



Unauthorised access to Portable Earths and Earth Poles - SP Transmission

On Friday 6th May 2016 at Livingston 132kV substation, the portable earth equipment was found with locking brackets disconnected, locks cut off and earths removed as shown opposite.

This is a serious contravention of the controlled procedure.

To ensure that the process for the management and control of portable earths is adhered to as contained in [OPSAF-04-024](#) and MSP 1.7 ([OPSAF-11-009](#)), the equipment is registered on a site-specific basis and secured whilst not in use.

Transmission Operations store portable earths and their associated poles at specified dispersed locations owing to the geographical nature and working practices of the Transmission staff.

At six monthly intervals, the equipment is tested and inspected. Before and after use, the equipment must be visually inspected to ensure it is fit for purpose.

This equipment shall ONLY be removed from the store, and applied/removed by appropriately authorised persons. For that reason it is secured in storage by an operational padlock.



Recommendations and action points

- Portable earths and poles in SP Transmission substations must remain locked with an operational "M" padlock at all times except whilst in use.
- Only appropriately authorised persons should access or use this equipment.
- Any signs of interference should be reported to the Transmission Substation Maintenance Manager immediately