

3.0 ELECTRICITY AT WORK

3.1 Background

Electricity kills and injures many people each year whilst carrying out duties at work. Around 1000 electrical accidents are reported each year and around 25 people die as a result of the injury sustained.

Many deaths and injuries arise from:

- Use of poorly maintained electrical equipment
- Work near overhead power lines
- Contact with underground power cables during excavation work
- Mains electricity supplies
- Use of unsuitable electrical equipment in explosive areas such as car paint spraying booths
- Fires started by poor electrical installations and faulty electrical appliances.

3.2 Applicable Legislation

Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 section 2 and 3
The Electricity at Work Regulations 1989

3.3 Procedure

Forest Edge Construction will ensure electrical installations and equipment are installed in accordance with IEE Wiring Regulations and maintain the fixed installation in a safe condition by carrying out testing.

Before carrying out work, all employees are to ensure that the correct isolation procedures are carried out, and that 'Lock off' equipment provided is used.

Live working is forbidden unless you have received the relevant training, provided with the necessary equipment, and deemed competent to do so by a company Director. A record of competence is to be kept on file.

To reduce the risks presented by electricity, Forest Edge Construction will, so far as is reasonably practicable, follow 'best practice' guidance. We will do the following: –

- Ensure employees working on electrical equipment are competent to do so.
- Ensure Contractors are approved and competent.
- Exchange safety information with contractors
- Avoid using long extension leads wherever possible

Ensure equipment used outdoors or in harsh “industrial” environment should be 110v or be supplied via a residual current device (RCD)
Temporary wiring must be made safe as a permanent installation
Ensure that employees do not attempt to repair faulty equipment for which they are not competent to do.

Portable Appliance Testing and Transportable Electrical Equipment

Electrical equipment supplied by low voltages (up to 240 volt) which are not part of a fixed installation but intended to be connected to the distribution network by means of a flexible cable and a plug and socket or similar means. These are categorised as:

Hand Held Appliances *e.g. electric drills, hand lamps, soldering irons*

Portable Appliances *e.g. desk lamps, heaters, radios, extension leads, electric kettles, CD/tape players, mobile phone chargers*

Moveable Appliances *e.g. printers, personal computers, photocopiers, desk fans, water coolers, fax machines, pressure washers, microwave ovens.*

Any such items will be subject to pre-user visual checks by the operator and formal test and inspection by a competent person at suitable intervals, subject to the equipment use and environment.

If the equipment is infrequently used or has multiple users, then it should be checked each time that it is used. However, if it is regularly used in the same way by the same person then checking each week or so may be sufficient.

The operator should critically look for:

- Damage to the cable sheath
- Damage to the plug
- Joints that appear inadequate
- Cable entry to plug not secure
- Exposure to unsuitable conditions
- Damage to equipment casing
- Evidence of overheating

If a problem is identified:

- Take out of service
- Disable use of equipment
- Mark equipment with warning
- Report to a company Director or work Supervisor.