

Electricity on Site — Safe System of Work

Display a copy where the work is done.

Before you start

- Look up. Identify every overhead line before any plant moves.
- Get the service plans and use a cable avoidance tool before you dig.
- Check tools and leads visually. Withdraw anything damaged.
- Confirm the supply is 110V or battery for site tools.
- For any work on equipment, isolate, lock off and prove dead.

The numbers that get checked

Item	Requirement	Why
Overhead lines, wooden poles	Exclusion of reach plus 9 metres	Unless the owner agrees otherwise in writing
Overhead lines, steel pylons	Exclusion of reach plus 15 metres	Same qualification
Site tool voltage	110V centre tapped to earth as standard	Or battery. 230V is the exception, not the norm
Isolation	Isolate, lock off, prove dead	And prove your tester before AND after
Assume	Every overhead line is live	Until the owner confirms otherwise in writing
Damaged equipment	Withdraw and label immediately	Never 'it will do for now'

While you are working

- Keep plant and loads outside the exclusion zone at all times.
- Never raise a tipper, crane or excavator arm near a line.
- Route leads overhead or protect them. Never across a walkway.
- Keep connections out of water.
- Stop and report any damage to a cable, however minor.

Stop immediately if

- Any plant is approaching an overhead line exclusion zone.
- You strike or suspect you have struck a buried cable.
- A lead, plug or tool is damaged.
- There is standing water around electrical equipment.
- You are asked to work on something live.
- You are not competent for the work being asked of you.

Scope and limitations — read before use

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