

Safety Precautions When Extracting/Reinstating Service Fuses

Objective

To identify safety precautions that may need to be implemented when extracting and reinstating fascia, pole or pillar mounted electricity supply service fuses.

Method

When it is necessary to isolate an electrical installation by removal of a service fuse for the purpose of carrying out work on consumers mains or main switchboard it is necessary to ensure the safety of all involved. The following safety precautions should be considered, however others may be relevant depending on the specific work situation.

Conduct risk assessment and implement the required controls.

1. Consider inclement weather.
 2. Assess applicable exclusion zones.
 3. Assess pole/structure to ensure extraction process won't break or damage the fuse holder or cross arm.
- Are you an "authorised person" to access the Entities works?
 - PPE: Safety boots, Electrical worker glove set, long cotton clothing ("high vis" if required by risk assessment), hard hat, safety glasses.
 - Ensure the work area is secure of pedestrians and traffic, etc.
 - Ensure main switches are off and load is isolated before removing fuses.
 - Assess adequacy of the fuse stick set, i.e. long enough to reach without the use of a ladder, and fuse stick set is in current test.
 - Pole not to be climbed and ladder not to be rested against Entities pole.
 - Assess voltages of conductors in the vicinity. Do not proceed if voltages exceed 11kv or the safe working voltage of the stick set.
 - Identify the correct fuse or fuses associated with the installation to be isolated.
 - The extracted fuse to be secured so as to ensure it cannot inadvertently be reinstalled by others.
 - Follow BEMSPRAC005 Safety Precautions When Working on Electrical Equipment and BEMSPRAC006 Lock Out and Tag Out procedure to confirm isolation.
 - This task can be performed by a single operator following satisfactory completion of the risk assessment, if deemed necessary use a safety observer.

Referenced Practices

- BEMSPRAC003 Before Use Inspection of Electrical Test Equipment
- BEMSPRAC004 Before Use Inspection of Safety Equipment
- BEMSPRAC005 Safety Precautions When Working on Electrical Equipment
- BEMSPRAC006 Lock Out and Tag Out
- BEMSPRAC007 Risk Assessment Testing and Fault Finding
- BEMSPRAC010 Testing an Electrical Installation