

FOR ISSUE TO WHOLESALE, NETWORKS AND ENTERPRISE

# SHE ALERT

## Maintenance and Inspection of Moveable Electrical Equipment for use in Hazardous Areas

### What happened?

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) recently enforced an Improvement Notice on a large petro-chemical site in Scotland due to the failure to take all measures necessary, to prevent major accidents and limit the associated consequences to humans and the environment.

This action was taken by the HSE because the company had not ensured moveable electrical equipment provided for use in hazardous areas was inspected and maintained effectively such to mitigate the risk of ignition of flammable atmospheres.

Most of the work carried out by SSE Employees and Contractors is completed in non-flammable atmospheres but there are occasions where our employees and contractors complete work in hazardous environments where specialist controls are required e.g. the provision of specialist portable electrical equipment for use in flammable atmospheres.



### Learnings and reiterations

- Do not start work unless you have the correct tools and equipment to complete your work properly
- Ensure that the specialist tools and equipment you use are subjected to regular checks and within their 'safe to use' date
- Ensure that a 'Cradle to Grave' approach is implemented in your management of tools and equipment. Such an approach should track an item from procurement through usage, maintenance and ultimately disposal
- If you identify an item without the correct 'safe to use' information displayed – don't use it, ensure it is quarantined and notify your supervisor/ manager
- Always complete your pre-use checks of tools and equipment and never be tempted to use something unless you have checked it for damage, defects, functionality and validity i.e. safe to use date, colour coding, etc.
- If you do work in hazardous environments ensure you have the appropriate specialist equipment you need to work properly before you start work
- Set high standards and use the appropriate tools and equipment to do the job right first time every time
- If you're not sure, stop and ask for help
- **At SSE – if it's not safe, we don't do it.**

Communication by (ü)	LSG	ü	Notice board	ü	Tool-box talk	ü	Team brief	ü
Communication complete by (ü)	1 week		2 weeks		1-month	ü	2-months	

Issued by: John Wallace, Process Safety Engineer, Group SHE Team

Date of issue: 02/02/2017