guidance documents are available on the BWEA website to assist members to introduce the WTSR into their companies - online at www.bwea.com/safety/safety_rules.

