



ISSUE 3, AUGUST 2017


Health and Safety Updates

Lock Off Procedures

You will have all by now received and read the recent news bulletin regarding our Lock Off Procedure. As you know, safe isolation procedures are in place to ensure that workers on site are not exposed to danger when working on or near live electrical systems.

Every year, people working on construction sites and on refurbishment and maintenance activities suffer electric shock and burn injuries some of which, tragically, are fatal. Many of these incidences are a direct consequence of electricians not implementing safe isolation procedures.

An example of one such fatal incident is shown below:



An electrician working on a new-build construction project installed the three-phase and neutral distribution board shown in the photograph. He energised the supply to the distribution board before the circuits connected to it were complete, to provide a supply to a socket-outlet.

He was connecting the supply cables to a wall-mounted timer unit, with the line conductor connected to the circuit-breaker at the top left hand side of the busbar assembly. The circuit-breaker had not been securely isolated and was ON as he stripped the insulation from the end of the cable. He touched the live copper conductor of the cable and was electrocuted.

The distribution board was manufactured to a high standard of safety. However, if he needed to energise the board before it was complete, he should first have replaced the cover and switched off and locked the circuit-breakers supplying unfinished or incomplete circuits. He should also have ensured that circuits were not connected into circuit-breakers until they were complete and had been tested.

Experience shows that electricians employed by electrical contractors are particularly at risk of death or serious injury from electric shock or burns if they fail to follow safe working procedures.

Legislation

The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 sets out the general health and safety duties of employers, employees and the self-employed. The Electricity at Work Regulations 1989, which were made under the Act, require precautions to be taken against the risk of death or personal injury from electricity in work activities.

Under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act, employees are required to co-operate with their employer to enable

the requirements of the regulations to be met. This includes complying with any instructions given on matters such as safe systems of work. The Electricity at Work Regulations 1989 require that employees themselves comply with the regulations.

HSE Guidance

In the context of risks arising from live work, regulation 14 of the Electricity at Work Regulations 1989 requires that:

No person shall be engaged in any work activity on or so near any live conductor (other than one suitably covered with insulating material so as to prevent danger) that danger may arise unless –

- it is unreasonable in all the circumstances for it to be dead; and
- it is reasonable in all the circumstances for him/her to be at work on or near it while it is live; and
- suitable precautions (including where necessary the provision of suitable protective equipment) are taken to prevent injury.

It should be noted that all three conditions must be met in order for work on or near live conductors to be carried out.

Red Rock Policy

- Identify circuit to be isolated.
- Use only HSE GS 38 approved voltage tester
- Use proving meter or known voltage to test that voltage tester is working correctly.
- Use voltage tester to confirm that the correct circuit has been identified.
- Switch off correct circuit and test each phase-to-phase and each phase-to-earth to ensure the circuit is dead.
- Lock-off isolator / switch / mcb with padlock and lock-off clasp that identifies company name and key holder name and contact details.
- Re-test voltage tester with proving meter or known voltage to ensure tester still working.
- Circuit must not be energised until confirmation by test and inspection that it is safe to do so.

Message from the MD....

Hopefully all those who came to our summer works social enjoyed themselves. It was a shame the weather stopped us from fishing, but I will be looking to book the boat again soon.

You may have seen via our Facebook page that we are currently recruiting for more Electricians and Mates in various parts of the country. With some large projects coming up we need to add to our current work force. Word of mouth is also a great way to find new team members and we are always grateful to receive your recommendations for potential new members of staff.

As usual we are going to be very busy till the end of the year, but please remain focused on following all Health & Safety procedures and delivering high standards of workmanship to all our clients.

Matt

How Clean is your van?



As well as being a good reflection on the company, there are other benefits to keeping your work vehicle clean and tidy.

Good for your health – Clutter and mess in a vehicle you spend a lot of time in can add stress and drain you of energy. A clean and tidy van lowers your stress levels, thus keeping high blood pressure at bay. Regular vacuuming and cleaning

of your vans interior can eradicate dust particles and remove invisible germs and bacteria that can stick to mats and seats.

Improves Safety – Clean windshields and windows improve driving visibility. Additionally, clean headlights and indicators make you more visible to other drivers.

Boost your Self Esteem – Nobody wants to be seen driving around in a car that looks dirty and beat up. Besides being embarrassing, it could also cause you extra unwanted stress. A nice looking and clean car speaks volumes about the driver and gives a good first impression.

Fun Fact – A steering wheel is 9 times filthier than a public toilet seat! A public loo is home to 80 bacteria for every square inch and a half. But 700 harmful bugs live in the same area on a steering wheel, gear stick and back seat.

Office Recycling

Please remember to separate your rubbish when emptying your vans at the office. The following items should always be placed in the Dry Mixed Recyclables bin:

- *cardboard
- *Paper
- *cans
- *Plastics



Mr. July
Bryan Stapleton



You ask, we deliver.....

It will soon be time to get something booked for our Christmas party.

Did you enjoy last year's? Happy with something similar or does anyone have a better idea?



Please send any thoughts/ideas to Emma: emmat@redrockelectrical.co.uk

In other news.....



Congratulations to Dan and his wife Cath who welcomed baby Chloe to the Luxton family



There's a new Red Rock Pick-up out on the road.

The new truck will be used mainly for delivering equipment and clearing sites.

New Qualifications Gained:

Paul Brammall: CITB Site Supervisor Safety Training Scheme

