

520.

Electrical shock and burn from exposed DC conductors

Since they present a risk of injury through electrical shock and burn, accessible, exposed conductors at voltages higher than 60 V DC – such as switchgear at face-plate starters or knife switches – should be provided with basic insulation, be barriered or enclosed in accordance with paragraph 414.4.5 of BS 7671.

Regulation 14 of the Electricity at Work Regulations states:

Work on or near live conductors

14. 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 –
- (a) it is unreasonable in all the circumstances for it to be dead; and
 - (b) it is reasonable in all the circumstances for him to be at work on or near it while it is live; and
 - (c) suitable precautions (including where necessary the provision of suitable protective equipment) are taken to prevent injury.

Guidance on the provision of such protection can be found in regulations 416.1 and 416.2 of BS 7671.

This bulletin supersedes TB031. See relevant paragraphs in BS 7671.

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