

Toolbox Talk

Electrical Live Testing



What?

- All workplaces contain electrical equipment in the form of panels, motors, control circuits, cables, switches etc. and these items are physically protected and need to be maintained in a safe condition to prevent accidental contact with "Live" parts
- However faults do occur from time to time and require to be identified and repaired by undertaking checks to find the fault and fix the problem
- The law expects electrical equipment to be properly isolated and any residual energy safely discharged before parts are opened up to carry out fault finding since there are reliable meters available which are specifically designed for this purpose by sending a safe voltage around an isolated circuit to identify faults

Why?

- Accidental short circuits or contact with "Live" parts can result in serious or fatal injuries and therefore before opening any electrical equipment while "Live", a suitable risk assessment must be carried out to decide if this is the only option (no other way to do it) and if it is the only option it should be approved using and a safe system of work implemented to minimise the risk as far as possible

Do



- ✓ Check that all the relevant precautions listed on this form have been properly implemented
- ✓ Erect insulated screen to minimise risk area
- ✓ Use correct meter and place in a safe position
- ✓ Use retractable probes with fused link
- ✓ Take care when inserting or withdrawing probes
- ✓ Keep people away from the test area
- ✓ Erect barriers/warning signs, where appropriate
- ✓ Wear suitable PPE e.g. eye, face, hand protection, fire resistant overalls, etc.
- ✓ Stand on suitable insulation mats
- ✓ Properly secure equipment when finished
- ✓ Make sure you have adequate space to work
- ✓ Check there is adequate lighting

Don't



- ✗ "Live" test unless there is no other option
- ✗ Test "Live" unless trained and authorised
- ✗ Wear or carry conducting materials such as rings, bracelets, tools or coins in pockets etc.
- ✗ Open parts you don't need to
- ✗ Remove shrouds or screens will "Live"
- ✗ Attempt to use work tools during testing
- ✗ Leave things on the floor to trip over
- ✗ Open up the equipment more than necessary
- ✗ Get distracted by other events
- ✗ Leave "open" equipment unattended
- ✗ Forget to test meter before and after use