

# UK SAFETY ALERT

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Display Until  
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## SAFE ISOLATION – LOCK OUT, TAG OUT, TRY OUT

### Details of Incident

Effective isolation of machinery before carrying out maintenance is one of the most fundamental health and safety rules. It should be expected that isolation arrangements are robust on every site; however it is a great concern to learn that recent isolation audits across our operations have identified shortfalls in our processes and procedures.

### Key Findings

So far the audits have identified sites where:

- There is uncertainty regarding exactly what equipment switch gear isolates
- Switches can be mistakenly locked in the “on” position; we believe this was a factor in a recent industry fatality and, in some cases, may contravene the IET Wiring Regulations
- A lack of clarity with some switch gear whether it is “on” or “off”
- Defective isolator handles, allowing access to electrical panels using a panel key, while the isolators are “closed” or “open and locked out”

### Key Review Points

It is essential that the ongoing programme of site isolation audits is completed rigorously by people with the necessary knowledge and experience. In particular LOTOTO procedures should ensure:

- Operation of switches, valves & machinery are clearly labelled
- All forms of energy are isolated
- Each person locks out with their own unique padlock(s)
- Equipment up & downstream is also isolated
- It is not possible to lock isolators in the “on” position
- Isoation is proved to be effective before work starts
- “Manager in Charge” locks are used where possible

Where shortfalls in isolation arrangements are identified, immediate action must be taken to ensure the safety of all personnel. Where isolators are identified that can be locked in the “on” position it is policy that they must be replaced / rectified



Isolators locked in the “on” position

OR DB

ION

Warning Isolators of BS 7871.

Use Lockout before a. operation or repair to comply immediately.

- Defective isolator handle allowing access to panel with isolators “closed” or “open and locked out”

Look after yourself and each other



Don't let anyone act unsafely, always stop unsafe practices.

Tools and Equipment



Use the right, well maintained, tools/equipment for the job. Never make do.

Safe Systems



Follow safe systems of work, site rules, signage and traffic signals.

Isolation Procedures



Never work on live or moving machinery – always 'lock out'.

