

Before use inspection of safety equipment

Objective

To, identify the requirements for an examination of electrical safety equipment before on-site use. Items include:

- safety harness
- ladders
- insulating mats and covers
- insulating glove sets
- low voltage insulating tools
- low voltage rescue kit
- safety helmets

Method

Each item of equipment shall be inspected before use. The due test date, where fitted, shall be checked every time an item is used. Any item that has a defect or is not in-test shall be withdrawn from service, tagged as faulty and not used until repaired and/or tested.

Note: Any equipment that has been marked out of service or out of date shall not be used until repaired and/or calibrated by a qualified person.

Safety harness

The following components shall be individually inspected.

Snap hooks:

- an overall check for wear, distortion, corrosion and damage
- specific check of the latch and it's pivot for distortion and/or breakage
- a specific check of the latch return spring for breakage distortion or loss of tension. The check of the latch and its spring shall include a slow closing of the latch from the fully open position. The latch shall close fully in a smooth and positive manner.

Rings:

- for damage, distortion and cracked welds.

Pole straps:

- for any sign of wear, excess distortion, broken, cut or worn threads.

Webbing:

- for cuts, cracks, tears, abrasions, undue stretching and damage due to deterioration, heat, acids or other corrosives.

Stitching:

- Check for broken, cut or worn threads.

Ladders

Each time before use a ladder shall be examined for any signs of damage, splitting, or major defects.

Insulating mats and covers

Before use the test tag will be checked to ensure the insulating mat is in-test. The insulating mat and / or cover shall be stretched and examined for the following:

- blisters, cracks, cuts and holes
- embedded foreign matter
- defective fastenings (for covers).

Insulating glove sets

Immediately prior to use, the insulating glove sets shall be checked to ensure they are in-test and visually examined for signs of damage, deterioration, and legibility of marking. The insulating gloves shall then be stretched by hand to ensure that mechanical strength is adequate, and then tested by rolling the insulating glove from the cuff to force air into it. Loss of air indicates that the glove is defective and must be replaced as a complete set (i.e. inner gloves, insulating gloves and outer gloves).

Note: After use, insulating gloves shall be stored in accordance with manufacturer's instructions (electrical worker to hold copy of such instruction).

Low voltage insulated tools

Each time before a low voltage insulated tool is used it shall be inspected for any signs of damage and / or deterioration of the insulation.

Low voltage rescue kit

On each occasion before placement, ready for use, the rescue kit shall be inspected to ensure that all items are present and in good order. Each item is to be visually inspected for any damage or defect, ensuring the torch operates and that the insulating gloves and crook are in-test.

Safety helmets

Each time before use, helmets shall be inspected as follows:

- no dents, cracks or other damage
- not discoloured or weathered or showing loss of glaze
- harness adjustable to ensure a good fit
- not brittle - this can be checked by gently squeezing the helmet sideways
- not modified in any way e.g. painted or fittings attached by drilling or cutting the helmet – approved stickers or labels designed for the purpose are acceptable.

Helmets shall be cleaned regularly using warm water with soap or mild household detergent. Solvent, very hot water or abrasives shall not be used.

Note: Safety helmets and harnesses should be replaced as per manufacturer's recommended time frames.