



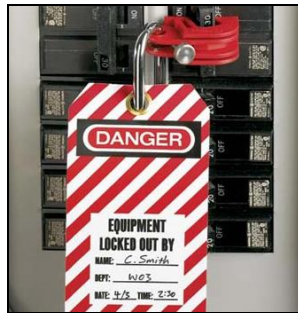
SAFETY ALERT Electrical Lockout and Isolation

Alert No: STE 1014

Date of Issue: 10 October 2014

What Happened:

At a recent monitoring session, an electrical apprentice was asked by the Field Officer the way in which they isolate a circuit. The apprentice told our Field Officer that the normal procedure is to turn off the circuit breaker and stick electrical tape over the top of the switch indicating to the other workers that there is work being carried out and not to re-energise the circuit. *(This is not a safe method of isolating a de-energised circuit)*



The Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011 – Regulation 156: De-energised equipment must not be inadvertently re-energised

A person conducting a business or undertaking must ensure that electrical equipment that has been de-energised to allow electrical work to be carried out on it is not inadvertently re-energised while the work is being carried out.

The penalty for failing in this WHS Regulation is:

- (a) In the case of an individual — \$6 000.
- (b) In the case of a body corporate — \$30 000.

The fundamental principal is that the point of isolation must be under the control of the individual that is carrying out the work on the isolated conductors.

Isolation Points should be fitted with control mechanisms that prevent the electrical equipment or conductors from being inadvertently re-energised. The control mechanism must require a deliberate action to engage or disengage the device.

Various methods of locking out a de-energised circuit are included in the Workcover Code of Practice. This can be found by following this link.

<http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/formspublications/publications/Pages/managing-electrical-risks-code-practice.asp>

We have also included the five pages that reference to the locking out of de-energised circuits.



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Reference:

- Managing Electrical Risks in the Workplace Code of Practice
- Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011

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