

Safety Alert

Incident

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HS-SAL-25-007

Contact for further Info:

Simon Faddes – Business Partner
East

Email: sfaddes@powernet.co.nz

Mobile: 021 407 862

Security Class: PowerNet Employees Only

Network Temporary Earthing - Non-Visible Break

This alert serves as a critical reminder regarding the correct connection of Temporary Portable Earths (TPEs) to the integral earth of switch gear without a visible break.

SM-EI Rules States

EE 5.2111 (3.602) - Where isolation is provided by a disconnector or by switchgear not having a visible break, earthing should be applied to the integral earth of that disconnector or the switchgear.



What is the Purpose of Connecting TPEs to the Integrated Earth of Switchgear

1. TPE's offer personal protection against the effects of inadvertent livening.
2. Application of TPE's at an equipment's integral earth will have lower impedance and therefore promote higher fault current than TPEs applied with a single driven earth stake.
3. TPE's connected to an integrated earth minimises the duration of potential exposure to personnel because a higher fault current will ensure faster circuit protection to operate.

What we must all do

1. Where an isolation point includes a switch with a non-visible break, Issuer applied TPEs shall be applied at that equipment.
2. Connect TPEs to the established earth of the switching apparatus. This may involve removing cable insulation of the integrated earth at the connection point.
3. Where this may not be possible, notify system control and determine suitable alternatives, which may include:
 - a. An established network earth between switchgear and the working position,
 - b. a single driven earth rod,
4. Ensure the integrated earth is left in a safe state once all works are completed and reinstate cable covering as required.

HSE Team have provided all identified external and internal interested parties with this Safety Alert.

NOTE: HSE Team are the only authority to release and circulate this Safety Alert.