

**To:** All Operational colleagues and Service partners

**Issued by:** Health Safety and Training

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## Work and testing in EHV compounds

Recently a significant near miss occurred when a linesman climbed a structure supporting live 66kV apparatus in a customer owned EHV compound. The live apparatus is indicated by the red shape in the photograph opposite.

A Senior Authorised Person (SAP) was coordinating testing under the terms of a Sanction for Test and providing personal supervision to the linesman in the compound. The SAP directed the linesman to apply a test lead to the 66kV busbars on the isolated and earthed side of the structure.

The linesman's head reached a position just below the insulator stack (indicated by the blue shape in the photograph) which compromised working and access clearances. He was informed to stop climbing any further by the SAP when he heard coincident shouting by a second SAP who noticed the danger.



## Safety Rule requirements

DSR 4.5 details the requirements for work in substations containing exposed live high voltage conductors, in particular:

- It specifies that exposed live high voltage conductors shall be identified and as far as possible defined by the use of approved delineation.
- That working and access clearances are established and maintained when operatives leave the ground.
- That access above ground shall be via approved means and that the climbing of structures to gain access is forbidden.

OPM AD3 specifies the requirements for access to open compounds, in particular:

- It states that working and access clearances shall be maintained from exposed live conductors.
- That access for work or testing under a safety document requires delineation.

OPM OE3.2 details the requirements for operational locking at customer interface sites, in particular:

- Where practicable company locking policy shall be implemented at points of isolation and earthing in addition to the other party's arrangements.
- This may be achieved by the use of an 'iso-lok'.

### What you need to do

- Take personal responsibility for your own safety and the safety of others in your charge.
- Work as a team to ensure that safety rules are applied in full and that safe systems of work are implemented.
- Use approved delineation when working and access clearances cannot be maintained.
- Speak up and challenge unsafe or perceived unsafe behaviours.