

## CABLE WINCHING



**It has been brought to the attention of the ETU that there are inherent risks associated with cable winching. In some cases, resulting in significant personal injury and damage to property.**

This alert has been developed to assist members in assessing these hazards and implementing appropriate practices and controls.

The steps below should be followed along with any installation that requires a cable winch to be utilised.

**STEP 1. Assess the cable run** – Factors such as length, bends, on tray, in conduit, at height, horizontal, vertical, manpower required, type of cable and equipment required.

**STEP 2. Assess the winch** – Manufacturer, capacity and design classification and maintenance records. All associated winching equipment shall be appropriately marked in accordance with AS 1418.1 – cranes, hoists and winches – general requirements.

**STEP 3. Conduct a risk assessment** – A risk assessment must be conducted by a competent person before the task has commenced. This assessment should include:

- the task to be carried out;
- the methods by which the task can be undertaken;
- the type of winch and equipment required;
- how the winch is to be secured (qualified engineer);
- the job steps and other equipment/materials;
- associated risks to the surrounding workforce; and
- emergency and rescue procedures.

**STEP 4. Generate a Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS)** – The work plan, associated risks and controls, shall be documented in the SWMS. This shall be in consultation with the workgroup and a health and safety representative.

Operation manuals for all winching equipment **must** be available for review by the workgroup to assess for load capabilities (this should be documented in the SWMS). If information on the equipment is unavailable, work should cease until an appropriately rated winch and winching equipment is sourced.

**Your safety is the number one priority!**