



Important Safety Notice - Queensland Rail



Workplace managers and supervisors must communicate this information to affected workers either face to face, via email or telephone within 72 hours of being received. Communication delivery verification form (MD-13-560) to be completed and LMS administrator to add verification to workers training history as per MD-12-56 Safety and Environment Communications Standard.

Issue date: 30/09/2020

Expiry date: 5/04/2021 To be removed from the safety and environment notice board.

Applying the hierarchy of risk controls when planning / supervising work near 25 kV overhead lines and equipment

Attention: Project managers, supervisors, safety facilitators and Recipients planning and supervising work in electrified areas

Background

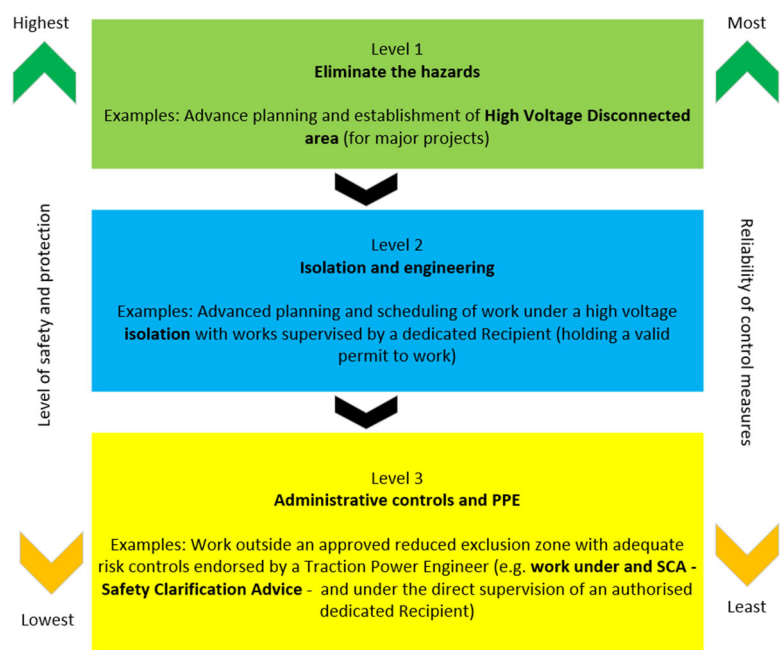
Two recent high potential incidents involving breaches (or failure) of minimum electrical safety risk controls (specified to ensure safe work near live equipment) have taken place. To avoid injury, work stopped as soon as the deficiencies were identified in both instances.

The hierarchy of risk controls

Electrical safety depends on appropriate training, risk assessment, work planning, and verification of risk controls (including assurance of safe work location).

Risk controls are ranked from the highest level of protection and reliability to the lowest. We must work through this hierarchy to choose the control(s) that most effectively eliminate or minimise the risk considering specific work circumstances, so far as is reasonably practicable. This may involve a single control measure or a combination of two or more controls.

Ensure you and your team know what controls must be applied to work safely near 25 kV lines equipment.



For further information contact: David Wilson, Electrical Standard and Assurance Officer -HV

Issued by: Francisco Siliezar, Discipline Head - Electrical

LMS course type: 133635



Actions to be taken:

Remind and discuss the following requirements with relevant workers:

- **Workers and managers planning and approving works** near 25 kV lines and equipment must ensure:
 - a. Adequate risk assessments address the hierarchy of risk controls for works near 25 kV lines and equipment;
 - b. Risk assessments consider the option/feasibility of scheduling works near 25 kV lines and equipment under an Isolation (before requesting an SCA).
 - c. Risk controls adopted are effective and address all requirements specified by Traction Power Engineers and their representatives (acting on behalf of Queensland Rail as an electricity entity).
- **Recipients** supervising works near 25 kV lines and equipment must:
 - a. Receive Permits to work (and SCAs) issued adjacent to energised HV equipment on site to confirm: the safe area of work and the scope of work (including stages of work and minimum risk controls required).
 - b. Remain on site and in charge of works for the duration of the approved work (encroaching or likely to encroach the high voltage exclusion zone). The Recipient must not perform other work that can interfere with their primary duties as the Recipient.
 - c. Communicate (and delineate when feasible) the safe area of work to all workers under his/her care and supervision.
 - d. Ensure electrical safety controls are verified prior to start of works and reviewed regularly, as work progresses, to make sure controls work effectively.
 - e. Ensure only approved equipment are used in the work activities specified.
 - f. Conduct a comprehensive pre-start brief on site with a relieving Recipient, when required, before transferring an SCA or permit.

Inadequate management of work near high voltage lines and equipment can lead to fines issued by electrical safety Inspectors and to serious injury or death.

Further detailed information about how to work safely in electrified areas can be found in:

- MD-10-191 Electric Traction Systems Standard **ETSS** (Module 2) and
- Electrical safety code of practice - [Working near overhead and underground electric lines.](#)



**Powerlines can be
lethal and unforgiving.**

#RespectThePower