

Subject: Incorrect isolation of equipment

Incident location: Langage Energy Centre

Date: 26/02/13

Incident date: 03/11/12

Incident Details

A permit was prepared for work on an electrical panel. This was the first time that the panel had been fully isolated and the points of isolation were selected by referring to available wiring diagram supplied by the OEM.

After the permit was issued the SAP accompanied the working party to the panel to witness the apparatus being tested for dead. As they approached the panel it was noticed that some lights were still illuminated, indicating that control supplies were still live. The permit was withdrawn.

Investigation showed that the supply MCBs indicated on the drawing did not supply any apparatus at all, and the control supplies to the panel were taken from another source. A wiring diagram was subsequently found that reflected the as-built condition of the equipment but this was not the diagram being used.

This is not the first occasion where available information did not match reality, and other incidents relate to the way equipment has been labelled in such a way that led to incorrect isolations being applied. **These deficiencies only tend to come to light when isolations are being applied for the first time.** Other installations which have caused problems in the past include anti-condensation heaters and trace heating systems.

Learning & Recommendations

As a result of these incidents it is felt that additional measures should be undertaken when preparing permits on equipment for the first time. This can be established by searching the Eclipse database (including the archive section, where applicable).

When a search on Eclipse shows that equipment is being isolated for the first time the isolation, including any separately-fed or control supply isolation, should be verified (proved) before confirming the permit.

After the other indications show that the supplies are dead (extinguished panel lights, DCS disturbances etc) the equipment should be tested dead. If necessary an electrical engineer should be consulted to assist.

Any discrepancies found during this process must be investigated and action taken, including amending as-built drawings and modifying labelling schemes to reflect reality.

Any large-scale or multiple discrepancies should initiate a major investigation to ensure that the available information matches the installed equipment.

If similar units or modules are installed at the location they should also be investigated to see if similar discrepancies exist.

These measures apply only for 'first time' isolations of equipment.

SITE REVIEW EXPECTATION	Required ✓ ✗
Action: Significant / HiPo event - actions are listed on Global CATS system	✗
Action: Consider "Learning and Recommendations" – if applicable at site, implement via local CATS system	✓
Action: Communicate safety alert/flash via cascade to relevant personnel or via HSE forum	✓
Action: For information / local consideration and awareness raising via site notice boards	✓
SITE REVIEW OUTCOME	
No action required:	
Action required:	

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