

Risk Assessment Testing and Fault Finding

Objective

To, identify control measures that may need to be implemented when testing and fault-finding on electrical equipment.

Method

Carry out and document a work method statement and record the control measures used for the risk assessment on the Take 5 Electrical Safety Form for that particular job **before commencing the electrical work**. The following control measures are commonly used safety activities and the relevant control measures used will depend on the risk assessment carried out. It is satisfactory to record the identification letter of the control measure on the form. If this is done a list of the control measures must be at the site. Additional control measures should be used when the list is not appropriate and must be written in full.

Mandatory control measures	
PRAC020	Remove metallic jewellery, metal framed spectacles, watch or body piercings when conducting tests
	Non-flammable clothing with long sleeves and long trousers worn in high fault current situations or in a close testing environment
	Instrument checked to ensure it is suitable for prospective fault current, is in-test and the leads are in satisfactory condition
	Live parts not involved in the testing activity covered for safety
	Clear area of obstructions to enable easy and safe access to and from the area while performing testing and fault finding
	Barriers installed to prevent access by the general public

Optional control measures (to suit site conditions)	
A	Insulating mat used in a close situation, kneeling position or when high fault currents exist
B	Insulating gloves used when working near exposed live terminals until the installation is proven to be de-energised, when the ground or surrounds are wet, where live insulated cables are moved during testing and fault finding, or where an electric shock incident is being investigated
C	Safety Observer is used if high fault currents exist at work site, complex fault finding performed (e.g. reaching past live parts) or a risk assessment identifies additional hazards

The optional control measures used must be recorded on the Take 5 Electrical Safety Form for that particular job. It is satisfactory to use the identification letter of the optional control measures e.g. PRAC007 A B.

Reference Practices

- BEMSPRAC003 Before Use Inspection of Electrical Test Equipment
- BEMSPRAC004 Before Use Inspection of Safety Equipment