

MV Equipotential Zone (EPZ) Bonding

Background

The MV EPZ procedures were trained out country wide in early 2019 and became effective in July of that year. Concern has been raised at the National Safety Committee that the “why” for EPZ is not widely understood and that consequently the use of EPZ at MV is not what it should be. A subsequent program of national audits by the Competence and Assurance Team confirmed this.

Current Position

An Equipotential Zone (EPZ) is required when working on DEAD Medium Voltage (MV) overhead networks. The equipment required and how to implement an EPZ is set out in [DOC-130818-EFW “MV Lines – Equipotential Zone \(EPZ\) Bonding”](#).

These requirements remain unchanged and all Network Technicians working on the MV Overhead Networks are expected to comply with this document.

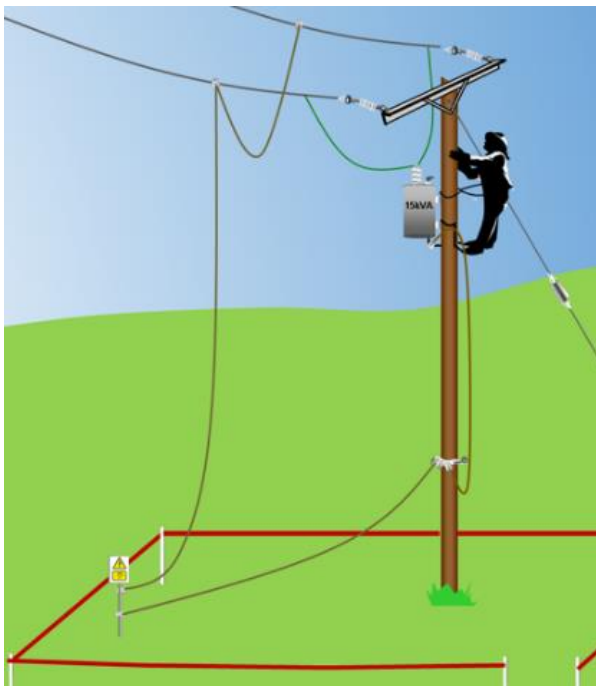


Fig 1: EPZ / Local Earth in position

Procedure

MV Lines - Equipotential Zone (EPZ) Bonding

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Refresher Training

A commitment has been given to the National Safety Committee to review, update and re-issue training on this topic. This is currently taking place, the outcome of which will be brought back to the committee in October.

Actions

Network Technicians: Implement the EPZ at MV as per [DOC-130818-EFW “MV Lines – Equipotential Zone \(EPZ\) Bonding”](#)

Managers/Supervisors: Brief the content of the safety alert to all NTs and ensure that an EPZ is implemented at MV Overhead Line worksites as per [DOC-130818-EFW “MV Lines – Equipotential Zone \(EPZ\) Bonding”](#)

All: Note that roll-out of refresher training is planned to commence in Q4, 2022.

If you have any query in relation to the Safety Alert, please contact Adrian Walsh, Risk & Compliance Manager (MV/LV Activities) at 087 226 9082 or Ken Atkinson, Senior Earthing Specialist, Network Assets at 087 118 4841.

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