

Document No:	NB 204	Issue Date:	02 July 2019
Type:	Operational Safety		
Subject:	Use of Shrouding whilst Jointing with Insulating Piercing Connectors (IPCs)		
Applicable Areas:	All Areas	Applicable Job Roles:	All staff involved with LV Jointing activities
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Please consult the author if you have any queries about the information below.

Following a recent audit and subsequent enquiries, it is felt necessary to remind all Jointing operatives of Distribution Safety Rule 8.6.1.

DSR 8.6 Additional Precautions for Work on Live Low Voltage Cables:

- 8.6.1 The cable to be worked on Shall be identified by an Approved means.**
All metalwork adjacent to the point of work Shall be adequately shrouded with Approved insulating material to prevent inadvertent contact. The metallic sheaths of cables Shall be bonded to each other with an Approved insulated Conductor before jointing and before cutting to ensure continuity of the electrical circuit through the sheath.

DSR rule 8.6.1 must be complied with on every occasion when using Insulation Piercing Connectors (IPCs). An example is illustrated below.



Prepared Joint prior to shrouding being applied



Shrouding applied to exposed metalwork



Installation of IPC



Completed IPC joint

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Asset Management are aware of the findings from this audit and next revision of the LV Jointing Manual will be amended to ensure that the requirement of DSR rule 8.6.1 is clearly stated when using Insulation Piercing Connectors.

Detail of Audit

During the recent audit, a Joiner was carrying out a live Waveform Mains Service Branch Joint using Insulation Piercing Connectors (IPCs). The Joiner was not going to apply shrouding to the exposed metalwork because his understanding was that shrouding was not a requirement when Jointing with IPCs.

The audit findings were acted upon immediately to ensure safe working was complied with and escalated to the relevant line management.

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