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## Live Unterminated Cables in Building

Substandard cabling practices

### EVENT

A recent incident when a technician received a shock when he brushed against a cable with live unterminated ends in a cable tray has highlighted substandard cabling practices in that area.

A further investigation on the same site has identified a number of other cabling-related issues, including:

- earth conductors not bonded to earth – leading to unearthed cable trays
- unterminated ends of cables exposed – potential shock hazard
- redundant cables left in place
- unlabelled coils of cables in/near switchboards.



These practices create a significant hazard for Transpower's staff and Service Providers. Investigation of this safety incident is underway.

### LESSONS LEARNED



All Transpower's contractors and Service Providers shall be competent, and installation work shall be undertaken in accordance with the *Electricity (Safety) Regulations 2010*.

This incident does highlight some areas than can be checked when reviewing Service Provider work, including:

- ensuring that all cable ends are terminated
  - capping all exposed ends in an approved manner to prevent inadvertent contact
  - removing redundant cabling; if this is not possible, each cable conductor end must be shorted out and earthed to prevent inadvertent livening
  - clear marking of cabling
- substandard cabling identified should be tested, isolated if appropriate, tagged, and immediately notified to Transpower
  - securing the affected area to prevent further entry until completing rectification of the substandard cabling.



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